

The January 8, 2024 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:08 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Proper notice was posted for attendance of two councilmembers via interactive technology in accordance with Minn. Stat. 13D.02 and their locations are open and accessible to the public. Roll Call: Councilmembers physically present were: Bill Thompson, Chip Frederickson, and Ronda Bjornson. Councilmembers present via interactive technology were: Tony Button and Rick Roberts. Both could hear and see all councilmembers and were heard and seen by all in the community hall. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to approve agenda. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REORGANIZATION: Members agreed to keep their commissioner positions from 2023. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to make the following 2024 commissioner appointments and designate city representatives as recommended by mayor: Tony Button, Acting Mayor; Ronda Bjornson, Weed Inspector; Jacob Weinreich, Assistant Weed Inspector; Chip Frederickson Wastewater Commissioner; Tony Button, Street & Sidewalk Commissioner; Bill Thompson, Municipal Buildings Commissioner; Rick Roberts, Park Commissioner; Financial Depositories: First National Bank of Milaca, Isle Branch, League of MN Cities 4M Fund Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund, and Ehlers Investment Partners/Pershing; Newspaper: Mille Lacs Messenger; Accountants: Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC; Attorneys: Kennedy & Graven Chartered, Damien F. Toven & Assoc. and Mille Lacs County (MLC) Attorney's Office; Engineers: Short Elliot Hendrickson (S.E.H); Zoning Administration: Saehr Consulting; Financial Advisors: Ehlers Investment Partners, and David Drown Associates Inc.; Insurance Company & Agency: League of MN Cities Insurance Trust and Oberfeld Insurance. Ayes: Frederickson, Thompson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Code of Ethics Forms: Reviewed and initialed by those physically present. Button and Roberts will review their forms upon return from their winter residences.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Frederickson, Thompson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

- A) Meeting Minutes: 12/11/23 Council
- B) Initiative Foundation \$250 Donation Approved Via 2024 Budget Meeting
- C) 2024 IRS Standard Mileage Rate .67 Cents from 65.5 Cents: New Wahkon Rate
- D) League of MN Cities (LMC) Dividend Announcement \$361
- E) Mille Lacs County (MLC) November Tax Settlement \$113,882.41
- F) Charitable Gambling Report: 11/2023 Isle Lions Club Zero & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers Zero
- G) Treasurer's Report 2023 Year End Unaudited Schedule 1 Report
- H) Treasurer's Report 12/31/2023 Ending Balance \$552,819.78 Cash; \$772,514.06 Investments & Receipts Register
- I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report
- J) Voided Check List 2023
- K) Disbursement Register 1/8/2024 Date Range 12/12/2023 – 1/8/2024 Total \$120,705.90

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: New Updated Personnel Policy Review & Adoption If Applicable: Clerk reviewed a few topics, some of which were answered by City Attorney Dave Anderson via email. Another attorney from Kennedy & Graven assisted in writing this policy. Full time employee definition in current policy is 40 hours per week, year-round but under time reporting it states "Full-time, non-exempt employees are expected to work 30 hours per workweek..." The 30 hours was due to clerk/treasurer hours increasing over her 30-year tenure from four hours in the

beginning to more. Only the past few years has it been closer to 40 per week. Previous council, with citizen support, agreed to supply FT employees with health insurance and sick days, the 30 hours was added by the city attorney. New policy has been amended wherein both full-time definition and time reporting sections are 30 hours or more. New policy states core hours for city hall employees to work are noon to 5 pm Monday – Friday based upon clerk’s request to limit office hours. However, she will at minimum work 30 hours per week, including meetings.

There are ten mandatory holidays per statute, while Columbus Day and Friday after Thanksgiving are optional. This policy has twelve holidays, which he states is not uncommon. Something interesting is he strongly impresses that no business should be conducted on mandatory holidays. “I understand that certain exempt or essential employees might need to work on those days, and that’s not an issue, but I would advise you not to let members of the public come into city hall on those days to pay utility bills, submit applications, make data requests, etc.” Current policy lists holidays but doesn’t specify paid holidays anywhere; attorney that drafted it obviously missed it. New policy includes such a section. Part time/seasonal employees are now noted as not being eligible for holidays. Language was added to prorate based on hours for PT employees. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson, to adopt newly revised Employee Personnel Policy. Ayes: Frederickson, Thompson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: New State Flag & Seal Discussion: Tony Button: Extremely disappointed in the new flag design as it really doesn’t say anything. Seal is better than it was but the flag lacks something. Crow Wing County board opposed it. Clerk hasn’t received their resolution and letter they submitted yet. Button found out MLC hasn’t flown the state flag since the legal battle over reservation and law enforcement. Button believes we need to write a letter of opposition. With all the talent in the state it could be much better. Seven-sided star, representing the North Star, looks like a dot from afar. Motion by Button, seconded by Thompson to write a formal letter of opposition to the newly designed state flag. Ayes: Frederickson, Thompson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk will draft letter after receiving Crow Wing County’s information and per council request, will inform Cities of Isle & Onamia.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: not a lot going on. Ponds are all frozen now. Our wastewater gallons and Mille Lacs Island Resort both increased due to 3” rain, which brought primary pond level up.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Explained how Thanksgiving renter had dogs in the hall, which they didn’t cleanup after; damage deposit wasn’t fully refunded. Their next rental for Christmas wasn’t as bad as they did clean up, however, dog hair is still being found. Council agreed to revise hall rental form stating no animals are allowed. MN Basic Code of Ordinances has been drafted by City Attorney Damien Toven and clerk will soon begin reviewing it before bringing to council.

MLC Sheriff’s 4th Quarter 2023 Report & 2017-2023 Yearly Analysis: Last quarter of 2024 had 39 calls, down 16.9% over 2022. Council agreed it would be nice to have them attend a meeting once in a while.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to adjourn. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The February 12, 2024 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:02 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Proper notice was posted for attendance of two councilmembers via interactive technology in accordance with Minn. Stat. 13D.02 and their locations are open and accessible to the public. Roll Call: Councilmembers physically present were: Bill Thompson, Chip Frederickson, and Ronda Bjornson. Councilmember present via interactive technology: Tony Button. He could hear and see all councilmembers and was heard and seen by all in the community hall. Absent: Councilmember Rick Roberts as he was unable to join the meeting due to email & technical issues.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to approve agenda. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to approve consent agenda: Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

- A) Meeting Minutes: 1/8/2024 Council
- B) Initiative Foundation Donation Thank You
- C) Pearl Crisis Center Donation Thank You
- D) CenterPoint Energy Natural Gas Rate Increase Letter
- E) League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Regional Safety Group Program 2024 Rate Increase of 5%
- F) LMCIT Coverage Liability Waiver Form: Member Does Not Waive Monetary Limits On Municipal Tort Liability Per Agent Recommendation
- G) Mille Lacs County (MLC) December Tax Settlement \$498.01
- H) Mille Lacs Equal Rights Foundation LG220 Exempt Permit Application 7/17/2024 Raffle Acknowledged With No Waiting Period As Customary
- I) Charitable Gambling Report: 12/2023 Isle Lions Club Zero & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$1312.74
- J) Treasurer's Report 1/31/2024 Ending Balance \$482,248.64 Cash; \$764,540.54 Investments
- K) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report
- L) Disbursement Register 2/12/2024 Date Range 1/9 – 2/12 Total \$82,153.88

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2024-0212 To Adopt An Electronic Funds Wire Transfer Policy: Believe Purchase Policy has section on this but according to City of Onamia's auditor, resolution required annually. Used City of Isle resolution sample. "Whereas, the city of Wahkon recognizes that from time to time it may be beneficial and/or required to use electronic funds transfers for receipts and deposits and instead of checks for paying of vendor claims, bond and debt obligation payments, purchases, investments (selling/purchasing), State and Federal payroll taxes..." Motion by Thompson, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2024-0212. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Fourth of July Fireworks? \$7590.14 Event Fund balance. City attorney confirmed city soliciting donations is allowed, usually 60-65%. Display & operators' budget for past two years was \$6000; one-minute display \$1000. Button worked with crew to delay time between shots for longer display. Mayor's goal is that no city funds be used. WAVE Committee will begin fund raising. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson authorizing Fourth of July event on 7/4/2024 Thursday with \$7000 budget through North Star Fireworks. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Isle Fire Service Contract \$10,312.54: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to approve Isle Fire Dept 3/1/2024 annual contract for \$10,312.54 payable from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Price will increase 5% effective with 3/1/2025 contract.

Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP) Election, Tuesday 3/5 @ Wahkon Community Hall 7 am – 8 pm. “Before voting, election law requires that you select which major political party’s ballot you want. If you refuse to select one party’s ballot, you cannot vote. Your choice of major political party will not be public information, except that it will be made available to election officials and to the chair of the major political party that you select after the presidential primary.” If you can’t vote on 3/5, you can go directly to MLC to vote early beginning now.

United States Dept of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service Funding Obligated Authorizing WW Project Bidding: Began working on this in 2021. Loan closing instructions are finalized and solicitation process may begin. Council motion at 6/12/2023 meeting authorized City Engineer Dave Blommel to advertise and accept bids on behalf of the city with construction this spring/summer. Installing water meters for accurate sewer billing will be decided once construction bids are known.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: MnDOT 2026 Project Questions: SEH Memorandum: 1) Trees on North Main: Council agreed to leave the iconic White Pine. Smaller Spruce Pine can go if needed. Sidewalk leading to park has some issues, especially between 3rd & 4th Streets. 2) Existing North Main: Council discussed options and prefers option 3 to remove pavement and leave flat area with new native seed. 3) South Main Drainage: Curb will be added on north/west side of 27 along with catch basin. “That pipe crossing the trail will see less flow in this scenario, but MnDOT is afraid of the appearance of sending more water that direction.” Council understands their concern but if it is engineered with less flow, that is best scenario to alleviate safety issue of water standing in drive lane on inside curve of highway.

MN State Flag Redesign Opposition Letters & Petition Link: After reading Crow Wing County opposition article, Button requested this matter be placed on last month’s agenda. All three cities, Isle, Wahkon and Onamia, sent letters to the Governor and all representatives. Clerk read email received today from State Representative Ron Kresha stating “This has been ridiculous. We have so many more important things to do at the Capitol like addressing the needs of nursing homes, childcare and education issues, etc. The majority and the Governor have decided this is the most important thing. We won’t give up.” Mayor received response letters to her home address. Isle clerk shared link for people to sign petition opposing the designs, which was included in agenda. Button questioned if people could sign it at city hall. Not everyone has cell phone or computers. Would need to investigate if this is acceptable. Citizens could come to city hall and use link.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) was asked to remove large debris pile located in road leading to their lift station. Jake can squeeze city truck through but it would hamper emergency repairs. Joyce Bzoscie replied they would take care of it. Thursday early morning in April works best for Bjornson and Frederickson for annual meeting.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Received quote from Rocky’s Tree Service for Cottonwood in City Park and Ash tree with four individual trunks in city lot across from Mugg’s. Frederickson had offered to bring skidster for Cottonwood removal if others could help. Bjorn Bjornson could assist but doesn’t have dump trailer or place to bring debris. Rocky quoted \$1000 to haul brush and wood away, grind stump and cleanup. Coordinating volunteers and equipment, even with Bjorn’s expertise, isn’t worth someone getting hurt when it can be done professionally. Council agreed to hire Rocky’s Tree Service to remove Cottonwood and Ash trees for total price of \$3850.

MN Rural Water Association (MRWA) Conference: Weinreich: May consider attending first day of March conference in St. Cloud, depending on snowplowing. He doesn't need credits but this is great networking opportunity and would be his first attendance on behalf of Wahkon. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson authorizing Weinreich to attend MRWA conference. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Wahkon Days: Roeschlein: Will council again rent portable toilets and wash sink? Motion by Thompson, seconded by Frederickson to rent two portable toilets and one wash sink for Wahkon Days in the amount of \$430 using Community Event Fund. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Entrance Signs: Bjornson questioned when sign options would be forthcoming? Clerk forgot about kick off meeting that she and Mayor were to attend virtually with CJ Fernandez of Aune Fernandez Landscape Architects last week. MnDOT signed \$50k contract with them on behalf of Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway (LMLSB) for byway design concept plan. This includes Wahkon Main Street Project design, including entrance sign options, Garrison 169 and concourse, develop standard LMLSB kiosk and conceptual landscape plan. Clerk will keep council posted.

