

The January 17, 2023 special Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:01 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Special meeting was called by the mayor due to lack of quorum for regularly scheduled 1/9 monthly meeting. Proper notice was posted for both special meeting and attendance of two councilmembers via interactive technology in accordance with Minn. Stat. 13D.02, at locations which are open and accessible to the public. Roll Call: Councilmembers physically present were: Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck & Ronda Bjornson. Councilmembers present via interactive technology were: Tony Button and Rick Roberts. Both could hear and see all councilmembers in-house and were heard and seen by all in the community hall. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve agenda. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Agenda was posted as requirement of special meeting notice and per statute nothing can be added.

CITY GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REORGANIZATION: Oath of office were given to Frederickson on 1/3 and Bjornson on 1/6 at city hall. Councilmember Roberts had oath officiated in Alabama on 1/4. Members agreed to keep their commissioner positions from 2022. Motion by Buck, seconded by Frederickson to make the following 2023 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; Brenda Buck, Municipal Buildings Commissioner; Rick Roberts, Park Commissioner; First National Bank of Milaca, Isle Branch, and League of MN Cities 4M Fund Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund, Financial Depositories; Mille Lacs Messenger, Newspaper; Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC, Accountants; Kennedy & Graven Chartered, Damien F. Toven & Assoc. and Mille Lacs County (MLC) Attorney's Office, Attorneys; Short Elliot Hendrickson (S.E.H), Engineers; Saehr Consulting, Zoning Administration; David Drown Associates Inc., Financial Advisers; and League of MN Cities Insurance Trust and Oberfeld Insurance, Insurance Company & Agency. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Code of Ethics Forms were reviewed and signed by those physically present. Button and Roberts will review their forms upon return from winter residence.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Item D) Pay Equity Report wasn't completed in time. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve consent agenda, less removal of Item D. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

- A) Meeting Minutes: 9/28 Special, 12/12 Special Planning Commission & 12/12 Council
- B) 2023 IRS Standard Mileage Rate 65.5 Cents from 62.5 Cents: New Wahkon Rate
- C) League of MN Cities (LMC) Dividend Announcement \$1,178
- D) Pay Equity Report Council Approval Required (Removed as report wasn't completed)
- E) Charitable Gambling Report: 11/2022 & 12/2022 Isle Lions Club Zero, 11/2020 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$19.85 and \$75 to WAVE Meat Raffle Volunteers
- F) Treasurer's Report 2022 Year End Unaudited Schedule 1 Report
- G) Treasurer's Report 12/31/2022 Ending Balance \$834,555.95
- H) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report
- I) Disbursement Register 1/17/2023 Date Range 12/13/2022 – 1/17/2023 Total \$131,948.86

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2023-0117 Transportation Alternatives Project Maintenance: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0117. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Initiative Foundation \$250 Donation Request: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to donate \$250 to Initiative Foundation from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

MN Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) Donation Request: Button has seen first-hand how they support homeless veterans. Motion by Buck, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$1000 to MACV from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Onamia Ballfield Donation Request: Ballfield isn't correct, request is for park and recreation. Letter begins by thanking us for ballfield donation in the past. Motion by Buck, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$500 to City of Onamia from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Snow Removal Policy: This issue arises when there is a lot of snow. Should business contractors be able to push snow to city property? Should city continue to clear sidewalks for commercial area? It isn't every year city must pay to remove large snow piles. It is against state statute to push snow across any right-of-way, city, county or state. Weinreich hit bank left by another and it spun him in the large plow truck. Can also create rough streets. Citizens have done this in the past or their contractors but no letters have been mailed. At minimum it should be cleaned up so as to leave nothing in the street. Education on how to properly do it is key. Mayor suggested Messenger do an article. Having Main Street sidewalk clean is nice for everyone. Two people came in last week stating how nice Wahkon looks after plowing. Council agreed to continue current snow policy of clearing sidewalks between 1st and 3rd Streets. Continue mailing businesses liability waiver to sign. Send nice letters to citizens if warranted. Button noted this is how Wahkon supports businesses since he began. We have one of the best maintained streets in MN!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Greater Minnesota Transportation Alternatives Solicitation 2022/23 Full Application: MLC will be our financial sponsor as required for small cities and promptly supplied resolution. 2021 Bike & Ped application wasn't selected but this is a new category we are submitting under, Scenic Byway. This will benefit both the city and Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway. Funds would be used to offset city cost of 2026 MnDOT Main Street Project. Button mentioned it has been 10 years since cost estimate of this project thus costs have increased substantially.

