

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE FIFTY LAKES CITY COUNCIL
October 14th, 2025

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Fifty Lakes City Council was held on Tuesday, October 14th, 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 Borntreger, Maintenance Supervisor; Emily Brodhead, Municipal Liquor Manager; Keith Fitzpatrick, Assistant Medical 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 MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF APPROVAL TO APPOINT KALE JONES TO THE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT UNDER FIRE & RESCUE. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Open Forum: Dakota Wibbe presented a donation to the fire department of \$285.00 by selling baked goods made by himself and Kathrine Miller during one of the Vikings games. The council thanked Dakota and Katie for their donations.

Consent Agenda: Mayor Staples requested consideration of the consent agenda. Council reviewed: Council Meeting Minutes from September 9th and September 23rd Special Meeting; Treasurer's Report: Payment of bills in the amount of \$141,375.31 including Check No# 52412 to #52515; Fire & Rescue Minutes from September; Resolution 2025-15: LMC Grant Navigator Funds.

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

New Business/Critical Issues: Laural Prem from Premium Grant Writing update the council on the Solar Project. Ms. Prem answered questions from the council concerning the Solar on Public Building Grant contract stating she sees no issues with the funding. Project cost is \$142,570.06. Funding sources are as follows: State of Mn Solar on Public Buildings \$49,500, MPCA \$49,000, IRS Direct Pay Tax Credit \$42,771 with a balance of \$1,299.06 funded by the City of Fifty Lakes. Ms. Raph reminded the council that all cost for this project are on the City Hall/ Bar building is split 65% bar responsibility and 35% city responsibility.

MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT FROM WOLF TRACT SOLAR ON THE CITY HALL/50 LAKES BAR AND BOTTLE SHOP BUILDING. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO MOVE RANDY ZEIGLER TO LIQUOR LIASION AND TONI BUCHITE TO FIRE & RESCUE LIASON. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor Staples requested approval to accept the engagement letter from Clifton Larson Allen to perform the 2025 Audit.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE THE 2025 AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN, LLP AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$24,780.00. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor Staples reminded the council that the liquor license was changed to follow the calendar year therefore Golden Eagle Golf Course needs to apply for 2026 (currently paid through June 2026).

MOTION MADE BY MR. ZEIGLER AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE ANCHOR POINT HOLDINGS LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 2026 PRORATING \$600.00 FEE. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. The council discussed contracting with 4M funds, an investment agency within the League of Minnesota

Cities. Ms. Raph stated there would be no cost to the city, full compliance with state investment guidelines and that the council would still have full control over investments.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-16 AUTHORIZING MEMBRSHIP IN THE 4M FUND. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fire & Rescue: Keith Fitzpatrick, Assistant Medical Chief, discussed with the council the Fire and Rescue's decision to move to PERA for Statewide Volunteer Firefighters Retirement fund. Mr. Fitzpatrick states that some reasons the department wants to change are increase in cost of the annual audits, issues with auditors and the time frame of audit completion. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the PERA SVF plan would help diminish the paperwork flow, generate annual reports including cost analysis for future changes or increases. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that joining this SVF plan would not affect the city. The fire department would like to bring a resolution to join the SVF plan to the November meeting for council approval. Mayor Staples request approval for Kale Jones to join the Fire and Rescue department.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE APPOINTING KALE JONES TO THE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT, PENDING A BACKGROUND CHECK. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: Ms. Soderlund reported to the council via a memo: The planning commission held a regular meeting on September 23rd at which three (3) public hearings were held: Conditional Use application 15-25 (Approved), Variance Application 16-25 (Tabled), Variance Application 17-25 (Approved). The following metes and bounds lot splits were approved: Metes & Bounds Lot Split 18-25; Metes & Bounds Lot Split 19-25. There have been forty-four (44) approved land use permits YTD. The planning commission requests the City Council approve a refund of the administrative fees collected for Variance 17-25. Mayor Staples stated that he was not in favor of the refund considering the administrative work that was done to create the variance and that this was a request from the commission board not the applicants.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO DENY REFUNDING THE ADMINISTRATOR FEE FOR VARIANCE 17-25 TO PETER AND LAURA SANDALL. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. Ms. Soderlund informed the council via memo that two (2) PCBOA terms will expire on December 31st, 2025, resulting in two potential vacancies and requests the council approve advertising for new members.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE ADVERTISING FOR TWO NEW SEATS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION/ BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS MEMBERS. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Liquor Store: Liquor profit and loss report was reviewed with a gross profit of 58.0% with a net profit of \$11,689.99 in the month of September. The bar's net profit for the year to date is \$57,793.33. Ms. Brodhead states that the new POS system is going well in the onsale and hopes to start inputting inventory counts for the off-sale next week to move forward with going live. The council expressed with Ms. Brodhead their disappointment that the quarterly report was not completed in full and discussed with her the importance of this report being complete for each quarter in the future. Ms. Raph stated this is a big part of the Jessica Istvanovich's job as deputy clerk and has made her aware of this.

MOTION MADE BY MR. CABRERA AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM AMY WHITCOMB AND JESSE POTZ AS PART-TIME BARTENDERS. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. The council reviewed three (3) quotes for a new kitchen freezer.

MOTION MADE BY MR BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO PURCHASE A TRUE TWO DOOR FREEZER MODEL #T49F FROM GRAHAM REFRIGERATION AT A COST OF \$6,947.00 PLUS SHIPPING AND HANDLING. When polled: All members vote aye. Motion carried.

Road Construction and Maintenance: Rick Crawford updated the council on the status of obtaining his CDL licensing. He is in the process of researching programs and classes. Mayor Staples stated he does have some concerns about the cost of obtaining a CDL license and would like to draft up a contract for work when the license is obtained.

Purchasing/ Personnel: Mayor Staples and Mr. Bradley to conduct a 6-month review for Chester Borntreger, Maintenance Supervisor on Thursday morning. Mayor Staples and Mr. Bradley briefly discussed offering Mr. Borntreger a raise of \$1.50. **MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE A WAGE INCREASE OF \$1.50 PER HOUR TO CHESTER BORNTRERGER, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO MOVE THE NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING TO NOVEMBER 10TH AT 6:30 PM. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: The council reviewed three (3) quotes for surveying Miehe property.

MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO APPROVE HIRING INTERSTATE SURVEYING SERVICES TO SURVEY 5 ACRES OF THE MIEHE PROPERTY AT A COST OF \$1,825.00. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Open Forum: Lori Crawford suggested to the council that they form an events committee.

MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO TURN THE FIFTY LAKES DAY COMMITTEE INTO THE EVENTS COMMITTEE. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn: **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO ADJOURN.** The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk