

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Hoyt Lakes City Council**  
**Hoyt Lakes City Hall Council Chambers**  
**Monday, March 24, 2025**  
**5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Scott, Councilors Grams, Jarvela, Eckman, Mathison.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Lewicki, Public Utilities Direct Berndt, Deputy Clerk Snetsinger.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Scott at 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Scott opened the Public Hearing by asking if anyone was present to comment on Floodplain Ordinance No. 247. No one was present to speak on the ordinance.

Hearing was closed at 5:33 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Moved by Jarvela supported by Eckman to approve the following consent agenda items:**

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES\***

- 4.1 City Council Public Forum – February 24, 2025.
- 4.2 Special Council Meeting – March 3, 2025.
- 4.3 Regular Council Meeting – March 10, 2025
- 4.4 Emergency Council Meeting – March 12, 2025

**APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT – CLAIMS\***

- 6.1 Disbursements -\$190,092.07
- 6.2 Payroll - \$80,646.43
  - 6.2.1 Payroll - \$70,308.53
  - 6.2.2 Benefits - \$10,337.90
  - 6.2.3 Insurance - \$732.33

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Deputy Clerk Snetsinger thanked the Council and all her co-workers for their help during this transitional time in City Hall. Everyone has stepped up to help and City Hall Staff is very appreciative of the support they have received.

Public Utilities Director Berndt reported new chemical tanks have been installed at the water plant and this should help reduce chemical costs going forward. He has attended East Range Water Board (ERWB) meetings with Councilor Jarvela as non-voting members. He is setting up a special meeting to discuss design, construction, and what that looks like for the city. Initiating the design will give the city voting power on the ERWB. Unfortunately, to become eligible for grants and loans for this project utility rates will go up. This is determined by the median income of the residents in town. The important thing to remember is that the existing water plant was built in 1954. The Minnesota Department of Health is pushing that we either join the new ERWB facility or

replace/refurbish the existing water plant. The city will need to do something sooner rather than later and these loans and grants will be necessary either way. Water meters may also be coming as part of this upgrade depending on loan/grant requirements.

#### REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilor Grams reported the Chamber has cleaned up the donation can bin at the recycle center. There are two aluminum can recycle bins in town, one at the East Mesabi Sanitation building and one at the recycle center. The Chamber uses these monies to give to donations to groups in the city.

Councilor Jarvela attended the Planning Commission meeting where there was discussion about the tree fort and mobile home ordinance. The Commission is upset that the current mobile home ordinance isn't being enforced as trailers brought into the park shouldn't have been allowed. The Commission is still adamant about the 15-year age rule but may consider setting up an extension program for mobile homes that qualify. He has also done some research regarding the sale of lots on the back part of Leeds on Malvern. The County has assigned an RLS number but lots haven't been recorded with the auditors. The surveyor has a couple more things to verify on the lots, will then turn in the registered land survey to County Surveyor for approval, then County Auditors can process so lot owners will get their deeds. Reported on attending the ERWB meetings with Public Utilities Director Berndt; engineering needs to start by June so funding can be applied for. Aurora City Administrator Heikkila will also attend the special meeting Berndt is setting up with Bolton & Menk to explain financing. He also summarized the pipeline to Hoyt Lakes has been changed in the design process from 8" to 12", and will be redirected behind Auto Value to food shelf to Lutheran Church to trailer park.

Councilor Eckman reported the owner of the mobile home park in town contacted Assistant Fire Chief Eckman to see if the fire department would want trailers for training/burning purposes. The owner plans to remove 19 trailers and bring new ones in.

Councilor Mathison thanked City Staff, especially Betsy and Tammy, for all they have done during this transition in the Clerk's Office.

Mayor Scott thanked City Staff and City Attorney Lewicki for the extra work during this time. He appreciates it all and has been impressed with the information shared while making sure necessities are getting completed while planning for our next steps. He reported that the first Garden Club meeting of the year is on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the VFW. New members are welcome. Our new Interim City Administrator, Dean Weiberg, will be starting Tuesday, March 25. He invited the public to come to city hall to meet him in the upcoming weeks.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Moved by Grams supported by Mathison to adopt Ordinance no. 247 A newly Revised Floodplain. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of the City representation at meetings since Interim City Administrator Lammi left employment. As Interim City Administrator Weiberg is starting tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25 we will slowly be transitioning him to attend meetings and will reach out to Council and staff if they are needed to attend meetings. Councilor Grams reported through the East Range Joint Powers Board (ERJPB) the Northspan has representatives that attend the Iron Range Economic Alliance and Mineland Vision Partnership meetings that were listed on the calendar. She will get an update from the representatives at the next ERJPB meeting and forward that information to the Council.

Mayor Scott emphasized the great work the Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County does for our area.

**Moved by Eckman supported by Jarvela to approve Mayor's Proclamation regarding Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Motion Carried unanimously.**



Hoyt Lakes Chamber of Commerce, after being approached by the Garden Club, is donating \$2000 to the club for planting and beautifying our city.

**Moved by Jarvela supported by Mathison to approve Resolution 2025-008 Accepting donation from the Hoyt Lakes Chamber of Commerce to the Hoyt Lakes Garden Club. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion of Committee assignments for Fisherman's Point Campground and Mayor Scott asking for volunteers from the Council. Councilor Mathison - main, Councilor Eckman-alternate. The East Range Water Board Committee, previously appointed, was also added to the list.

**Moved by Jarvela supported by Grams to approve 2025 Committee Assignments updated to include Fisherman's Point Campground and East Range Water Board. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussed summer seasonal employee hiring, department needs, and timelines for publication.

**Moved by Jarvela supported by Eckman to approve advertising for hiring seasonal summer positions. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussed expanding payment options at Fisherman's Point Campground to include check and cash for ease of campers upon check in.

**Moved by Mathison supported by Eckman to expand payment options at Fisherman's Point Campground to include cash and check. Motion carried unanimously.**

Councilor Jarvela asked if there is financial reporting being done by the school and if it would be possible to get a breakdown showing where the city funds are being used. Councilor Grams recommended Deputy Clerk Snetsinger reach out to Superintendent Dr. Burgess for a recreation department funds report and Youth Activities Coordination Goerdts for a list of what is included with the sports sign-up fee.

**Moved by Mathison supported by Grams to approve the 2025-2027 Mesabi East Schools Recreation Contract and authorize Mayor Scott and Deputy Clerk Snetsinger to execute. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Grams supported by Eckman to approve the 2025 Liquor License application for Jenna Houser at the Golf Course clubhouse, pending receipt of all documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

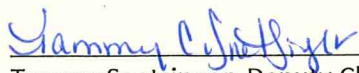
ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Jarvela supported by Grams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

  
Brennan Scott, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Tammy Snetsinger, Deputy Clerk