Wahkon Purchasing Policy Revised: City Attorney David Anderson added "Change Orders" section, which City Engineer Dave Blommel thought would be useful relative to upcoming sewer project. Motion by Buck, seconded by Frederickson to approve revised Wahkon Purchasing Policy. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: S.E.H representative took pictures of main lift station panel in prep of upcoming project. Installing a light would be great for safety reasons as this LS is barely off Hwy 27. Project bidding in February is the goal.

Zoning: Issued permit to Steiner for solar panels. Other activities included Wilson street vacation, Meshigun Point Townhomes variance, attendance at December meetings and file transfer of city records to Saehr Consulting, new zoning consultant for 2023.

MLC Sheriff's 4th Quarter Report: There were 37 calls. Buck asked if that is a lot? Unsure as we don't have quarterly comparisons but Clerk will compile data in the future.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Received two bids, John's Floor Covering \$6710.56 and Ross Christensen \$6581.00. In order to compare them fairly, Christensen bid was lowered by \$150 dumpster fee as John's didn't include that. Difference of \$129.56 with Christensen being lowest. His actual bid with dumpster is \$6731. Both contractors will not put vinyl flooring over existing VCT tile as it could cause moisture and mold issues later on. Bjornson has used Christensen on two occasions and he does great work. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to hire Ross Christensen to replace community hall tile flooring. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Roeschlein has been attending yoga on Thurs. afternoons for several years with office closed at 3:30 pm. Instructor became a Mora school bus driver and class was changed to Thurs. at 10 am. Council agreed wellness is important. City hall hours will be M-F 9-4 with exception of Thurs. 12-4.

Assessment was made by Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) for a resident's unpaid WW bill through MLC who paid the city instead of MLIR. City will reimburse MLIR as they have paid all fees owed to us and this is relative to them collecting from their resident.

Lake Stop has been without fuel since 12/31 as their system is out of date and inoperable. Clerk left message for owner, but no reply. Wanted to convey how important the gas and convenience store is to Wahkon. Lessee can't do the improvements. Can we do anything? Likely not. Hopefully pumps will soon be working again.

Frederickson asked about MLIR exhibits for the new contract, which is still in process. Would like this concluded by this year's annual meeting, which needs to be scheduled. Officially the contract was approved by council contingent on exhibits being finalized.

Buck asked about website. Clerk had virtual meeting with Digital crisis and SCI Cable. Afterward the WIX account was transferred to the city. City has sole control and website designer Danie Powell has capabilities to post and maintain as needed. SCI will likely reimburse us for the annual WIX fee as part of the cable franchise ordinance requirement to host the city website, but that hasn't been officially confirmed yet.

Button: Received three responses from Messenger article on Veterans Park WW I plaque. One was lengthy email with lots of details. Pavers are down at Braham and should be done by spring. North Star granite for the plaque has been ordered.

