

**CITY OF HAM LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

The Ham Lake City Council and Economic Development Authority met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Ham Lake City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE in Ham Lake, Minnesota.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Brian Kirkham and Councilmembers Gary Kirkeide and Jesse Wilken

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilmembers Jim Doyle and Al Parranto

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Attorney, Mark Berglund; City Administrator, Denise Webster; City Engineer, Dave Krugler; and Administrative Assistant, Nicole Wheeler

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 P.M.** – Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kirkham called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Osendorf, 13450 Staples Street NE, was present. Mr. Osendorf stated that he is still waiting for his lawn to be fixed after the reconstruction of his street was completed (Twin Birch Acres). Mr. Osendorf stated that there are also chunks of bituminous that need to be removed from his lawn. Mayor Kirkham stated that he will have Public Works look at his yard.

**3.0 SPECIAL APPEARANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**3.1 Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise, Chief Deputy Bill Jacobson and Lt. Derek Schuldt – discussion of the 2024 Law Enforcement Contract**

Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise was before the City Council to address the 14% increase in the 2024 Law Enforcement Contract. Sheriff Wise stated that the Anoka County Sheriff's Office has been contracting with the City of Ham Lake for almost 50 years. Sheriff Wise stated that the reason for the increase is due to rising equipment costs, squad car maintenance, and the need for competitive wages to recruit and retain deputies and staff. Sheriff Wise stated that there are more vacancies in the State of Minnesota than there has ever been and that the younger generations are not interested in law enforcement careers and finding new recruits has become harder than ever. Sheriff Wise stated that there are four things needed for Law Enforcement to be fully staffed and functional; 1) Support of Citizens, 2) Support from Elected Officials, 3) a good culture within the office, and 4) Competitive wages, and if you are missing any one of those things, you are going to be losing staff immediately. Sheriff Wise stated that all cities are trying to one up each other during the labor agreements regarding wages. Sheriff Wise stated that the City of Blaine is currently paying their police officers a starting pay of \$44.77 per hour, while the starting pay for Anoka County Deputies was \$31.00 per hour, but was recently increased to \$36.57 per hour by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. Sheriff Wise stated that this adjustment puts Anoka County Law Enforcement wages right in the middle of the 11 Law Enforcement agencies within Anoka County. Sheriff Wise stated that the Anoka County Board needed to react to an increase in wages for the deputies. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that the Anoka County Board approved the pay increase for the deputies and asked if the

County is willing to help cover the cost of that increase. Sheriff Wise stated that the City will be receiving Public Safety Aid (\$721,000) and the goal of that money is to help off-set the increase in the Sheriff's Contract and soften the blow of the increase. Sheriff Wise stated that there are eight cities and one township that are patrolled by Anoka County Sheriff's Office. Councilmember Kirkeide questioned if the cost for this service is split fairly among those using the service and that the Sheriff's Contract has increased from \$1.1 million to \$1.6 million in the last three years. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that the Anoka County Sheriff's Office does excellent work in Ham Lake and the deputies remain cool, calm and collected while resolving situations. There was discussion that a workshop should be scheduled with the City Council and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office to discuss the level of service that Ham Lake is receiving and what the new full-time investigator is doing for Ham Lake. Councilmember Kirkeide questioned if an overall Countywide assessment could be done to pay for the Sheriff's Contract. Mayor Kirkham stated that Anoka County Sheriff's Office does a great job for the residents of Ham Lake.

#### **4.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

These items are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in normal sequence. (All items listed on the Consent Agenda are recommended for approval.)

- 4.1 Approval of minutes of August 21, 2023
- 4.2 Approval of claims in the amount of \$358,531.14
- 4.3 Approval of scheduling the Truth-In-Taxation meeting allowing public input for December 4, 2023 at 6:01 p.m. to consider the 2024 Budget and Property Tax Levy
- 4.4 Approval of the Outdoor Lighting Energy and Maintenance Agreement for street lights in Hidden Forest East Fourth Addition
- 4.5 Approval of a Temporary One-Day Liquor License for the Dylan Witschen Foundation (non-profit) at the Willow Tree Winery, 828 Constance Boulevard NE on October 28, 2023
- 4.6 Approval of the classification and sale of the tax forfeited parcels (PIN 03-32-23-23-0023, PIN 23-32-23-11-0016, PIN 09-32-23-44-0187 and PIN 09-32-23-44-0188)
- 4.7 Approval of Resolution No. 23-41 scheduling a public hearing to vacate a portion of the drainage and utility easement at 14932 Harpers Street NE (Lot 3, Block 1, Maple Ridge)
- 4.8 Approval of Resolution No. 23-42 to appoint signers and authorized traders for bank and investment accounts

**Motion by Kirkeide, seconded by Wilken, to approve the September 5, 2023 Consent Agenda as written. All present in favor, motion carried.**

#### **5.0 PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Consideration of amendments to Article 9 of the Ham Lake City Code regarding Affordable Housing District (RA-H), Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes as Conditional Uses in RA-H and repealing pigeons (this is considered the First Reading of an Ordinance)

**This is considered the First Reading of an Ordinance for amendments to Article 9 of the Ham Lake City Code regarding Affordable Housing District (RA-H), Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes as Conditional Uses in RA-H and repealing pigeons.**

5.2 Jeff Entsminger requesting rezoning of portions of land of the Entsminger Farms from R-A (Rural Single Family Residential) to CD-2 (Commercial Development II) and a portion of land of the Coon Creek Commercial Park from CD-2 (Commercial Development II) to R-A (Rural Single Family Residential) in Section 29 (this is considered the First Reading of a Rezoning Ordinance)

There was discussion that in order for a rezoning Ordinance to be considered, there must be a 4/5 vote and with their only being three Councilmembers present, the First Reading of the Rezoning Ordinance will need to be tabled. **Motion by Kirkeide, seconded by Wilken, to table the First Reading of a Rezoning Ordinance for portions of land of the Entsminger Farms from R-A (Rural Single Family Residential) to CD-2 (Commercial Development II) and a portion of land of the Coon Creek Commercial Park from CD-2 (Commercial Development II) to R-A (Rural Single Family Residential) in Section 29 due to their only being three Councilmembers present and their needs to be a 4/5 vote to rezone. All present in favor, motion carried.**

5.3 Jeff Entsminger requesting a Lot Line Adjustments/Courtesy Combinations in Section 29

**Motion by Wilken, seconded by Kirkeide, to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve Jeff Entsminger's request for a lot line adjustment of the western property line of Lot 4, Block 1, Coon Creek Commercial Park, north of Coon Creek Ditch #59, west to the future roadway easement dedicated on Lot 1, Block 1, Entsminger Farms, so to combine the property lying there within, and the lot line adjustment of a portion of Lot 4, Block 1, Coon Creek Commercial Park, south of Coon Creek Ditch #59, to the north so to combine that land with Lot 2, Block 1, of Entsminger Farms in Section 29 subject to meeting the septic requirements for proposed Parcel A, dedicating drainage and utility easements as required by the City Engineer, meeting all requirements of the City Engineer and Building Official and meeting all City, County and State requirements. All present in favor, motion carried.**

6.0 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – None**

7.0 **APPEARANCES – None**

8.0 **CITY ATTORNEY**

8.1 Discussion of the Sunrise Watershed Management Organization

Attorney Berglund stated that negotiations are still in process for the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and the Funding Formula with the Sunrise Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO). Mayor Kirkham stated that Ham Lake is in favor of Funding Formula Scenario #1 (50% land area, 50% Market Value and operating costs split equally at 25%), which is the funding formula that has been used for years. Attorney Berglund stated that there still needs to be a unanimous consent for the budget, but if one cannot be achieved, the annual cap for the budget increase will not exceed more than 10%. Attorney Berglund stated that he will continue negotiations with Attorney Gilchrist from the SRWMO and expects to have an agreement to approve at the next City Council meeting.

Attorney Berglund stated that he has been discussing a residence with Fire Chief Raczkowski that has been calling for a lift assist over and over and whether the resident can be charged a fee after so many calls per month. Attorney Berglund stated the City does not currently have a policy in place, but he will discuss the options with Fire Chief Raczkowski about creating a policy. Attorney Berglund stated that the policy would need to be codified into the City Code. Councilmember Wilken stated that it can easily cost the tax payers of Ham Lake around \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year to respond to these types of calls.

**9.0 CITY ENGINEER** – None

**10.0 CITY ADMINISTRATOR** – None

**11.0 COUNCIL BUSINESS**

11.1 Committee Reports – None

11.2 Announcements and future agenda items – None

**Motion by Kirkeide, seconded by Wilken, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. All present in favor, motion carried.**

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Nicole Wheeler, Administrative Assistant