



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020
7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM OR TELEPHONE**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Jo Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. under MN Statute Section 13D.021, in which the City Council will be conducting its meetings during this emergency by electronic means until further notice. The clerk took roll call attendance for Councilmembers: Doug Biehn, Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Dan Jones and Bill Walsh. Staff in attendance were City Manager Ellen Hiniker, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Community Development Director Anne Kane, Economic Development Coordinator Tracy Shimek, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Finance Director Kerri Kindsvater, Environmental Specialist Connie Taillon, City Clerk Kara Country and City Attorney Troy Gilchrist.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on September 22, 2020

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on September 22, 2020.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. East Goose Lake Adaptive Management – Phil Belfiori, VLAWMO

Environmental Specialist Taillon provided background on the Joint Powers Agreement with the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO), noting the purpose was to efficiently leverage resources to cooperatively protect and manage surface waters within the watershed. Ms. Taillon highlighted recent partnership projects with VLAWMO: Birch Lake shoreline restoration, Birch Lake sand-iron filter at 4th, Otter Lake Road and County Road F curb-cut rain garden retrofits.

VLAWMO Administrator Belfiori covered reasons for pursuing a healthier East Goose Lake and noted the lake’s impairment status by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. He explained that the City, as a stormwater permittee, is now required to report annually on the progress of nutrient impairment and loading into East Goose Lake, called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

Mr. Belfiori presented an Adaptive Lake Management (ALM) approach toward a healthier East Goose Lake that would rely on stakeholder input and listening, as well the science of an ever changing lake. A departure from the overall more costly and restrictive grants in the past, he outlined steps to implement the ALM approach:

<p>Step 1 Input sought, compiled, synthesized</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council / VLAWMO Board • Neighborhood meeting(s) • Stakeholder “open house” • Stakeholder survey, web engagement
<p>Step 2 Continue developing ALM approached and authorize initial projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals and projects established, selected • Proposed and agreed upon financial partnership • Phases of plan considered by WBL City Council and VLAWMO Board; initial projects authorized
<p>Step 3 Implement initial projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and evaluation of project implementation
<p>Step 4 Based on feedback and results, continue implementing ALM projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and evaluation of project implementation

Mr. Belfiori presented a draft 2021 financial partnership to develop ALM and implement initial projects. He also presented a long-range draft financial plan covering approximately the next three – five years.

After the presentation, Mr. Belfiori asked Council if they have any reservations with City participation in the ALM approach, the proposed financial partnership or the neighborhood meeting/stakeholder engagement to implement the East Goose ALM. Council members did not express concern about the City –VLAWMO partnership or moving forward with implementation of the above mentioned program.

In response to Councilmember Biehn’s inquiry about draining and dredging, Mr. Belfiori explained that this technique address invasive vegetation, which is not yet the problem in East Goose Lake due to the current lack of aquatic vegetation in the Lake. Ms. Taillon added this

option was considered initially, but was determined to be cost prohibitive. VLAWMO's Program Development Coordinator Dawn Tanner expounded that the cost estimate of an alum treatment was approximately \$200,000, while the cost estimate for dredging was closer to \$2 million and could potentially aggravate the issue by exposing more internal Lake pollutants in the process.

Mr. Belfiori agreed with Councilmember Jones that when the lake becomes clearer, the vegetation will begin growing and an ongoing plan for its control will need to be implemented. Councilmember Jones mentioned so few residents on this lake means fewer stakeholders and resources to support it, which is why a partnership with VLAWMO is important.

Councilmember Walsh inquired about fish stocking. Mr. Belfiori stated the VLAWMO will be working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on a pilot project and will return to the Council with a fish stocking plan in 2021, which may also include aeration. He suspected bass and other bullhead predators will be included in the plan for Goose Lake.

Councilmember Edberg welcomed ongoing engagement with the residents and encouraged timely communication along the way. Mr. Belfiori agreed and described the ultimate benchmark will be measured by the reduction of phosphorus loading and concentration in East Goose Lake. He added the lake's health is also important but will be balanced with the use of the lake under this approach for social, financial and biological sustainability.