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

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The February 13, 2023 Wahkon Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:01 pm. Mayor read the following, asked necessary questions to confirm compliance for interactive councilmember attendance and required notice was properly posted. Per MN State Statutes 13D.02, Councilmembers Tony Button and Rick Roberts will be participating in tonight's open meeting via interactive television. Tony Button confirms he is located at Sunshine RV Resort, located at 303 SR 70 E, Lake Placid, Florida 33852 and is attending this meeting from the resort's public community room. Rick Roberts confirms he is located at The Lighthouse Condominiums, located at 455 E Beach Blvd, Gulf Shores, AL 36547 and is attending this meeting from the condo's public family room. Mayor confirmed that both Button and Roberts (1) can clearly hear and see, (2) can clearly hear and see the full council, and (3) they are in publicly accessible areas. All requirements of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law are satisfied and councilmembers Button and Roberts may participate during this open meeting. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers physically present were: Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Councilmembers present via interactive technology were: Tony Button and Rick Roberts. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve agenda. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A) Minutes: 1/17 Special Council Meeting

B) MN Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) Donation Thank You

C) Initiative Foundation Donation Thank You

D) Isle Fire Department Contract for Fire Service 3/1/23 Renewal \$10,312.54

E) Charitable Gambling Report: Isle Lions Club \$100.00 WAVE Meat Raffle & 12/2022 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$0

F) Treasurer's Report 10/31 Ending Balance \$725,227.61 & Receipts Register

G) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

H) Disbursement Register 2/13 Date Range 1/18 – 2/13 Total \$66,877.42

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2023-0213 Resolution Establishing Juneteenth as a City Holiday: State of MN adopted as a state holiday effective 8/1/2023, which won't interfere with existing holiday calendar and council meeting schedules. Holiday recognizes when slavery was abolished in the U.S. First official holiday would be 6/19/2024. Roberts asked if this is required? According to memo from League of MN Cities (LMC) no public business can be conducted. Clerk could check with LMC or city attorney. If adopted, this would be the twelfth paid holiday, including floating holiday. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0213. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Nyquist Elementary "All Inclusive" Playground Equipment Donation Request: Isabel Honek, Sheldyn Pedersen & Addy Turgeon were present and handed out presentation. Current playground is at least 26 years old and isn't inclusive for everyone to enjoy; both for disabled and younger kids. Location isn't close to the school and vandalism has occurred. Missing parts can't be replaced. Plan included playground be closer to the school safety and surveillance. They are fund-raising by writing letters to organizations and businesses, as well as door to door campaign. At school their fund-raising thermometer is named "Moolah Monster" indicating \$25,000 in donations of their \$200,000 goal. After reading Messenger article, clerk extended invite to request city donation. If these

children are our future; it will be great! Motion by Button to donate \$500. Discussion ensued. Motion by Buck to donate \$1000. Motion died for lack of a second. Button's motion was brought up again. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$500 to ISD #473 for playground equipment from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. They can come back this fall for a possible second donation.

Mugg's of Mille Lacs Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Violation Letter: Owner Rob Dubbs couldn't attend but spoke to clerk and mayor separately. Due to heavy snow amounts the dumpsters have been left in parking area. Jasson Bauer was present and his frustration is they aren't following CUP conditions to keep them in an enclosed area. After city letter, they were moved to fence area but still visible from alley as there isn't a gate. Grease bin has been kept in parking area for at least a year now and attracting strays. When dumpsters are full, litter flies through the neighborhood. Original plan was for storage building in fence area, but due to state rules requiring liquor and food be stored separately, approval was given for a cooler instead. Trespassing on neighbor's property with a foot path was noted in letter as property owner called city hall and is worried about liability. As this is a civil matter, it must be dealt with between property owners and isn't something the city can enforce. Clerk has received many calls/texts on this since CUP was approved and has begun tracking them. Council agreed if snow must be removed, it is up to them to do so. Follow up with letter requiring Mugg's to provide plan of action to council at 3/13 meeting of properly storing garbage containers within an enclosed area with full implementation by 6/1.

Councilmember Roberts lost video, then audio, and as such is no longer compliant with Per MN State Statutes 13D.02 for interactive attendance.

Seasonal Maintenance Position 2023: Gary Kleen was hired in 2020 and worked through 2022. He moved out of the area so we need a new person to begin in May depending on weather. PT position without benefits for 10-15 hours a week. Must be 18 years of age and preferably have driver's license. Button suggested asking contractors to give us quotes? With fuel prices it would be expensive. Contract based on hours to mow streets, parks, etc? Council agreed to advertise with beginning hourly wage of \$14 - \$16 depending on qualifications and experience. Main job duty is mowing.

North Star Fireworks: Does city continue this or WAVE? Newly organized WAVE committee isn't ready for this. City signs necessary permit and pays for additional insurance as it is on city property. Buck wondered if Pickle Ball group was interested in organizing this event and/or Wahkon Days? Clerk hasn't contacted them. Button believes city should always have fireworks. Eventually WAVE may have the ability but not at this time. It takes volunteers to get city pontoon ready and onsite. Button has done it for many years along with Roberts and would appreciate new volunteers stepping forward. Last year pontoon couldn't be pushed out so display was from beach. Best viewing from city parks would be having pontoon out from shore about 300 feet. Council agreed to have fireworks on 7/4 with \$6000 contract for fireworks including operators.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Newly Organized WAVE Committee: Christine Bjornson was present to discuss how they are moving forward with reorganizing. Their plan is not to replace the current group but to expand their ability to do things. They obtained EIN number from IRS and will open a bank account. They plan on becoming a non-profit, which would allow fundraising enabling WAVE to break away city as recommended by city attorney and auditor. Future plans include doing July 4th and Wahkon Days. Wahkon Inn agreed to host Chili Cook Off 3/18 and Adult Prom 4/29. These events will generate excitement and membership.

Clerk included memo formally stating the cook-off and adult prom are no longer city sponsored. Last city events were held prior to COVID. Council agreed previously that currently held WAVE funds could be transferred once they are recognized by the IRS as a non-profit. Button formally announced he is stepping aside as WAVE chair. Original volunteers are getting older and it is great there is new enthusiasm. Button will continue doing Walk to Honor along with Park Commissioner Roberts. Danie Powell will be asked to hand over WAVE Facebook administration to Bjornson and Paula Maxson. Please post explanation how this is a newly organized committee and thank past WAVE volunteers. WAVE may continue using the hall for meetings at no charge as a community organization; key will be provided to Bjornson.

MnDOT 2026 Main Street Project Landscaping Committee: Button and Bjornson are willing to be involved. Send email to all Wahkon businesses for possible participants.

City Truck Repair 4/2020 Unpaid Mille Lacs Auto Body Invoice: Tree branch damaged city truck when Chris Weinreich was plowing, which was repaired by Mille Lacs Auto Body. City was reimbursed by LMCIT less deductible. Per owner Andrew Rogers, usually check is written to both parties to ensure payment is made to auto body. He admits sending an invoice was overlooked until now. Council agreed to pay for repairs done in 2020.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Project bidding will be soon which won't be required to adhere to new American made law per City Engineer Dave Blommel.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Ross Christensen will begin new floor in hall this week with plans to be finished by 3/13 council meeting.

Roeschlein: Lynn Gallice from Soil & Water Conservation District will submit grant application on our behalf. Virtual meeting was held with City Engineer Blommel to decide which projects to include. Gallice will forward two projects on our behalf. Wet pond likely won't occur as it includes six lots of private property. Owners thought project would mostly be in street right-of-way. Main project will be 2nd Street community parking area. Per Blommel, usually engineering fees are in addition to our cost for such projects, but this grant allows it as part of our 25% cost share.

Digital phone service was installed at city hall 2/7 with same phone number by SCI Cable. Safety Committee training will be through LMC to include all three cities, Isle, Onamia and Wahkon. Cities without an administrator must have one elected official on their committee; Button agreed. Ehlers & Associates can give clients both investment and debt/finance advice. They are better fit for WW project finances and investment of city funds, as David Drown and Associates can't advise on investments. Will have more details soon.

Digital Crisis renewed cityofwahkon.com emails 10/2022 originally created by DMDS, who was contracted by Savage Communication/SCI Cable per cable franchise ordinance requirement. Digital Crisis took over and now SCI wants nothing to do with them after helping Wahkon get control of our website from them. Using the cloud for council to view agendas no longer functions due to subscription problem. Requested Digital Crisis make clerk email a business one in order to have the cloud but that hasn't occurred yet. We obviously had it before without issue through DMDS. Having two IT companies, Digital Crisis and MCSI is causing major issues and delays. MCSI, our contracted IT service in St. Cloud, will be transferring cityofwahkon.com emails to the city on 2/28, thereafter, we won't be dealing with Digital Crisis.

Violation letter was mailed by City Attorney Damien Toven to Monson, as she is advertising for short term rental. Anyone with proof of STRs renting less than 30 days, please inform the city. Frederickson stated he reviewed STR violation letter which outlines fines as well.

Bjornson: Thanked past WAVE Chair Button and volunteers again for all their years of community support since 2006. As there are no more city committees, remove “committee” from reports relative to agenda outline.

Zoning: No permits issued. Roeschlein noted Meshigun Point Townhomes submitted their single unit application but we must first finish up approvals granted in 2022 by obtaining necessary signatures and recording applicable documents.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adjourn. Ayes: Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The March 13, 2023 Wahkon Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:05 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor read the following, asked necessary questions to confirm compliance for interactive councilmember attendance and required public notice was properly posted. Per MN State Statutes 13D.02, Councilmember Tony Button will be participating in tonight's open meeting via interactive television. Button confirms he is located at Sunshine RV Resort located at 303 SR 70 E, Lake Placid, Florida 33852 and is attending from the resort's public community room. Mayor confirmed Button (1) can clearly hear and see (2) can clearly hear and see the full council and (3) he is in a publicly accessible area. All requirements of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law are satisfied and councilmember Button may participate during this open meeting. Roll Call: Council members physically present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson; present via interactive technology was Tony Button. Employees present were Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer. Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich was absent due to a death in the family. Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, Button, 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, Buck, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 2/13 Council Meeting

B) City of Onamia Donation Thank You

C) ISD #473 Playground Donation Thank You

D) Isle Area Chamber Spring Fling Annual Meeting & Awards, Thurs. 3/16 @ McQuoid's Inn Event Center, 5:30 -7:30 pm

E) WAVE Beef Chili Cook-Off, Sat. 3/18 @ Wahkon Inn Banquet Room, Begins @ 10 am

F) League of MN Cities (LMC) Liability Coverage – Waiver Form: Member Does Not Waive Monetary Limits.

G) Charitable Gambling Report: 1/2023 Isle Lions Club \$897.76 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$2,214.36

H) Treasurer's Report 2/28 Ending Balance \$714,797.21 & Receipts Register

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

J) Disbursement Register 3/13 Date Range 2/14 – 3/13 Total \$55,199.50

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2023-0313 Clarification of Flasher Ownership: There is confusion as to who actually owns the flasher on Hwy 27 as it wasn't erected through resolution, which came to light after the post fell over. Originally MnDOT installed the flasher and Wahkon supplied electric from log entrance sign. At first, MnDOT wanted it city owned but reconsidered as technically in their right-of-way. "Whereas, MnDOT, as the owner, shall maintain the flasher upon the condition the City of Wahkon continue to supply the electric at its own expense." Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0313. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Ehlers Public Finance & Advisors Summary Proposal & Investment Policy Statement: Matt Tourville & Todd Hagen were present to discuss how they can help with bonds and investments; arbitrage the bond proceeds to earn interest. They also help cities with economic development. Hagen spoke with City Engineer Dave Blommel and USDA Representative Brett Repulske regarding WW project and their work fits nicely within USDA budget. Suggestion is to get guaranteed bond triple A rating of the State for lowest interest rate on infrastructure. Fund balance policy designating assigned and unassigned funds can be looked at in the future. Don't want to drain

cash but invest what we can to earn interest before payments are needed. Other cities are asking the same question, how to earn more interest; their current rate is 4%. Ehlers can do the whole process, invest and advise, while David Drown & Associates can't. As a registered fiduciary they must put our interest above their own. They have large and small cities. Not commission based; .75% is their administration fee. Ehlers has worked with Wahkon for bonds in the past. How do we proceed with buffer investment? MN Statute regulates how investments are made on behalf of cities. When funds are needed, they sell the investment. Monthly reports are supplied through their portal. They don't charge unless council approves the service and no cost for emails or phone calls. They provide many services such as financial and capital improvement planning, rate study, etc.

LMC 4M Fund Update 6/10/23 letter explained there was under collateralization of 4M assets of which we currently have funds. Risk exposure was very short and no funds were lost. As a result, they suspended business with R&T, the company in question.

Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to hire Ehlers as Wahkon's municipal bond and investment advisor. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Investment Policy Statement: Provided by Ehlers and reviewed by City Attorney David Anderson. Policy is to review as needed, but at least every five years. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt the Investment Policy Statement. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Future of Clean-Up Day: Memo explained how Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal must begin charging hourly wage for each person/driver. 2021 \$450, 2022 \$562.50 and if we have three drivers for 2023 \$1406.25. To keep this event, suggestion is to combine with Isle. They have been charging their citizens for a few years now and Wahkon should do the same if combined. Costs for advertising and driver would be split. Would need only one Jim's employee that day, as the two roll offs would be dropped off ahead of time. Council agreed to combine with Isle with location here for 2023 and then Isle in 2024 using Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal. We would accept items from anyone but citizens of Isle & Wahkon get price reduction of \$1 per item. Suggested time is 10 to 2 or 9 to 1. Isle hasn't officially approved this yet, which will be at an upcoming meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: South Shore Hospitality (Mugg's of Mille Lacs) Incompliance: Saehr Consulting, Zoning Administrator, sent certified letter on 2/21/23 explaining a complaint was heard at the 2/13 meeting that conditions of their conditional use permit aren't being met. Council understands need to allow time after the winter season and requested detailed plan be brought to their 3/13 meeting ensuring dumpsters are kept in an enclosed area, not visible to the public, with implementation deadline of 6/1.

MnDOT 2026 Main Street Project Visual Quality Committee: Submitted a second application for Transportation Alternatives Solicitation (TAP) using the new "scenic byway" category for a \$600,000+ grant to offset city cost. Waiting to hear if we have been selected. First application was denied. Tony Button, Ronda Bjornson, Hans Woelfle and Steve Dubbs have indicated they would be part of the committee.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich wasn't in attendance.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Roberts is back from his winter residence; welcome back. Frederickson asked about Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) contract, which should be signed soon and we need to set annual meeting. Buck asked council if they liked the new floor, which looks great! We saved some money as epoxy wasn't required after all. Mayor Bjornson extended condolences to Weinreich family for the loss of Chris Weinreich who worked for the City of Wahkon 24 years.

Zoning: No permits but there was other activity; South Shore Hospitality, Monson and Meshigun Point Properties.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brian Lee: Short term rental (STR) ordinance was adopted by county and Isle has permit process. This has always been a tourism town; Ma & Pa resorts in 1950's. Time for Wahkon to allow financial opportunities to property owners. MLC regulations could be copied; Dept. of Health license required, no shallow wells, inspection, etc. One concern is housing stock is needed for employees. STRs are mostly lake properties, usually not an employee's first home. He would like it on the agenda next month.

This is the same council that implemented the ordinance prohibiting them. Letters have been sent to stop & desist through city attorney. Could hire Isle PD to enforce issues if necessary. Clerk receives calls inquiring whether they are allowed. Buck questioned if council should review county regulations and revisit. Button stated nothing has changed his mind and Lake Shore Blvd neighborhood opinion is still no. No need to put it on the agenda. Roberts and Frederickson agreed with Button. Lee pointed out policing was the main worry but now we use Isle PD. Not formally yet until ordinance has administration enforcement ability. Lee reminded council there were two petitions, one against and one for them.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The April 10, 2023 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Notice was posted that Councilmember Tony Button planned to attend via interactive technology, but due to IT problems on their end, won't be attending after all. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Absent: Councilmember Tony Button. Employees present: Public Works Supervisor Jake Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A) Minutes: None

B) WAVE Adult Prom Night, 8 pm – Midnight, Sat. 4/29 @ Wahkon Inn Banquet Room, DJ Music \$10

C) Initiative Foundation Opportunities Letter

D) MN Rural Water Assoc. Membership Renewal & Donations

E) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Sheriff Reports: 1st Quarter 2023 & Yearly Summary 2017-Current

F) Savage Communications Franchise Reports: \$4,557.07 YE 2022 & Yearly Summary 2009-Current

G) MN Management & Budget: Wahkon Pay Equity Report

H) Charitable Gambling Report: 2/2023 Isle Lions Club \$523.76 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$0; MLDS Donation for WAVE Meat Raffle Volunteers \$105

I) Treasurer's Report: 3/31 Ending Balance \$674,675.27 & Receipts Register

J) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

K) Disbursement Register 4/10 Date Range 3/14 – 4/10 Total \$20,026.17

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2023-0410 USDA Wastewater Loan: Authorizing and providing for the incurrence of indebtedness for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving, and/or extending its wastewater facility to serve an area lawfully within its jurisdiction to serve. Whereas it is necessary for the City of Wahkon to raise a portion of the cost of such undertaking by issuance of its bonds in the principal amount of \$541,000.00. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0410. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0410A MnDOT Flasher Agreement No. 1053386: Formal agreement that MnDOT has ownership and Wahkon will continue to supply electric. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0410A. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0410B Authorizing Wahkon Days Expenditure: How much should city donate to newly organized Wahkon Area Vision Effusion (WAVE) Committee? City attorney drafted resolution to properly document all that has occurred. Original WAVE Committee, under the umbrella of the city was dissolved last year. This newly organized non-profit WAVE Committee needs funds to help organize Wahkon Days. City WAVE Fund has \$12,408.46 of which some funds were earmarked for Veterans Park WW I monument. New WAVE has taken over meat raffle at Mugg's and MLDS has begun to pay them direct per Buck. WAVE plans on becoming an IRS designated non-profit. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0410B donating \$7400.00 from the WAVE Fund to newly organized WAVE Committee, a stand-alone non-profit organization. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Wahkon Farmers & Vendor Market Policy Proposed Changes: Two items are proposed; (1) during Wahkon Days, WAVE Committee must grant permission as official event organization and (2) vendors requesting overnight must get council approval. Jim Lease, a local vendor was present explaining how his display is very large and to take it down every night is difficult. Other fairs allow it. Would city need vendor to sign overnight waiver? Check with attorney. Lease carries insurance. Go Savvy Social will continue to organize vendors one more year, working in conjunction with WAVE. Overnights were discussed by WAVE but member Linda Jacobson couldn't recall specifics. Motion by Buck, seconded by Roberts approving proposed changes to Wahkon Farmers & Vendor Market Policy. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Lease must contact Go Savvy Social and/or WAVE for permission.

NEW BUSINESS: Keller Williams Realtors Renew, Energize & Donate (RED) Day, Thurs. 5/11. WAVE or Midway Garden club. Their plan is to again clean the gardens at Veterans Park and would like others to join them. WAVE and Midway Garden Club will be notified of date and time.

