

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

The Cass Lake City Council held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday February 10, 2021 at 6:00pm following a working session.

Attendance: Mayor Hershel Ogema, Council Members David Fineday, Carla Jones-Leecy, Mike Hanson

Absent: Council member Richard Molash

Also In Attendance: Sue Uhrinak, City Clerk-Treasurer, Jason Raymond, Public Works, Chris Sonmor, WSB, Allan Olson, CL Times, Brad Rittgers & Jesse Iverson, Cass Co Sheriff's Dept, Erica Bjelland, Region 5, Ashley Zidon, Sourcewell

1) **Draft Minutes:** None

2) **Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes:

1-4-21 Organizational Meeting

1-13-21 Council Meeting Minutes

b. Claims & Payroll:

Claims # 15005-15068 for \$64,818.34

Payroll 1 for \$7,362.20

Payroll 2 for \$7,635.47

A **Motion** by Hanson second by Ogema to waive reading of Consent Agenda and Approve as presented:

Motion Passed

3) **Scheduled Groups or Individuals**

a. Erica Bjelland, Region 5, Energy & Environment Plan explained some of the process and the documents that are required and the Grant information. Will continue to be in contact with Herschel & Mike on the process and collecting information.

b. Ashley Zidon, Sourcewell, Comprehensive Plan Committee discussion and worked on exercise to get a pool of names for the Steering Committee to be put together. Will be in contact with a complete list for the March council meeting.

4) **Council Committee Meetings:**

1-28-21 Public Works Committee Hanson/Fineday/Raymond: discussed Lift Station at CheWe and no response from Leech Lake, Harry Morris position, decision on exposing city infrastructure in frozen ground months. Council agreed that no connections to the city system will be allowed during winter months.

1-15-21 Personnel Committee Molash/Jones-Leecy working on negotiations.

5) **Special Committee Meetings:** None

6) **Department Head Reports:**

Sue Uhrinak, Clerk-Treasurer:

Filed annual DNR Water Report, Annual Summary Budget Report, Annual Outstanding Debt Report, Annual PERA reports, monthly census reporting, balanced check book, Utility bills and annual maintenance, worked on reports for auditor, set up utility files, minutes and correspondence from January meeting, entered claims for month and ran checks, payroll, web training for Motor Vehicle, daily business and receipts.

Personnel Committee set for February 23, 2021 to finish negotiations

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Public Works: Jason Raymond – report attached

Also discussed issue with the Water Tower. Lost communication with pump house, heat tape was popping the breaker, replaced heater, opened hydrant on east end to keep water flowing. In contact with KLM engineering for assistance on fixing the problem, but got it going for now.

7) **Attorney Reports:**

None

8) **Notices & Communications:**

a. Monthly Report from Chris Sonmor WSB: Discussed the resolution for the LRIP Grant and will be submitting application for 6th Street NW, Curb & gutter on north side and rural on south side since it drains into the HWY 2 ditch. Will look at possibility of evening out intersection on Aspen Ave and what would need to be done with family dollar sign.

b. Kitchigami Regional Library letter. Discussed and appointed Carla Jones-Leecy to be City representative

9) **Old Business:**

A **Motion** by Jones-Leecy, second by Fineday to Approve **Resolution 06-2021** Concerning Bulk Storage in the Small-Scale Industrial District, regarding Cass Forest Products. **Motion Passed**

10) **New Business:**

A **Motion** by Fineday, seconded by Jones-Leecy to Approve purchase of 3 Tax Forfeited property located in the City for \$10,500 for future development. **Motion Passed**

A **Motion** by Hanson, seconded by Fineday to Approve Amendment to Section 18-4 of the City Code – Nuisances, section (e) strike the word *Shall* and replace with *May*. **Motion Passed**

A **Motion** by Hanson, seconded by Jones-Leecy to Approve **Resolution 04-2021** A Resolution approving the Grant Applications for Energy and Environment Plan. **Motion Passed**

A **Motion** by Jones-Leecy, seconded by Hanson to Approve **Resolution 05-2021** A Resolution supporting pursuit of 2021 Local Road Improvement Program funding from MNDOT for the Reconstruction of 6th Street NW. **Motion Passed**

e. Discussion on hiring Tracey Fineday as deputy clerk. Clerk presented reasons for hiring and cost savings of \$1,100 to promote from within as has been done several times in the past. Hanson stated he would like to see it advertised anyway, even though he would vote to hire her, he just wants to make sure it looks proper to the public. Jones-Leecy stated that businesses and government entities promote from within all the time. Ogema wanted to make sure there is nothing in the law or statutes that prevent a city from hiring from within with out posting or advertising to the public. LMC has information that the clerk shared about this and the pros of hiring from within also.

A **Motion** by Jones-Leecy, seconded by Ogema to Appoint Tracey Fineday to the Deputy Clerk Position effective immediately, with temporary starting wage of \$14.00 an hour to be officially negotiated on February 23, 2021 with Union and retro active to January 1, 2021. **Motion Passed 2-1, Hanson Opposed, Fineday abstained**

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2. Discussion on Public Works I Position Opening: Will get starting wage set at February 23 negotiations and then have Jason check with applicants to see if still interested in job. If not, clerk will repost for position.

11) Announcements and Information:

a. Revenue & Expenditure Guideline as of February 4, 2021

12) Items Removed from Consent Agenda

13) Groups or Individuals not on the Agenda

A Motion by Hanson, seconded by Jones-Leecy to Adjourn Regular Council meeting at 6:35 pm. Motion Passed

Herschel Ogema, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sue Uhrinak, City Clerk-Treasurer