

City of Battle Lake City Council Minutes

The Battle Lake City Council met in regular session Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7pm at City Hall. Present were Mayor Chuck Reeve and Council members Bob Wasson and Ryan Christensen. Also present was city attorney JJ Cline. The meeting was called to order and the agenda approved as amended. M-Wasson, S-Christensen, M/C. Council member Quammen arrived.

Reba Gilliland, spokesperson for the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee presented the Lake Region Arts Council Legacy Grant application proposal for amenities related to the Hwy 78 project. The proposal includes a request for funding of up to \$10,000 for 3 benches, 2 planters and 4 bike racks to be enhanced with artistic features involving natural resources, agriculture and recreation themed wire sculpture and mosaic designs by local artists Paul Boyum and Annette Hochstein. Mosaics on the benches and planters will be a group effort involving any community member who wishes to participate. PartnerSHIP4 Health will fund up to \$400 for each of the bike racks, Everts Lumber is offering a discount on materials and other partners include Art of the Lakes, BL School, BL Community Fund and Network Battle Lake. Completion is planned for Memorial Day weekend, 2014. Quammen had concerns about durability and potential for vandalism however Committee members are hoping that community involvement in the project and pride in the appearance of the area will help to minimize that risk. It was also noted that safety and functionality was considered a priority when designing the features. Following discussion, the Council approved the grant application proposal as presented. M-Quammen, S-Wasson, M/C.

Jane Patrick with the Safe Community Coalition presented statistics on the high volume of alcohol related traffic accidents in Otter Tail County and indicated the County had been chosen for one of 4 pilot projects in the state by the MN Department of Public Safety. Information was also reviewed on a cooperative effort between law enforcement and liquor establishments, patrons and liquor distributors on the JOYRIDE initiative, designed to provide safe rides home on weekends during the summer. A business plan is currently being developed involving potential transportation providers and liquor establishments within a defined service area adjacent to State Highway 78 between Perham and Battle Lake. Following discussion, the Council agreed to support the initiative with a \$1000 donation from Liquor Store revenues. M-Quammen, S-Wasson, M/C.

Jim Wolf and Linda Nine from Good Samaritan appeared before the Council to inform them of some upcoming expansion plans for that facility. With the purchase of approximately 50 acres of land adjacent to Lakeview Villas, additional senior housing apartments are planned to be constructed beginning this fall, with staged development of additional components of the master plan to follow. Wolf also asked the City to consider Tax Increment Financing assistance for the entire project. Following discussion, city attorney JJ Cline suggested a developer's agreement be constructed as a first step in the process. The Council agreed to proceed with formulating an agreement with input from financial advisors. M-Wasson, S-Reeve, M/C.

The 03/11 minutes were approved. M-Christensen, S-Quammen, M/C.

Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. M-Christensen, S-Quammen, M/C.

The First Quarter Budget Report was reviewed.

The Extra Hour Report was reviewed.

Liquor Store report was reviewed and manager Cody Munsell reported three consecutive months of sales exceeding previous years. Due to the resignation of an employee, Munsell requested and the Council approved advertising to fill a part-time Liquor Store Clerk position. M-Christensen, S-Wasson, M/C. It was noted the Battle Lake Liquor Store compared very favorably to other municipal off-sale stores in sales and profits, in a State Auditor's report on 2011 operations.

Police Chief Kent Kortlever reported on March activities, including a well-attended tabletop emergency management drill March 28. He also reported sending out 36 warnings regarding pet licensing.

Rescue Squad Captain Joyelle Hill presented the monthly report with 9 runs in March and gave a training update. She also requested and the Council approved 3 new squad members - Nic Drusch, Shelby Trosdahl and Nathan Young who are in various stages of training at this time. M-Quammen, S-Christensen, M/C.

Fire Chief John Salvevold reported one call last month, gave a training update and noted some future house burns under consideration. He requested the City purchase hydrant markers possibly to be funded by a grant from the Battle Lake Community Fund; an inventory will need to be completed prior to ordering.

Public Works Director Steve Seufert reported the new Public Works truck will be delivered by the end of this week; he also requested and the Council approved purchase of a handheld meter reader to replace the current one for which batteries are no longer available and software is becoming obsolete. It was noted the reader had been scheduled for replacement in 2014. M-Wasson, S-Reeve, M/C.

The Project List was reviewed and a Safe Routes to School planning session on May 3 at 9am was noted

Committee Reports: BL Motor Patrol- 3/7 minutes and financial reported reviewed; Quammen reported on 4/8 meeting stating some trucks are in need of repair after a busy winter. **BL Area Fire & Rescue-**reports from 3/21 meeting were reviewed; Reeve reported a facility analysis proposal from Design Tree Engineering and JLG Architects will be discussed at the next meeting and the outcome of that discussion will impact the City's direction relative to the new Fire/Rescue facility. **LADA-**Keith Baldwin and Abby Bizzette Johnson presented a financial report and information on upcoming events. Baldwin indicated that LADA is currently developing a proposal for economic development consulting services on a limited basis. **LACC-**3/11 minutes reviewed. **Natural Gas-**report on 4/3 meeting reviewed indicating the project is in a tenuous position at this point; a meeting is being scheduled with the cities of Henning and Perham later in the month. **Airport-**report on 4/8 meeting at which a new draft lease prepared by City attorney JJ Cline was reviewed; there was discussion on when the new 20 year lease might take effect since current leases run through 2017, however there is at least one interested new lessee. Following debate a motion was made to approve the draft lease for new lessees at the new rate with the Elmer family also subject to the new rates. M-Wasson, S-Reeve. At this point, Quammen suggested tabling the issue to have more time for review. The motion failed with Wasson and Reeve in favor and Quammen and Christensen opposed. The matter will be revisited at the next meeting.

Claims were approved for payment in the amount of \$ 161,599.50. M-Christensen, S-Wasson, M/C.

An amended construction agreement between MNDOT and the City relative to Highway 78 improvements was reviewed and discussed. Resolution #04-09-2013 entering into a cooperative construction agreement with MNDOT for the Highway 78 improvement project was passed. M-Quammen, S-Wasson, M/C on a unanimous roll-call vote with Ruhland absent.

A report from the April 4 meeting on pursuing Bike Friendly Community designation was reviewed and discussed briefly. The meeting was well attended by community members; next steps are to be discussed at subsequent meetings.

A gambling site permit application was acknowledged with no waiting period for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for a raffle drawing at the Old Brick Inn on July 27. M-Christensen, S-Wasson, M/C.

The following upcoming meetings and events were noted:

Curbside Chat at Lakes Area Community Center, Thursday, April 18, 6-8pm; Council members were urged to attend.

Complete Streets Workshop, Friday, April 19, 9am-3:30pm in Detroit Lakes at which several community members have been asked to be on a panel presenting information on Complete Streets policy and Safe Routes to School.

Considering Main Street Workshop at Lakes Area Community Center, Friday, April 26, 9am-noon.

League of MN Cities Conference-St Paul-June 19-21; registration should be handled as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14 at 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25pm. M-Wasson, S-Christensen, M/C.

Wanda Berg-Vorgert
Clerk-Treasurer