

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

The Cass Lake City Council held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 6:00pm following a working session at the Cass Lake Municipal Center.

Attendance: Mayor Herschel Ogema, Council members Mike Hanson, Carla Jones-Leecy, Jerry Smith, Annie Sevenich.

Also in Attendance: Sue Uhrinak, City Clerk-Treasurer, Jason Raymond, Public Works, Chris Sonmor, Engineer, Brad Rittgers, Cass County Sheriff Dept, Allan Olson, CL Times, Rita Marcell & guest, Chris Murray, LLBO Attorney, Richard Jones, Tribal Chairman Assistant.

Mayor Ogema opened the meeting at 6:03pm

1) **Draft Minutes:** None

2) **Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes:

08-15-23 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

08-28-23 Special Council Meeting Minutes

b. Claims & Payroll:

Claims # 13554 – 13635 & 13636-13645 for \$170,117.66

Payroll #16 for \$11,521.15

Payroll #17 for \$11,664.66

Payroll # 18 for \$11,742.86

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

3) **Scheduled Groups or Individuals**

4) **Council Committee Meetings:**

Property Committee: Ogema & Jones-Leecy met with Mark Gossman, Cass Co Land Commissioner and Rita Marcell on her application to repurchase Tax Forfeited property at 211 Maple Ave NE.

Ms. Marcell addressed the council requesting the repurchase stating that she is an elder and handicapped individual. She affirmed the condition of the property and stated she doesn't have the means to clean it up. Stated her son is incarcerated and can't help and the grandson may help and she has allowed this to happen. The City Council reviewed documents on parcel history with letters of Ordinance Violations for environmental & natural resources violations, accumulation of trash & debris violations for every year dating back to 2017 to current with nothing ever being cleaned up. Water & Sewer account history was also reviewed, noting the parcel almost went forfeit back in 2005 in addition to all the late notices and shut offs for non-payment. Council questioned what guarantee would there be for the property to be cleaned up and kept cleaned if allowed to repurchase. Council member Sevenich raised concerns for the health and safety of Ms. Marcell and others with the condition of the parcel and would it even be safe to be there. The comment was made that this is one of the toughest decisions the council has to make and it is not a personal action, the decision needs to take into consideration that the neighbors are affected by the condition of this parcel also and has been for years.

A **Motion** by Ogema second by Smith to **DENY** the repurchase of Tax Forfeited property located at 211 Maple Ave NE, Cass Lake by Rita Marcell. **Motion Passed 4-1 Hanson Opposed**

5) **Special Council Meetings:**

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting

September 13, 2023

Page 2

6) Department Head Reports:

Sue Uhrinak, Clerk-Treasurer: Attended meetings on line, Comprehensive plan meeting, met with Engineers on projects and transition, met with Cass Co EDC Director on development projects, met with Small Business Development Corp on potential development opportunities, worked on Superfund NRD project, attended EPA meeting on Superfund, worked on Phase I assessments for property, Cass Lake Days, DMV monthly training, balanced bank accounts, Utility bills and account maintenance, prepared council packets, processed claims for month, ran checks, payroll, daily business, posted receipts. Sent in preliminary levy to Cass County, worked on property inspections and reports for Evergreen & R & R. Received grant from Enbridge for \$25,000 for park trailhead project. Met with Chris and Moore engineering on transition of documents and finishing up project.

Public Works: Jason Raymond – presented quote requested for crack sealing and materials.

A **Motion** by Smith second by Hanson to Approve quote from Midstates Equipment & Supply for 10 Pallets of Nuvo 3405 crack sealant for \$17,918.75 & authorizing up to 50 hours at \$210 per hour to Bill Conner for doing the work. **Motion passed Unanimously**

7) Attorney Reports:

8) Notices & Communications:

a. Chris Sonmor Report: update on current projects – Presented standard Engineering contract for services, Task Order 1 for General Services, Task Order 2 for Trailhead Park. Discussed status of PER with Moore and also moving forward on the 2025 streets project and getting applications ready to submit to RD for potential funding. Spoke with Dana @ county to partner on their project with water quality. Will be looking at getting soil borings done on the parks and street project and would save money if they are done at the same time. Dana is initiating a study on the county side for the water catch basins and will be putting out an RFP for the study.

9) Old Business:

a. T-Dock for winter, plowing equipment ready, irrigators in compliance for year. Budget up to par.

10) New Business:

A **Motion** by Smith second by Hanson to Approve Agreement between City and Cass County for voting operations Technology & Elections Resources (Voter) Account. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

A **Motion** by Hanson second by Jones-Leecy to Approve Master Agreement between City and Sonmor Consulting LLC for Engineering services. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

A **Motion** by Sevenich, second by Jones- Leecy to Accept DEED to Property located at 220 Second Street NW from White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe via Quit Claim Deed. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

d. Discuss sending inquiry to property owner at 222 Second Street NW to see if they would be interested in selling to go with the redevelopment project. Council approved to send letter.

A **Motion** by Smith second by Sevenich to Approve expenditure for building at Dog Pound to house all supplies & food that is donated from Menards for \$15,567. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

A **Motion** by Hanson second by Smith to Approve Homecoming Parade and Route for 2023-2024. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
PAGE 3**

A Motion by Jones-Leecy second by Hanson to Approve hiring two individuals for Dog Pound at \$15.00 per hour. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Discussion regarding letter from Leech Lake Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. on request to Vacate 7th Street Nw. City Clerk-Treasurer Uhrinak address this item with Chriss Murray and Richard Jones with the new information on the LRIP Grant that funded \$436,000 of the renovation project in 2019. According to Agreement #1033455 with MNDOT this was funded with a General Obligation Bond. That makes the property Restricted under MS 16A.695 and cannot be sold, mortgaged, encumbered or otherwise disposed of without the approval of the Commissioner of Minnesota Management & Budget. The property will stay State bond-financed for 37.5 years or until the Restricted property is sold with written approval from the MMB.

11) Announcements and Information:

- a. Revenue & Expenditure Guideline as of September 7, 2023
- b. USDA LLBO Land Transfer Project information

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 Session at 7:02pm. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Herschel Ogema, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sue Uhrinak, City Clerk-Treasurer