

September 18, 2023

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor R. Rector called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. City Council members present: T. Carlson, P. Shablow, and C. Strom. City employees present: S. Lund & R. Russell. Public present: D. Brown, M. Kjelland, Bobby Schmiedeberg, C. Nelson (MNDOT), V. Gatheridge.

The Pledge to the American flag was given.

**Approval of Minutes:** P. Shablow made a motion, T. Carlson seconded, to approve the Lake Bronson Regular City Council Meeting minutes from August 21, 2023. **M/S/P – P. Shablow/T. Carlson/C. Strom.**

**Citizen Concerns:**

**V. Gatheridge** passed out fliers to the council for the Lake Bronson Improvement Committee is making plans for a town & Country days on October 14, 2023. Gatheridge explained to the council some of the activities planned for that date. The council thought the group had good ideas. Gatheridge asked if they can serve alcohol on city property. The clerk said she would check in to this and P. Shablow said she would get back to Gatheridge about the liquor insurance.

**Cole Nelson, Highway 59** MnDot Project talked to the council about the city's options for Highway 59. He stated that MnDot pushed the project date back to 2028, possibly 2027. Option 1 would be that the city will have to hire an engineering firm to create a plan to remove and replace that sewer line. MnDOT would then have to set up a cooperative agreement between MnDOT and the City of Lake Bronson that incorporates the plan that the City of Lake Bronson's consultant designs into the project and contract. Option 2 would be that the city chooses to get this work completed via MnDOT permit at before the MnDOT project begins. This could be the summer before so MnDOT can work on schedule once the project date gets closer. Sometimes cities decide to do this as they have different standards or they may see reduced bid costs if they do not join with MnDOT. B. Schmiedeberg said the city has 2 sewer lines running across Highway 59. One sewer line runs from Hill Street to Riverside Street and another sewer line from the lift station to the lagoon. If the city decides to go with option 2, and install new sewer lines hiring a contractor, then someone would need to call the permit office in MnDOT Bemidji.

**Old Business:**

**Culvert at DAC** - Maintenance was told he can grind the culvert off by the DAC.

**4th Ave culvert would cost \$1,290.00:** The clerk called Anderson's for a quote to replace the east/west culvert on the south end of 3rd street. R. Rector mentioned to maintenance that the culvert on 1st avenue needs more gravel.

**Stumps in Burn Pile:** Maintenance will move the stumps with the city tractor to the top of the burn pile and burn them. He was reminded that he needs to check with the fire chief before burning.

**Maintenance Separate School & Gym:** The mayor and maintenance will look at the school and gym and see if maintenance can separate them.

**Tool Inventory:** Maintenance was asked to do a tool inventory and make a list of tools he needs.

**Gym use:** Brady Schmiedeberg wants to have an archery club at the gym and possibly serve alcohol. P. Shablow will check this out.

**New Business:**

**Delinquent garbage accounts from Anderson Sanitation:** The city council reviewed the list from Anderson Sanitation and P. Shablow made a motion, T. Carlson seconded to approve the list. **M/S/P – P. Shablow/T. Carlson/C. Strom.**

**Money from Small Cities Assist \$7,658.00 Direction:** The monies in the amount of 7,658.00 was intended for Safety. So it was felt by the Council to donate all of this money to the Lake Bronson Fire Department, for them to purchase new safety equipment. T. Carlson made a motion, P. Shablow seconded for the clerk to deposit the money in the fire departments account.

**Approve Firemen's pay for firemen working the Phone Booth Fire 23:** P. Shablow made a motion, T. Carlson seconded to pay the firemen for their services helping with Phone Booth Fire 23. **M/S/P – P. Shablow/T. Carlson/C. Strom.**

**Letter to MNDNR:** A letter was drafted from David Danielson about how the Lake Bronson State Park is important to the county. The letter was given to the city asking for their support in cleaning up the water at the Lake Bronson State Park. Each council member signed the letter in agreement.

