

**CITY OF BAYPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 2, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice, Mayor St. Ores called the regular City Council meeting of August 2, 2021, to order and asked Councilmembers, staff, and the audience to join in pledging allegiance to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor Susan St. Ores and Councilmembers Michele Hanson, Ethan Gilmore, Connie Carlson, and John Dahl

Staff present: City Administrator Adam Bell, Assistant City Administrator/Planner Sara Taylor, Public Works Director Matt Kline, Chief Laura Eastman, Fire Chief Allen Eisinger, and City Attorney Tom Loonan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Carlson and seconded by Councilmember Hanson to approve the City Council agenda with the addition of item #9 to the Consent Agenda for a temporary 1day liquor license from the Afton-Bayport-Lakeland Lion Club for Derby Days on September 18, 2021. Motion carried 5-0.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, PETITIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor St. Ores noted the July recycling award recipient is Christina Cook, 354 5th St. N., who will be awarded for recycling efforts with funding made possible with a grant from Washington County. Mayor St. Ores called on Police Chief Eastman to present a Letter of Commendation to Officer Brittany Lepowsky for her notable response and action in the line of duty to address a recent critical incident.

OPEN FORUM

Mike Huntley of Youth Service Bureau (YSB) provided an overview of the programs and services offered by YSB and expressed appreciation for the ongoing partnership with the city to support their efforts. A request from YSB to help fund operations for 2022 will be considered as part of the city's 2022 budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor St. Ores read items 1-9 on the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Dahl introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution 21-21

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1-9 FROM THE
AUGUST 2, 2021 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**

1. July 12, 2021 City Council workshop minutes
2. July 12, 2021 City Council regular meeting minutes
3. July payables and receipts
4. July building, plumbing, mechanical, and zoning permits report
5. Appointment of Allen Eisinger as Fire Chief for a 3-year term, July 2021 to July 2024
6. Donation of toys to the Police Department from Nancy Aderman
7. Approve hiring of Accounting Specialist
8. Special event application from Marie Hydukovich for Inspiration neighborhood block party on August 20, 2021

9. Temporary 1 day liquor license from the Afton-Bayport-Lakeland Lion Club for Derby Days on September 18, 2021

The motion for adopting the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Gilmore and upon roll call being taken thereon, the following voted via voice:

Susan St. Ores - aye
John Dahl – aye

Connie Carlson- aye
Michele Hanson -aye

Ethan Gilmore - aye

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discuss Barker’s Alps Park field improvements proposed by St. Croix Preparatory Academy: Public Works Director Kline noted that at the May 3 meeting, the City Council tabled a discussion regarding improvements to the Barker’s Alps baseball field, mainly a permanent outfield fence. Since that time, city and St. Croix Preparatory Academy (SCPA) staff have further reviewed improvement options that would correlate with the Twins grant, as well as accommodate continued use of the ballfield area for multi-purpose open space and winter sledding activity. Director Kline summarized the proposed hybrid fence design, which would consist of 2/3 permanent chain-link fencing, with the remaining 1/3 as temporary chain-link fencing near the sledding area, so that it can be removed on an annual basis to accommodate winter activity. He noted that it was never the intent to enclose the entire field with a fence, but rather to better define the boundary of the outfield. The hybrid fence would be installed in roughly the same location as the current temporary fence. Discussion followed on fencing material, aesthetic impact, benefits, maintenance, and limitations associated with the proposal, as well as whether alternative improvements, such as the backstop overhang could be considered for use of grant funds, as opposed to the fence. Rich Dippel, SCPA, fielded various questions related to the discussion, noting the cost estimate for the backstop overhang well exceeded their funding allocation, and therefore SCPA is requesting further consideration by the city for the outfield fence that is within budget. It was reiterated that a temporary fence already exists in the outfield; the hybrid fence would offer increased safety, stability, and visual benefits, as well as decreased maintenance, as compared to the current temporary fence. There was a lack of consensus by the City Council on whether the fence was in the best interest of the overall community and the park. It was suggested that further discussion and a formal decision be continued until the September City Council meeting to allow for further public comment on the proposed hybrid fence option.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider authorization to prepare plans and specifications for upgrades to the city’s booster station: Public Works Director Kline noted that due to lack of rain, upper zone (Inspiration/Baytown) water usage increased significantly this summer, primarily related to lawn irrigation. The previous high usage for the upper water zone was in the month of August 2020 with a pumpage total of 16.8 million gallons. The June 2021 total pumpage was 21.4 million gallons. Given these increased water demands, staff is recommending the city move forward with planning for the mechanical upgrades to the booster station as discussed in early 2021. SEH has provided a proposal for plans, specifications, and technical assistance for upgrades to meet water supply demands, including higher capacity pumps, replacement of the SCADA and electrical control panels, and the installation of an emergency generator. The goal would be to complete the work by next spring, for summer 2022 demand. Director Kline reiterated that by recommending these mechanical upgrades, the city is not condoning the exorbitant water used for irrigation. He urged residents to practice water conservation efforts, including less frequent mowing, which reduces the need for watering, and adjusting irrigation systems to reduce usage and eliminate unnecessary overspray. Discussion followed on the importance of water conservation efforts to retain adequate water supply for all users. Current water regulations were reviewed, but the concern was expressed by the City Council that if the demand does not decrease, the city may have to impose additional restrictions and/or bans to stabilize usage. Staff was asked to research potential options for such incentives for consideration at a future meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Hanson and seconded by Councilmember Carlson to authorize SEH to prepare plans and specifications for upgrades to the city’s booster station, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Carlson reported on the July Library Board meeting. Additional funding has been secured for the proposed remodel of the Library building. Summer program attendance is strong, with 172 participants and circulation/patronage has recently increased.

Councilmember Hanson highlighted events planned for Derby Days on September 17-18 by the Bayport Community Action League.

Mayor St. Ores reported that she will be attending the Lake Elmo Airport Advisory Commission meeting on August 25.

STAFF/CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Fire Chief Eisinger noted the year-to-date call volume is 497. Monthly drills included a tour of water flow and boat operations. The department will be participating in Night to Unite activities in the service area on August 3, Washington County Fair on August 4-8, and Lift & Loop event on August 14.

Public Works Director Kline reviewed recent projects, including woodchip replacement on park playgrounds, continued Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) efforts, and budget preparation for 2022. Staff will be working with SEH in the coming weeks on the plans and specifications for the booster station upgrades approved earlier on the agenda. He also announced that the city has partnered with Rainbow Treecare to provide a discounted rate for EAB treatment of private ash trees on residential property. Look for more information to be posted on the city's website and newsletter.

Assistant City Administrator/Planner Taylor reported on recent discussions with MNDOT to implement wayfinding signs at key intersections along Hwy. 95 to promote/direct visitors to parks and city facilities/attractions. She also reviewed progress on draft ordinance updates/codification, temporary access design for the Clean Water, Land and Legacy property, and the next edition of the city's print newsletter. The next meeting of the Allen S. King Plant (Decommissioning) Advisory Panel will be held on August 18.

Administrator Bell summarized Police Chief Eastman's report, noting the year-to-date incidents total 4,598. Officers Ruzich and Lenander were recognized at a ceremony held at the BCA for their efforts in supporting Officer Arik Matson of the Waseca Police Department during his injury recovery. Winners from the Andersen Elementary School raffle participated in a tour of the department on July 15. Administrator Bell proceeded to review updates related to the Administration department, including progress on the 2022 preliminary budget, fire service contract review, receipt of American Rescue Plan Act funds, and union labor negotiations. A City Council budget workshop will be held on August 23 at 4:30 p.m.

COUNCIL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Hanson and seconded by Councilmember Dahl to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

City Administrator/Clerk