Zoning: None: No official zoning report, however, Clerk received update on John Wilson's progress to obtain permission to build retirement home on his cabin property relative to Indian Burial Mound. His attorney has received State Archaeologist permission and now awaits decision from MN Indian Affairs Council. He will share this information with the city in hopes of assisting others in same situation.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Thompson, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Thompson, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The March 11, 2024 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Proper notice was posted for attendance of Councilmember Tony Button via interactive technology in accordance with Minn. Stat. 13D.02 and his location is open and accessible to the public. Roll Call: Councilmembers physically present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Councilmember Tony Button was present via interactive technology. He could hear and see council and was heard and seen by all in the community hall. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Thompson, seconded by Frederickson to approve consent agenda: Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 2/12/2024 Council

B) Social Security National Slam the Scam Day March 7 Info

C) Mille Lacs Island Resort Annual Meeting: Thurs. 4/4 @ 9:30 am

D) Dog & Cat Vaccination Clinic: Sat. 4/20 @ Tulibee Tavern 9 am – 1 pm

E) MN Dept of Labor & Industry Electrical Inspection Services Transition Email & Memo

F) Initiative Foundation Letter

G) Savage Communications 2023 Franchise Report: \$4460.62

H) Charitable Gambling Report: 1/2024 Isle Lions Club \$274.46 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$431.62

I) Treasurer's Report 2/29/2024 Ending Balance \$456,372.02 Cash; \$771,336.63 Investments & Receipts Register

J) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Reports

K) Voided Check List 2024

L) Disbursement Register 3/11/2024 Date Range 2/13 – 3/11 Total \$23,377.16

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2024-0311 To Donate Funds to East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) for Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway Maps: LMLSB Map Donation Request Letter: Marge Agnew wasn't able to attend. Clerk Roeschlein gave brief overview. Byway is requesting \$800 donation from each of the four cities along the byway. League of MN Cities was asked whether this type of donation was allowed. Reply was ECRDC would qualify as an incorporated development society, as it was created by Legislature as a government entity but to check with our attorney. Per City Attorney Dave Anderson email "I see no issue with contributing to ECRDC for the mapping project (from the city's general fund, not the lawful gambling fund). To me, this is the type of project that the city could perform on its own, i.e. creating the byway map itself would be considered a public a public purpose expenditure." CG Fund can't be used as ECRDC isn't a non-profit, nor do any of the other criteria fit. Anderson drafted the resolution. Motion by Button to donate \$800 to ECRDC. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Thomspson, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$500 via adoption of Resolution No. 2024-0311. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Public Safety Fund Donation Request: Isle Police Chief Mark Reichel: Chief was unable to attend. Isle PD Officers Tim Laforce and Dakota Hill were present & read letter of request. Wahkon has \$10,002 remaining of public safety funds designated by Legislature. Isle's fund was split between their FD & PD for radios, safety trainings, emergency equipment and supplies. PD needs cameras at a cost of \$5500 for hardware and \$3240 annually for subscription fees. Old ones are failing and upgrades aren't available. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to donate \$5000 to City of Isle for police department cameras. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP) Election Results: Wahkon & State: Informational: Wahkon had 32 voters arrive at the polls. Based on 194 registered voters, 16% turnout. Numbers don't include absentee voters. Good practice for upcoming 2024 elections with higher voter turnout, so election judges can refresh their skills. Judges will need additional training this spring/summer.

Election Backup Site Request Letter to Sacred Heart Church: Letter was delivered 1/26/2024; no reply as of yet. Sacred Heart has ample space and is directly behind the community hall where elections are held. "It is my hope this would only be a backup plan on paper without the need to ever actually use it, but it would be wise to have in place just in case."

Keep It Clean Program Grants Bill: Letter of Support Request: Council agrees to support this important program to inform the public to remove all litter, human & animal excrement from lakes during the winter fishing season. Furthermore, the bill would include grants for winterized human waste removal infrastructure.

November Regularly Scheduled Meeting is Veterans Day: Must Reschedule: Motion by Thompson, seconded by Roberts to reschedule November's monthly meeting from Monday 11/11 to Tuesday 11/12 at 6 pm. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. State statute doesn't allow government meetings to be held on Veterans Day.

Veterans Park Walk to Honor Ceremony? Button originally discussed Memorial Day ceremony with Commander Jake Shetka of Isle Honor Guard. WAVE Committee could help read names but wouldn't be able to do much more. New WW I monument was erected last year and those named upon it have a paver in the Walk to Honor. Would 7/4 work better prior to fireworks display? Clerk will check with WAVE and Button is willing to help.

CD's Maturity 4/5 & 4/11: Have four CDs of which three mature 4/5 and fourth on 4/11. Current rates of 4.99% would continue through automatic renewal. Investment total of \$213,363.87, not including interest, which applies upon maturity. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to allow city's four CDs to renew automatically with 4.99% interest for additional six months. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Advertisement for Bids 2024 Sanitary Sewer Improvements WAKHO 159122: Informational

Bid Opening Thurs. 3/14 @ 2 pm Wahkon Comm Hall & Virtually: Wastewater Commissioner Frederickson can't attend. City Engineer Dave Blommel will take care of the bidding process and will give council an update at April meeting.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Northern Dewatering is doing soil boring in preparation for bidding on project and Blommel is optimistic project will include meter installation on private wells.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Rocky's Tree Service cut two trees down and will finish grinding stumps when their equipment is back up and running. Beachside Resort's lake area is strewn with straw which they used to insulate their ice fishing access. Council suggested an email be sent requesting this area be cleaned up promptly.

Roeschlein: Audit is scheduled for Mon. 3/18. LMLSB will meet here on 3/20 @ 1:30 pm. WAVE Beef Chili Cook Off is 3/23 at Tulibee Tavern.

Zoning: None

Open Forum: Please limit to 3 minutes. Council will likely place issue on next month's agenda for full review. Mille Lacs Messenger reporter Bob Statz questioned whether the financial figures were accurate for our small city. Wahkon has \$456,372.02 in cash and \$771,336.63 in investments of which \$500,00+ is interim loan proceeds for upcoming Sewer project, which will be expended this year.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The April 8, 2024 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Absent: Councilmember Tony Button. Employees present: Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve agenda: Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 3/11 Council

B) Dog & Cat Vaccination Clinic: Sat. 4/20 @ Tulibee Tavern 9 am – 1 pm

C) Wahkon WAVE Adult Prom Night \$15 Sat. 4/20 @ Tulibee Tavern 7 – 11 pm

D) Let's Build a Better Tomorrow! Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Summit, Spotlight on Childcare: Mon. 4/22 @ Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center 8 am – 4 pm

E) Keller Williams Realtors Renew, Energize & Donate (RED) Day: Thurs. 5/9: WAVE & Midway Garden Club TBD

F) WAVE Hwy Cleanup Day, Thurs. 5/9 TBD

G) Charitable Gambling Report: 2/2024 Isle Lions Club \$77.73 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$987.03

H) Treasurer's Report 3/31 Ending Balance \$446,001.22 Cash; \$773,762.52 Investments & Receipts Register

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Reports

J) Voided Check List 2024

K) Disbursement Register 4/8 Date Range 3/12 – 4/8 Total \$48,877.40

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2024-0408 Approving Election Judges For 2024 State Primary & General Elections: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to adopt Resolution No. 2024-0408. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: 2023 City of Wahkon Independent Auditor's Report & Letters: Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell: Colleen Hoffman traveled from Thief River Falls to present council with the audit, a four-hour drive. City is lucky to have Roeschlein as everything is tip top; she does everything as required financially. Wastewater project this year has good funding. Financially the city is collecting enough to fund the system. Hoffman handed out her card to council and informed them to call anytime with questions. It is their duty to call with any concerns, either the city auditor and/or the city attorney, which would be confidential. Council sets the tone for staff. At minimum, council should read the Management's Discussion & Analysis which summarizes the audit.

