



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021
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 (7:01 p.m.). Staff in attendance were Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, Finance Director Kerri Kindsvater, Environmental Specialist Connie Taillon, City Clerk Kara Coustry and City Attorney Troy Gilchrist.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on May 11, 2021

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2021 City Council meeting as presented.

- Biehn Aye
- Edberg Aye
- Engstran Aye
- Jones Aye
- Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes of the Council Work Session on May 18, 2021

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2021 Work Session as presented.

- 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. Plants and expectations following an alum treatment - Joe Bischoff and Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering

Phil Belfiori, Administrator of Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization (VLAWMO), pointed to the East Goose Adaptive Lake Management (ALM) Web Hub as a source for ongoing information and community engagement related to East Goose Lake: <https://www.vlawmo.org/projects/east-goose-lake-adaptive-management1/>.

Joe Bischoff, Senior Aquatic Ecologist with Barr Engineering, gave a technical presentation on shallow lake aquatic vegetation management. He explained that alum treatment is expected to increase plant life, providing an ecosystem for fish, waterfowl and biodiversity. He said that while plants make recreation challenging, they are critical for maintaining a clear water state because they stabilize sediments and provide refuge for small invertebrates that eat algae.

Mr. Bischoff stated that after an alum treatment, clear water is expected in a few days with the hopes that sunlight will reach the sediments and reinvigorate aquatic plant growth. He noted that once plant growth takes hold, aquatic vegetation will require an ongoing process of adaptive management with adjustments along the way designed to balance recreational uses and ecological health. Active plant management described by Mr. Bischoff involved harvesting, herbicide and planting and may require more drastic measures such as drawdown or dredging.

In response to Councilmember Edberg about desired habitat and boat restrictions, Mr. Bischoff stated that bass and pan fish are desired, and in his professional opinion lake use restrictions are not required as an alum dosing plan and re-application can manage any re-suspended phosphorus contaminated sediments.

Noting just last year scientists said no wake in the lake after an alum treatment, Councilmember Walsh relayed skepticism about the changing science. Mr. Bischoff pointed to differing approaches by different scientists and emerging science related to shallow lakes and improved alum dosing techniques in recent years. Mr. Bischoff also addressed DNR limits on plant removal in which nearly 50% of a lake can be harvested, but herbicide treatment is more limited due to a broader drift of the herbicide. Mr. Bischoff explained that dredging is costly and can re-suspend phosphorus rich sediments which can settle on dredged areas and continue internal P loading.

Mr. Bischoff confirmed for Councilmember Jones that an overgrowth of weeds will not add more phosphorus to the lake. In regard to other cost effective treatments, Mr. Bischoff stated that iron filings are being explored, but the chemistry is not yet understood. And spent lime (a water treatment byproduct) is cheap and has promise, but can be difficult to manage and is still experimental. Councilmember Jones got clarification that alum is a chemical which can be toxic

if pH is not managed during dosing, however, Mr. Bischoff said pH is easily controlled during the application process and once alum binds to the phosphorus, pH variations in the lake become insignificant. Finally, Mr. Bischoff addressed comments that alum is not an effective treatment in shallow lakes, noting this is a common misconception in which there are no scientific studies to back that claim.

Mayor Emerson relayed appreciation for the information and explained that a decision about the treatment of East Goose Lake will come later after additional community engagement.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

Nothing scheduled

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution ordering a public hearing to vacate Miller Avenue

City Engineer / Public Works Director Kauppi stated that vacation of the right of way on Miller Avenue between 2nd Street and 3rd Street is necessary to facilitate expansion of the Police garage portion of an upcoming Public Safety building renovation project. Mr. Kauppi stated that notification to surrounding properties and a public hearing is the first step to vacating the right of way and forwarded staff's recommendation to schedule the public hearing for June 22, 2021.

Assistant City Manager Juba added that regardless of the upcoming project, vacation of this right of way would most likely be sought to address safety concerns from the police and fire departments along this stretch of road.

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to adopt **Resolution No. 12784** ordering a public hearing to vacate Miller Avenue.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution awarding the bond sale

Finance Director Kindsvater gave the following report:

This spring, the City Council approved the sale of bonds to finance the 2021 Street Improvement Projects, the water meter replacement project, and purchase of a multi-use garbage truck, a tandem axle dump truck and a loader for the Public Works Department.

Staff has been working through the bond sale process with Ehlers and Associates. During this process, S&P Global Ratings affirmed the City's bond rating at AA+ for the current issue and all outstanding bond issues based on their review of the budget, annual financial report, long range planning document and the capital improvement plan.

S&P also stated they believe the city's residential and commercial development despite the recent economic volatility due to the pandemic and the consecutive years of surplus operating results have sustained very strong reserves and liquidity. They view the reserves and liquidity as a credit strength when considering the bond issues. They anticipate the city will maintain generally strong credit characteristics for the foreseeable future.

The AA+ rating is one-step below the highest bond rating of AAA. S&P has indicated that the City would need to add tax capacity and increase fund reserve balances to step up to the AAA rating.

Four investment firms bid on the City's bond sale today. There was a variance of 11 basis points between true interest costs of the lowest and highest bids. The lowest bid came from Piper Sandler & Co from Minneapolis with a true interest cost of 1.2849%. This rate is 21 basis points lower than original financial projections created by Ehlers and Associates, which will reduce the interest paid on the bond issue.

The bid included a premium component in which the City could choose to retain the original \$4.495 million sale, or reduce the bond issue by the premium amount to keep the true interest cost closer to the bid amount. Staff chose to reduce the bond sale issue by the premium to make the new issue \$4,280 million. This practice is consistent with how the bond issues have been handled in recent years. The reduction decreased the total principal and interest amount due over the life of the bond by \$77,258. This savings will help reduce the average annual levy requirement.

The average annual tax levy for the Equipment Certificates will be approximately \$62,000 and the average annual tax levy for the street improvements is \$98,000. Staff forwarded a recommendation to adopt the attached resolution approving the bond sale. Stacie Kvilvang with Ehlers Inc. was available to answer questions.

It was moved by Councilmember **Edberg** seconded by Councilmember **Biehn**, to adopt **Resolution No. 12785** awarding the bond sale.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSENT

- A. Resolution authorizing a temporary liquor license for Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund. **Resolution No. 12786**
- B. Resolution authorizing issuance of a massage therapist establishment license to Points of Serenity. **Resolution No. 12787**
- C. Resolution approving lease amendments with T-Mobile for equipment modifications at Century Avenue Monopole site. **Resolution No. 12789**
- D. Resolution accepting bids and awarding contract for the 2021 Crack Sealing Program, City Project No. 21-03. **Resolution No. 12790**
- E. Resolution adopting the City's Surface Water Management Plan. **Resolution No. 12791**
- F. Resolution authorizing a road closure and approving a liquor extension for Manitou Grill. **Resolution No. 12792**

It was moved by Councilmember **Engstran** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

Nothing scheduled

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

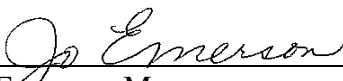
- Community Housing Forum, Thursday, June 10th at 7:00 p.m.
- Community events of Marketfest and Manitou Days, although delayed and slightly paired down, are expected to occur as planned beginning July 1st. A normal parade (non-drive by) will happen on July 2nd followed by July 4th Fireworks.
- City Engineer / Public Works Director Paul Kauppi
 - The Gazebo project is moving along. The other lower floor columns will be ordered depending on the sample lower floor column expected this week. It is hoped that supply chain issues do not affect an anticipated project completion in time for Manitou Days.
- The June 8, 2021 City Council meeting marks a return to in-person City Council meetings in the Council Chambers.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Edberg** seconded by Councilmember **Walsh** to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:01 p.m.

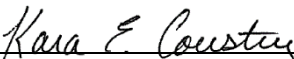
Biehn Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye
Jones Aye
Walsh Aye

Motion carried unanimously.



Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kara Coustry, City Clerk