

City of Battle Lake City Council Minutes

The Battle Lake City Council met in regular session Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 7pm at City Hall. Present were Mayor Chuck Reeve and Council members Bob Wasson, Janet Ruhland and Ryan Christensen. Also present was city attorney JJ Cline.

The meeting was called to order and the agenda approved as presented. M-Wasson, S-Ruhland, M/C.

The 12/11/12 minutes were approved. M-Ruhland, S-Wasson, M/C.

Councilmember Quammen arrived.

Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. M-Ruhland, S-Christensen, M/C. The 4th Quarter Budget Report was reviewed.

The Extra Hour Report was reviewed and it was noted that Police Department overtime was grant funded.

Liquor Store report was reviewed and manager Cody Munsell reported 2012 was a good year with sales exceeding 2011.

Police Chief Kent Kortlever reported on December activities noting there were 609 calls for service in 2012. He also informed the Council that a tabletop exercise with Otter Tail County Emergency Management has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 28; all Council members are invited to participate.

Rescue Squad Captain Joyelle Hill presented the monthly report with 12 runs in December and a total of 171 for the year.

Fire Chief John Salvevold gave a training update and reported 3 calls in December with a total of 32 for the year. He noted some upcoming training opportunities and the Council approved his attendance at a Fire Officers School in Alexandria. M-Ruhland, S-Quammen, M/C.

Public Works Director Steve Seufert reported that downtown snow removal is going well and noted he is working on options for closing the alley between Battle Lake Hardware and Stella's to vehicular traffic.

The Project List was reviewed and it was noted that information on Wellhead Protection will be mailed out next week to all residents in the Drinking Water Supply Management Area; Wellhead Protection area signage has been purchased, information is being gathered on wiring in a new generator and City Zoning Officer Bert Olson will meet soon with Clitherall Township officials to discuss land-use management in the Drinking Water Supply Management Area.

A Safe Routes to School neighborhood meeting was held at the school library on January 7; those in attendance were very supportive of the plan presented for which grant funding will be sought; a Safe Routes to School Community Meeting will also be held at City Hall Monday, January 14 from 6-8pm.

Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee members Reba Gilliland, Jon Hartman, Joann Cress, Catherine Barner, Patrick Hollister and Lakes Region Art Council Executive Director Maxine Adams presented a conceptual plan for the amenities involved with the 2013 Highway 78 project. Following introductions the group restated their mission and identified their guiding principle which is to create a cohesive, visually pleasing amenity zone that represents the community and area including use of themes related to agriculture, natural resources and recreation. The following elements of the plan were presented and discussed: surface of the amenity zone to be brushed concrete in a blue tone; 3 benches of cast concrete with exposed aggregate surfaces; 2 planters of cast concrete that will provide seating as well, with wire frame sculptures in planting areas; 4 bike racks to be partially funded by Partnership4Health with custom artistic features to be constructed with safety and visibility in mind; possible color, texture and design of concrete slope and handrails adjacent to ramps needed to provide accessibility to business places; 3 locust trees to be installed in grated areas of the sidewalk. It was noted that community involvement will be encouraged in development of mosaic features related to the benches, planters and possibly the sloped concrete area with Annette Hochstein serving as project manager. The Committee plans to apply for a \$10,000 grant from Lake Region Art Council legacy funds; applications are due in May with a deadline of July 1, 2014 for project completion. Following discussion and questions, the Committee was complimented on their creativity, hard work and dedication and the conceptual plan was approved as presented. M-Ruhland, S-Wasson, M/C. The group will present more details at the April Council meeting prior to submitting the grant application.

Committee Reports: BL Motor Patrol-minutes of the 12/10 meeting and financial reports were reviewed; Quammen reported that snow plowing rates were increased. **BL Area Fire & Rescue**: minutes and financial reports from the 12/20 meeting were reviewed; Reeve reported some townships are interested in changing cost allocations to be based on building values only rather than on land & building values as currently calculated; it was noted the City would strongly oppose that change; a cost comparison spreadsheet on potential building sites was reviewed; it appears the only practical solution at this point would be to locate a new building on the proposed City farm site; Reeve suggested the City look at other options for Fire Hall construction considering the liability exposure involved

with the current situation and the lack of progress by the joint powers group; next meeting will be 1/17. **Natural Gas**-a Committee meeting is scheduled for 1/16 to discuss details and status of the project. **LADA**-President Keith Baldwin presented a financial statement prepared by outgoing treasurer Kurt Maethner; the group is currently re-evaluating its Strategic Plan to focus more on issues that can be accomplished; Baldwin also reported attending an economic development summit recently and that a Curbside Chat presented by Strong Towns USA has been scheduled for April 4; he also noted that LADA intends to continue its relationship with Network Battle Lake. **LACC**-12/10 minutes reviewed; Ruhland stated that a lot of people are utilizing the Community Center and that volunteers are needed for a painting project on January 10.

Claims were approved for payment in the amount of \$166,292.61. M-Ruhland, S-Christensen, M/C.

The annual service agreement with Lakes Area Community Center for \$4000 was approved. M-Ruhland, S-Wasson, M/C.

The following appointments were approved: Bob Wasson for Acting Mayor; Battle Lake Review as official newspaper; JJ Cline as city attorney; Chuck Reeve as administrative hearing officer. M-Wasson, S-Ruhland, M/C.

The following committee assignments were made: Airport-Reeve, Wasson; Street-Ruhland, Christensen, Water/Sewer-Ruhland, Christensen, Ordinance-Ruhland, Wasson; Park-Quammen, Wasson; Liquor-Reeve, Quammen, Public Safety-Reeve, Christensen; Employee Relations/Insurance-Reeve, Wasson; Finance-Reeve, Christensen; Facilities-Ruhland, Christensen; Trail-Reeve, Ruhland; Safety-Wasson. The following appointments were also made: Airport Manager-Steve Seufert; Weed Inspector-Reeve; Assistant Weed Inspector-Steve Seufert; BL Community Fund advisory board-Quammen; LADA liaison-Reeve; LACC liaison-Ruhland; BL Fire Relief Association Trustees-Chief Salvevold, mayor Reeve, Deputy-Clerk Christiansen; BL Motor Patrol Board-Quammen; BL Area Fire & Rescue Association-Reeve; Battle Lake Planning Commission-3 year term-Mike Adkins.

Resolution #01-08-2013 designating the First National Bank of Battle Lake and League of MN Cities 4M Fund as official depositories was passed. M-Ruhland, S-Quammen, M/C on a unanimous roll-call vote. Resolution #01-0802013 was passed requesting Otter Tail County act as sponsor for a Safe Routes to School project identified as the Olaf Avenue/Main Street and the Park to School Trails. M-Ruhland, S-Reeve, M/C on a unanimous roll-call vote.

The 2013 Pay Equity report was approved for submission. M-Wasson, S-Christensen, M/C.

The Council reviewed a listing of pledged collateral from the First National Bank of Battle Lake.

The next meeting will be a Strategic Planning Session on Tuesday, January 22 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. M-Ruhland, S-Reeve, M

Wanda Berg-Vorgert
Clerk-Treasurer