

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE FIFTY LAKES CITY COUNCIL
November 10th, 2025

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Fifty Lakes City Council was held on Monday, November 10th, 2025, at City Hall at 6:00 pm. The following officers were present: Gary Staples, Mayor; Mark Bradley, Randy Zeigler, Juan Cabrera, Toni Buchite, Council Members; Ann Raph, City Clerk; Chester Bornltreger, Maintenance Supervisor; Jesse Anderson, Fire Chief.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Staples requested one (1) addition to the October Agenda.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO ADD UNDER FIRE AND RESCUE THE APPROVAL OF THE INVOICE FROM ASPEN MILLS. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Mayor Staples requested consideration of the consent agenda. Council reviewed: Council Meeting Minutes from October 14th ; Treasurer's Report: Payment of bills in the amount of \$158,661.22 including Check No# 52516 to #52607; Fire & Rescue Minutes from September; Resolution 2025-19 Donation of \$12,000 from the Fire Relief Association.

MOTION MADE BY MR. CABRERA AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

New Business/Critical Issues: Council reviewed the cash control statement for the liquor store funds. Check book balance is \$166,371.69 and 2 CD's totaling \$72,945.09. The park fund checking is at \$17,652.34. Council discussed transferring money from the liquor store fund to the park fund for 2026 projects including a swing set, painting of the pavilion. There is a balance of \$173,000 for the 2025 park project of which the DNR will pay half. The city is also expecting a reimbursement from the DNR grant of \$137,000. **MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO TRANSFER \$60,000 FROM THE LIQUOR STORE FUND TO THE PARK FUND.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Liquor Store: Mr. Zeigler presented the P & L report for the month of November showing a gross profit of 47.8% with a loss of \$5,763.58. Year to date profit is approximately \$41,154.83. Mr. Bradley questioned why there is no credit cards fees listed on the P & L. Ms. Raph explained the new POS system requires a 30-day waiting period to inform all credit card companies before we can begin charging the 2.5% credit card fee. **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO HIRE LEONIDUS ANDERSON AS A PART-TIME COOK FOR \$14.50 PER HOUR.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fire & Rescue: Jess Anderson, Fire Chief, presented information on the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan (SVF) that is administered by Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). Going with this program will alleviate the heavy workload of the treasurer dealing with the pension funds. All pension accounts would be sent over to PERA and they will handle them all with good percentage rates. This also saves the cost of the yearly audit, which Mr. Bradley reported was \$6,500 for last year. The Fire Relief Association has approved this via their resolution 2025-01. **MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-17 OPTING TO JOIN THE STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PLAN THROUGH PERA.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The Fire Department was awarded a grant from Sourcewell for lockers and turnout gear in the amount of \$15,874.20.

MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO ACCEPT THE SOURCEWELL IMPACT AWARD OF \$15,874.20 FOR TURNOUT GEAR AND LOCKERS. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Chief Anderson reported 4 medical calls for October. The department received \$2,000 from Sourcewell Boost funds for backpacks and \$4,000 from Compeer Grants for 4 sets of Wild Land Gear. **MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO APPROVE THE INVOICE FROM ASPEN MILLS FOR \$4,577.05.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: Mayor Staples presented Bethany Soderlund, Zoning Administrator's report for the month of October with 1 variance and 1 conditional use applications approved at the regular planning and zoning meeting. Mr. Bradley inquired to the process of solar applications. Currently, all solar applications require a conditional use permit. Future discussions will be held regarding a revision of the ordinance to allow solar on buildings with an over-the-counter permit and ground units continue through the conditional use permitting process.

Road Construction and Maintenance: Council reviewed the part time maintenance job description that does include plowing snow and the city's worker in this position is licensed and willing to do this. Council reviewed the Sourcewell Internship program for the maintenance and park department.

Parks: It is a requirement of the DNR Grant for the park project that a quit claim deed is approved with restrictions to the property. **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-18 A DEED RESTRICTION PURSUANT TO THE DNR GRANT REQUIREMENTS.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Purchasing/ Personnel: **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE A DONATION TO THE EMILY CARE AND SHARE OF \$500.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. **MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO CLOSE CITY HALL NOVEMBER 27TH AND 28TH FOR THANKSGIVING.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. **MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO CLOSE CITY HALL DECEMBER 25TH AND 26TH FOR CHRISTMAS.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. **MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO CLOSE THE MEETING FOR A PERFORMANCE EVALUATION.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO REOPEN TO THE MEETING.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO PLACE THE LIQUOR MANAGER ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE WITH PAY EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Open Forum:

Adjourn: **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO ADJOURN.** The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Ann M. Raph, City Clerk/ Treasurer