In response to Councilmember Edberg, Mr. Belfiori explained that East Goose Lake generally flows into West Goose Lake. He noted backflow during certain conditions will be something that will need to be considered as we go forward but may be able to be addressed by backflow preventers or other practices if found to be problematic.

Councilmember Edberg supported tangible benchmarks for water clarity, fish and plant diversity and encouraged public engagement in the monitoring process for these attributes. Mr. Belfiori welcomed this direction and Nick Voss, VLAWMO's Education and Outreach Coordinator, expressed enthusiasm for improved public engagement via more frequent webinars and stakeholder involvement, as well as new possibilities in lake monitoring depending on volunteer interest.

Mayor Emerson thanked Mr. Belfiori for the discussion, recognizing him as the new Administrator for VLAWMO, and looked forward to next steps in the process.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled.

6. LAND USE

A. Consent

1. Consideration of a Planning Commission recommendation for approval of a request by Frazer Automotive for a variance at 2140 3rd Street. (Case No. 20-15-V). **Resolution No. 12636**

2. Consideration of a Planning Commission recommendation for approval of a request by Charlene Baker for a Special Home Occupation Permit at 3296 Glen Oaks Avenue. (Case No. 20-4-SHOP). **Resolution No. 12637**
3. Consideration of a Planning Commission recommendation for approval of a request by Stonehouse Catering for a Conditional Use Permit at 4466 Centerville Road. (20-7-CUP). **Resolution No. 12638**

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve the Land Use Consent Agenda.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution authorizing 2020-21 Housing Policy Community Engagement Process

Community Development Director Kane recalled the August 25, 2020, City Council work session in which Gretchen Nichols Program Officer for LISC Twin Cities and Barbara Raye Executive Director and Founder of the Center for Policy Planning and Performance presented a Housing Policy Community Engagement Proposal.

Ms. Kane said a Housing Policy is expected to inform the Council's housing policy priorities and facilitate creation of a Housing Task Force to help define recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council / Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). Ms. Kane reviewed the consultants' proposal and forwarded staff's recommendation to enter into an agreement with the consultants to facilitate this process, not to exceed \$15,000.

Councilmember Edberg asked for clarification on expected outcomes for policy recommendations. He referenced data from the Maxfield Study, and expressed support in sharing this data with the public for a better understanding and awareness. Ms. Kane said staff hopes to gain an understanding of how best to proceed with various requests for redevelopment within the City.

Ms. Raye understood that the Council was seeking guidelines for how to handle development

proposals and/or how to handle community communication about a development. She will be looking at protocols the Council might adhere to, so that the public can see a transparent and defined process and principles followed consistently with each development proposal. While residents may still not like the outcome, she said, they will be more likely to understand the process and view it as fair. Ms. Nichols intended to build off the City’s Comprehensive Plan and welcomed Council’s direction through the process of clarify strategies and strengthening processes for achieving housing goals.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve **Resolution No. 12639**, authorizing 2020-21 Housing Policy Community Engagement Process.

Biehn Aye
 Edberg Aye
 Engstran Nay
 Jones Aye
 Walsh Aye

Motion carried 4:1.

B. Resolution of support for the Bruce Vento Master Plan

City Manager Hiniker noted that Scott Yonke, Director of Planning and Development for Ramsey County Parks and Recreation, was present if the Council had any questions. Community Development Director Kane stated that Ramsey County was seeking a letter of support from the City of White Bear Lake for the Bruce Vento Master Plan Update.

Ms. Kane reported, first adopted by Ramsey County in 1993, the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan identifies a 13 mile multi-use trail corridor out of Saint Paul heading north. She explained that the southern seven (7) mile stretch was constructed in 2005 on the former BNSF railway, however, the northern six (6) mile stretch past I-694, through downtown White Bear Lake and to the northern border remains undeveloped.

Ms. Kane said that in 2016 a preferred alignment was identified between Buerkle Road and Highway 96, with a current terminus at Hoffman Road in consideration of more pedestrian connections to future Rush Line BRT station locations. She explained that a Feasibility Study identified an alternate preferred route north of Highway 96 on Bald Eagle Avenue, around Bald Eagle Lake to the County’s northern limits at County Road J, where it connects with the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail in Hugo. Staff believes this proposed trail improvement project will be of tremendous benefit to the community and will help create a connected and safe regional recreation and transportation system that serves all modes of transport.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve **Resolution No. 12640**, of support for the Bruce Vento Master Plan.

Biehn Aye
 Edberg Aye
 Engstran Aye
 Jones Aye
 Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution establishing 2021 Group Life, Health and Dental Insurance for Employees

Finance Director Kindsvater gave the following report:

All regular employees are eligible to receive group health and life insurance coverage as part of their benefit package. The Employee Insurance Committee, comprised of representatives from each bargaining and non-bargaining group, reviews annual insurance proposals and provides recommendations related to available plans.

The most recent request for proposals for health insurance coverage was in 2018. At that time, the insurance committee chose Medica as the insurance provider. Medica's 2021 insurance renewal submitted to the City continues the six insurance plans offered in 2020. Three of the plans provide an open network provider list, while the other three plans contain a narrower provider list at a lower monthly premium. The premium proposal has a 3% increase for all six insurance plans.

There is no change in premiums for life insurance as this is the third year in a three year guaranteed rate structure. Employees may purchase insurance without a city contribution to the premiums. There is also no change for dental and long-term disability insurance plans. The short-term disability insurance premiums increase 5% for 2021, after maintaining many years without premium increases.

Tonight the Council is being asked to approve the renewal of these insurance plans. This approval does not establish the City's contribution amount toward the monthly premium costs for employees. Those details will be brought to the City Council for consideration at a later date.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve **Resolution No. 12641**, establishing 2021 Group Life, Health and Dental Insurance for Employees.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution authorizing additional allocation for Business Relief Grants using Coronavirus Relief Funds

City Manager Hiniker explained that Treasury Guidelines provide a mechanism to assign public safety personnel expenses to Covid Relief Funds (CRF). She proposed that the City use this mechanism for the remaining "unassigned" funds, and then transfer an amount equal to that to the Economic Development Fund and earmark it for COVID related expenses. Effectively, this

would extend the timeframe for expending these funds and simplify the reporting and auditing process. Ms. Hiniker listed additional funding opportunities also to be considered at the next meeting: YMCA, Early Childhood Screening Program (equipment), Food Shelf, Hospitals & Cerenity Senior Care.

Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Shimek reviewed each of the CARES programs approved by the City Council in August and provided the following statistics / recommendations.

Emergency Assistance Grant Program: Housing & Childcare Assistance

- \$250,000 allocation
- 13 applications
- 5 approved for a total of \$6,686 in relief
- 7 in process
- 1 denied (no loss of income)
- No recommended program changes at this time

Mental Health Assistance: Community Mental Wellbeing support through NYFS

- \$30,000 allocation
- No requests for individual listening sessions to date
- Hosting a mental wellbeing webinar for business owners and operators in conjunction with ReGrowWBL and pursuing other community mental wellbeing programs
- Additional programing opportunities may be brought for further Council considerations

Non-Profit Relieve Grant

- \$100,000 allocation
- 6 applications received (period closed 10/12)
- If all are eligible a \$50,000 allocation will be utilized
- No recommended program changes at this time

Places of Worship PPE Grant

- \$25,000 allocation
- 4 applications received, Nov. 6 deadline
- If all are eligible a \$4,000 allocation will be utilized

Newtrax Restaurant Delivery Program

- \$20,000 allocation
- 791 meals served from WBL restaurants
- 7 WBL restaurants are participating to date
- Nearly \$7,700 expended of total allocations
- Will begin next week providing service to 79 district families – delivering 372 meals weekly
- Have provided service to six (6) senior apartment buildings in WBL

Business Grant

- \$250,000 allocation
- 47 applications; 3 ineligible; 1 withdrawn
- 43 eligible applicants, with a total eligible amount of awards of \$340,570
- 30 eligible for \$240,000 in grants who have not received state or county relief grants

- 13 applicants eligible for \$100,570 who have received state or county relief grants
- Fully funding all eligible applicants, including those who have received grants from a county or the state, requires an additional allocation of \$90,570 over the original \$250,000 allocation and would include \$240,000 for those applicants who have not already received state or county grants and \$100,570 for those who had.

Council voted to approve allocating an additional \$90,570 in funding so all eligible applicants received the full amount of awards they are eligible to receive.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve **Resolution No. 12642**, authorizing additional allocation for Business Relief Grants using Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT

- A. Acceptance of Minutes: August Environmental Advisory Commission, August Park Advisory Commission, September Planning Commission
- B. Resolution authorizing a Grant Agreement with MN Department of Public Safety for the 2021 Enforcement Grant (2020-2021 RCTSI grant). **Resolution No. 12643**
- C. Resolution authorizing Carbone's to hold outdoor music for Halloween. **Resolution No. 12644**
- D. Resolution approving a Joint Powers Agreement with Ramsey County Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Users Group. **Resolution No. 12645**
- E. Resolution approving lease amendments with Verizon Wireless for placement of communications equipment on the City's monopoles at 4636 Centerville Road. **Resolution No. 12646**

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

A. Marina Management Contract Extension

City Manager Hiniker reported that Jason and Angie Brown of White Bear Boat Works (WBBW) have been managing the City's marina operations for nearly 20 years. Ms. Hiniker acknowledged discussions about seeking proposals for this work, but characterized the arrangement with the Brown's as very positive. She relayed very positive reports of performance, noting customer relationships and extra efforts to protect the marina during ice out conditions, in addition to the leased site on Hoffman Road used for boat storage.

The Browns have indicated a desire to enter into another 5-year contract with the City and are not requesting an increase in their rates. Ms. Hiniker recommended that the City Council forego an RFP process and enter into another 5-year contract for services with WBBW. Councilmember Jones and Councilmember Walsh relayed their support for this decision, at this time.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

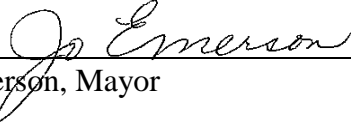
- Matoska Park Gazebo – despite efforts to keep people off the second level of the Gazebo, it continues to be vandalized and staff believes it is unsafe and would like to remove the steps to the second floor until it can be repaired, or possibly rebuilt. Budgeting and fundraising was discussed.
- U.S./Canada Tank of the Year nominations – White Bear Lake water tower at Centerville Road is in 2nd place in Tnemec, Inc's Tank of the Year contest. Nominations accepted through Oct. 16 and the winners announced Oct. 23 for a spot in the annual tank calendar.
- Environmental Updates
 - Goose Lake boat launch for use by VLAWMO has been constructed.
 - Great Plains Institute published a blog about City's partnership with Cummins Inc, which can be found at the following link: <https://www.betterenergy.org/blog/community-partnerships-accelerate-electric-vehicle-charging-in-minnesota/>. Ramsey County Environmental Health Division also plans to highlight this partnership in their November Green Ramsey e-newsletter. Visit RamseyCounty.us and search "Green Ramsey"
- Work Session reminder: October, 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Non-General Fund Budget focusing on water, sewer, storm water and refuse rates.
- Ordinance second readings from earlier this year will be scheduled now that people are more comfortable with an electronic format.
- Engineering update - Paul Kauppi, City Engineer/Public Works Director
 - Public Works crews have been winterizing park facilities, vehicles and buildings.
 - Street sweepers will continue to make the rounds to clear leaves from 85 miles of street.
- Mayor Emerson reported White Bear Lake took 2nd place again in the Mayor's Water Challenge, with Laguna Beach taking 1st place.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:02 p.m.

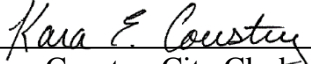
Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Nay

Motion carried 4:1.



Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Coustry, City Clerk