Hwy 27 & 169 Roundabout, Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Report & Petition to Cancel: Joel Peterson: Commander of Vets Club located at corner of Highways 27 & 169. Only a few months ago MnDOT dropped off proposed plans. Public meeting at South Harbor Township was held 4/2 where majority opposed it. This is a solution looking for a problem. Public view is there is a problem on summer weekends to get onto Hwy 169. According to the petition "The funds for the project are to make the intersection safe, but the intersection is already safe as evidenced in the state's own ICE report indicating only 13 accidents over a 10-year period with an estimated 37 million vehicles traveling through the same intersection during that time period." There were 37 incidents in same time period with 2 fatalities, which according to Peterson weren't at this intersection. He is looking for

support opposing the roundabout, which is slated for 2026, indicating how people and businesses will be negatively affected. It will seriously impact the Vets Club, which has been hard hit since Covid. Their parking lot abuts Hwy 27 and during construction, their patrons will diminish and they don't have finances to hold them over. Other businesses in the area will be impacted negatively as well. Twilight Road will have issues with egress and ingress. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to send roundabout opposition letter. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Peterson requested letter be forwarded to him so he can present the letters and petition to MnDOT and legislative representatives.

Onamia Public Schools ISD #480 Junior/Senior Prom Donation Request: Request is actually for the after prom party. Motion by Thompson, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$250 from Charitable Gambling Fund to ISD #480 for the after prom party. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Wahkon Cleanup Day 6/1 Discussion: Last year we discounted \$1 per item for Isle & Wahkon residents. Year before it was just Wahkon and citizens could dispose of one computer/tv for free but additional were charged a fee. Council agreed to charge everyone the same and each item will be charged a fee. This event is open to the public, not just Wahkon residents.

WAVE Community Kindness Rock Garden: Christine Bjornson President: Location likely will be near the big chair on corner city lot. There will be a sign stating to take a rock and/or leave a rock, along with QR code. Council asked WAVE to coordinate with Park Commissioner Roberts and Weinreich to ensure location is good for maintenance reasons.

WAVE is officially a 501C4 per IRS letter they received. There was discussion of having a service at Veterans Park to commemorate the WWI monument recently purchased and reading the names of walk to honor pavers this Memorial Day weekend. However, Button is just returning from winter residence and WAVE has several projects already this year. WAVE wants to partner with the Patriot Guards to have a wonderful presentation sometime in 2025. Last presentation was in 2021.

Spring highway cleanup will be 5/9 at 1 pm. Wahkon Days planning has begun. There will be additional food trucks than in the past.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 2024 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project No. WAHKO 159122 Bids, S.E.H Memos & USDA Bid Review Letter: City Engineer Dave Blommel was unable to attend. Bids received ranged between \$1,227,684.18 and \$2,296,874.00. Water meters were bid separately. 2018 we began engineering the project. Installation of meters allows city to properly charge for wastewater by the gallon. Currently every household is charged the same. Also, more precise way to charge businesses. Citizens will lawn sprinklers could choose to add a second meter in order to reduce those gallons. Button wasn't present but explained to Clerk how in Apple Valley his plumber said it would take five years to recoup cost of meter & install of the second meter. He decided against the second meter. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to award the 2024 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project No. WAHKO 159122 to the lowest responsible bidder, Northdale Construction, as approved by ACOE and USDA, in the amount of \$1,227,684.18 along with the alternate bid for meters of \$177,065.25, for total award of \$1,404,749.43. Mayor Bjornson and Clerk/Treasurer Roeschlein are authorized to sign necessary agreements on behalf of the City of Wahkon for said project. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) annual meeting was held. Their road to the lift station needs to be kept up better, which was discussed. Ponds will be discharged soon and first round shouldn't require alum.

MPCA Certificate of Commendation: Wahkon Wastewater Treatment Facility: Mayor congratulated Weinreich on doing a great job!

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Will attend the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Summit at Grand Casino Events Center on 5/22. Mayor thanked both Roeschlein and Weinreich for jobs well done. Frederickson thought the MLIR meeting has productive. A newly hired maintenance/assistant manager will live onsite. MLIR is restoring the old building that has been empty for years.

Zoning: None

Mille Lacs County (MLC) Sheriff's Wahkon Report 1st Quarter: Forty calls during January through March 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Thompson, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer