

**CITY OF ISLE COUNCIL MEETING**  
Regular Meeting Minutes April 11th, 2023

At approximately 6:00 PM the regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by roll call. **Council members present:** Vice Mayor Ginger Houle, Donald Dahlen, David Keding and Monica Keding. Mayor Frie was absent. Other staff present were: Jamie Hubbell, Mark Reichel, Jason Minenko, Nikki Johann, Tim Ramerth and Damien Toven.

A **Motion** to approve the April Agenda by Dahlen; second by D Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. **Motion** to approve the March Regular meeting minutes by D Keding and seconded by M Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. **Motion** to approve the March final claims totaling \$284,690.28 by M Keding with a second by D Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. April claims to date followed, with a **motion** to approve \$144,469.03 in claims to date by D Keding with the second by Dahlen. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Open Forum:** None

**Presentations, Announcements, Complaints and Requests:** None

**Public Hearings:** **Motion** by Dahlen to open the public hearing at 6:01P.M. with D Keding second.

- a. Special Use Permit for Residential short term rental at 910 Evergreen St. – SKOL, LLC – presented and reviewed. A letter received and read, from Paulsen family; owner neighbors adjacent to rental property. Concerns about the shared driveway, excess traffic and loud parties after hours were addressed. Conditions to apply to this permit, that owners must notify each rental guest of the concerns and mitigate issues.
- b. Special Use Permit for Residential short term rental at 430 Superior St. – Lapinski – presented and reviewed.

**Motion** by M Keding with the second by D Keding to approve both requests. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Motion by Dahlen to close the public hearing at 6:10P.M. with the second by D Keding. Tony Brumm made a statement after the hearing was closed; to make buyers aware of the regulations of the short term rental properties prior to their sale. Hubbell stated that not all potential property owners contact the city prior to purchasing property and that city hall can only share the information of the ordinance if requested. Cannot hinder/help a property owner with their purchasing process.

**Department Reports:**

**Public Works** – Supervisor Minenko provided his department activities report for March. Snow plowing continued and multiple shop repairs on Police vehicles for the month. Minenko and Thompson attended a Loss Control training in Bemidji and Dunphy tested and passed his Class D water license with the Minnesota Department of Health. Motion by M Keding to increase Dunphy’s wage by \$1 per hour for his certification effective 4/11/2023. Eleven work orders completed. \$52,405.55 in total receipts for March water and sewer payments received. PW Expense budget at 50.1% YTD. Water Department 17% YTD and Sewer Department at 12.8% YTD.

**Police Department-** Chief Reichel presented his March report with 238 calls for service. See packet full summary report. Department is working on grant applications. Police Department expense budget was at 22.6% YTD. 809 Impound budget was at 0% YTD.

**Liquor Store Operations-** March sales report presented by Manager Johann. March revenues were up \$11,796.19 from 2022 with \$61,562.55 in total sales revenue; Onsale was \$7669.16 of that total; expenses were up by \$3,075.91 with \$62,097.59 in total expenses for the month. Total loss for March was \$-535.04 with a year to date net effect of profit of \$23,259.38. Johann reported that she is starting to get the equipment and programs for the new POS system from RITE Cloud systems. The Lion's rent check was double last month from what it was the previous month with MLDS. Johann has set up a comedian on June 10<sup>th</sup> . May 27<sup>th</sup> is set for the band and food truck. She will also be hosting the fire department for a fundraiser with BBQ burgers and brats donated by Sysco. Budgeted transfer of \$1250.00 requested by Johann with approval by M Keding and D Keding. Motion by M Keding to increase the starting wage to \$14.00 per hour with a \$1.40 increase for current staff at starting rate and \$1.90 for Sunderman, effective 4/25/23. **Resolution 2023-04A** to hire one part time employee; Nichelle N Nell approved by **motion** from M Keding with the second by D Keding. All at the starting rate of \$12.60 per hour. Expense budget year to date is at 16.4%

**Fire Department- None.** Fire expense budget at 86.1% YTD.

**Planning Commission** – Commissioner Houle reported that quotes are pending on the band shell/pavilion at the park. Two permits were reviewed and continued efforts to maintain the blight properties. Cleanup day will be held with the City of Wahkon in Wahkon this year on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-1PM to help cut costs. Next year it will be here in Isle.

**Airport Committee** – Tony Brumm was present to give the March report. Airport continues to only be open for emergency landings for maybe another week to ten days (weather permitting). He shared the 2023 Annual Fly-in Breakfast flyer.

**City Engineer** – Ramerth gave updates on the project statuses. Final punch list with MBI on the well house phase. He is wrapping up the bid specs for the Industrial Park and state park projects. Will go out for bid in May. The packet is at the EDA for approval. Construction meeting with TNT to determine their spring start up date to finish the 2022 projects. Waiting on the state to approve the bid specs for the state park sewer project. Approval for applying for the Industrial Park permits granted.

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. Final review and discussion on the Short Term Rental regulations. Discussion to limit the number of residential properties allowed to host short term rentals. Set the Public Hearing for amended ordinance for the May regular meeting.
- b. Manning blight concerns for 560 Superior St. discussed. 2021 abatement order has expired and instead of starting over, Toven recommended ordering an abatement action with resolution at the May public hearing; where Toven will contact Manning directly and work with her to expedite the process. Motion by Houle with the second by D Keding to move forward with the abatement resolution.

**New Business:**

- a. Donations approved by **Resolution 2023-04B** in the amount of \$1,000. \$500 from the Isle Lions for the parks as a pass thru to Isle Garden club and \$500 from the Mille Lacs Drift Skippers for the fire department air pack purchase. **Motion** by M Keding with the second by D Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Clerk's Report:** None

**Financials:**

- a. March 31st General bank statement balance: \$1,037,968.01 Liquor Fund bank statement balance: \$82,873.22 (see bank balance statement sheet for Savings, Investments and Fund balances) unreconciled.

**Closed Session:** Vice Mayor Houle announced that council would go into closed session to discuss cases with the attorney and council discussion on both the LEAF Financial lawsuit and the Mille Lacs County Tribal case amicus brief request. No one present opposed the closing of the meeting for discussion. **Motion** by Dahlen at 6:54PM to close the open meeting with M Keding second. **Motion** by M Keding to reopen the meeting at 7:16PM to vote on the first case litigation.

- A. **Motion** by Dahlen to accept the settlement terms with Fleischer, Fleischer & Suglia representing LEAF Financial to pay a total sum of \$7150.00. Second by D Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Unanimous vote followed to also proceed with litigation against Total Register to recoup the total losses with LEAF Financial in the sum of \$10,881.74. Toven will proceed.

**Motion** by Dahlen at 7:21PM to re-close the opened session for further legal discussions regarding the request by Mille Lacs County and proposal by Indian Affairs Attorney Frank Kowalkowski, second by D Keding. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Dahlen at 7:41PM to re-open the meeting to the public with the second by D Keding. All in favor, motion carried.

- B. Request by Houle, to approve the decision to remain neutral and not participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals Amicus Brief request by Mille Lacs County Indian Affairs attorney, Thompson, in the tribal suit against the county. Stated that the council feels that it is better to remain "unbiased" at this point and to not spend a portion of the \$25,000 proposal by Kowalkowski. Motion to not participate by Dahlen with the second by D Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Adjourn Regular Meeting** to sign claims at 7:43 PM **Motion** to adjourn Dahlen, seconded by D Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Next regular meeting, May 9th, 2023.

Dated on this 11<sup>th</sup>, day of April, 2023

APPROVED on this 9th, day of May, 2023

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Ginger Houle - Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jamie Hubbell, MCMC Clerk-Treasurer

CERTIFIED BY VOTE:

Motion \_\_\_\_\_

Second \_\_\_\_\_

AYE NAY

DONALD DAHLEN

ERNIE FRIE

GINGER HOULE

DAVID KEDING

MONICA KEDING