**Cleaning north side ditches on West River Street:** The council said the city has done what they can do.

**Maintenance working days and hours:** The mayor asked maintenance if he was working 8 to 4:30 daily and the R. Russell said he was. He was told he works from Monday through Friday and should not exceed 40 hours.

**FEMA:** Mayor R. Rector read a letter from FEMA about houses being able to get flood insurance. The council does not plan to get involved in this at this time.

**Kittson Healthcare Opioids meeting Sept. 20, 2023 7pm Lancaster Community Center:** Several council members are interested in going to this meeting.

**Liquor Licenses:** P. Shablow made a motion, T. Carlson seconded to approve the 2024 liquor licenses. **M/S/P – P. Shablow/T. Carlson/C. Strom.**

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**Maintenance Report:** R. Russell said he'd been mowing and training with Robert Anderson. R. Rector asked Russell if he could keep the sidewalks and picnic tables clean from grass clippings. C. Strom said that the fire hydrants need to be drained and flushed with anti freeze. C. Strom said 2 hydrants needed to be worked on. B. Schmiedeberg will fix them and that there might be some parts in the city shop.

**Council Roundtable:** P. Shablow made a motion, T. Carlson seconded to appoint M. Kjelland to the city council. **M/S/P – P. Shablow/T. Carlson/C. Strom.** Mayor R. Rector welcomed M. Kjelland to the council. B. Schmiedeberg talked about that the DNR is changing more and the fire men are currently getting paid \$20.00 per hour from the DNR for fires such as the peat moss fire at phonebooth23. He would like to see the men get \$30.00 per hour. T. Carlson made a motion, P. Shablow seconded to approve the increase in pay. **M/S/P – T. Carlson/ P. Shablow/All.** P Shablow said the clerk will have to reissue the checks to the firemen she had already printed at the lower wages and increase the wages. B. Schmiedeberg said the fire department is receiving about \$48,000.00 from the DNR and they would like to purchase 4 sets of air packs at \$7,935.00 per set. Also they would like to purchase a new jaws of life. They would trade in the old jaws of life they bought last year and receive what they paid for them at that time as credit on a new pair of jaws of life and the then the cost would be \$16,000.00 to purchase a new jaws of life. P. Shablow made motion, C. Strom seconded to approve the 4 air packs. **M/S/P – P. Shablow/C. Strom/All.** B. Schmiedeberg said the fire department has an old truck they do not use and there is no title to the vehicle. P. Shablow made motion, T. Carlson seconded to approve the sale of an older fire truck the fire department has for \$3,500.00. **M/S/P –P. Shablow/T. Carlson/All.**

Clerk's additions: The clerk said that when R. Anderson left the city's employment in 2020 his 70 hours of earned vacation time was not paid to him. P. Shablow made a motion, T. Carlson seconded to approve paying R. Anderson his earned vacation wages. **M/S/P – P. Shablow/T. Carlson/All.** The clerk said that when Brett. S. left the city's employment this past summer he had 18 hours of earned vacation time was not paid to him. C. Strom made a motion, T. Carlson seconded to approve paying Brett S. his earned vacation wages. **M/S/P – C. Strom/T. Carlson/All.** The clerk said she had received complaints about a person storing household garbage in a pickup and it smelled very bad. The clerk will send a letter to the home owner. The clerk told the council that the State is launching a new Cyber security plan with funding and she is wondering if the council was interested in it. The council said to just leave it.

**City Bills/Claims to be Audited:** T. Carlson made a motion, P. Shablow seconded, to approve the city claims. **M/S/P – T. Carlson /P. Shablow/All.**

**Fire Department Bills/Claims to be Audited:** P. Shablow told the clerk to reissue the checks to the firemen for the phone booth 23 fire with the raise. C. Strom made a motion, P. Shablow seconded, to approve the Fire Department claims. **M/S/P – C. Strom/P. Shablow /All.**

**Adjournment:** C. Strom made a motion, T. Carlson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. **M/S/P – C. Strom/T. Carlson /All.**

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be on October 16, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

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Sandra Lund, City Clerk