City Amicus Brief Request by MLC Re: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO), et al v County of Mille Lacs, et al, District Court Case #17-cv-05155: Attorney Frank Kowalkowski wasn't ready to discuss with council via a phone call. Question is who has jurisdiction? City of Isle, Wahkon, South Harbor & Isle Harbor Townships are located within the dis-established reservation, of which the State, MLBO and federal government recognize. 1991 EPA began stating it was their jurisdiction relative to underground tanks, not MPCA. This was based upon one person's opinion, Dept. of Interior Solicitor Mark Anderson, who drafted a M Opinion stating it was never dis-established. City has in the past filed amicus briefs outlining their position. Motion by Frederickson to proceed with amicus brief. Motion died for lack of a second. Members want to know cost first. Meeting proceeded until Attorney Kowalkowski was available by phone at 6:50 pm. Kowalski has worked with Isle on fee to trust land issues and he believes they are tentatively on board but it must be formally decided at their council meeting. Brief would advance arguments on how important this is to cities and how things would change to the detriment. Argument must be different than what has been argued already. Brief would be due 5/1. MLBO will have briefs supporting their side as well. He agreed that townships could be added. Cost \$20-\$25,000. If we don't file now, could we file at SCOTUS? Yes, however, this may never get to SCOTUS. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to hire Attorney Frank Kowalkowski, not to exceed \$25,000 to file an amicus brief in support of Mille Lacs County for their case being heard in the 8th District Court, with at least one additional partner. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Possible partners could be City of Isle, Isle Harbor and/or South Harbor Townships to split cost.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: South Shore Hospitality (Mugg's of Mille Lacs) Incompliance: Rob Dubbs, owner of Mugg's submitted letter dated 4/10/2023. His contractor did plow snow in city lots in beginning of winter for snowmobile trail which he informed the city of. Contractor has hauled away excess snow at their expense. Dumpsters were outside the fence area but after being contacted he believes they were put back. Grease bin must be kept out as company must warm it up for disposal. "In all other areas I believe we have been in compliance with the conditional use permit." Per Weinreich, grease bin doesn't interfere with plowing the alley.

Wahkon & Isle Clean-Up Day, 9 am – 1 pm, Sat. 6/3 @ Wahkon Community Hall Update: Flyer is bit confusing with costs. Everyone will be charged but Isle & Wahkon will receive \$1 off per item. Jim's will be asked for cost if it isn't listed. Will track all fees collected and then split cost between the cities.

Mille Lacs Island Resort Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement Finalized & Signed: To be recorded by city attorney firm. New rate will be effective for April; bill is generated 4/30 for prior month usage fees. Last annual meeting was 5/18/2022. Wednesday is best day for Bjornson and Frederickson attendance. Agreement is in cloud for review.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Snow is melting fast but not affecting much yet. MLIR Omni is out for repair. Water leak in shower house went straight into their system. Wastewater project bidding could be next month per City Engineer Dave Blommel. Reservation designation has created additional requirements for this project which will cost more money, as they must oversee any and all excavation.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Mayor complimented Weinreich on the awesome plowed roads, thank you for such a great job! His only complaint is there is no more room to pile snow.

Zoning: No permits issued but other activity was conducted. Meshigun Point Properties permit is under review for a single unit. Working with county assessor's office to supply them with quarterly permits. Reviewed Bed & Breakfast regulations and provided them to Bonnie Monson. Reviewed burial mound #21ML128 regarding building/moving structure options. Last item was relative to future subdivision of Patel parcel, prior owner was Olson.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The May 8, 2023 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:04 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Councilmember Tony Button was absent. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. *Clerk Note: Recorder wouldn't work at all thus no recording was made. New recorder will be purchased by next meeting.* Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, 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, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: None

B) Keller Williams Realtors Renew, Energize & Donate (RED) Day, Thurs. 5/11 @ City Park 10 am – 12 pm

C) Wahkon & Isle Combined Clean Up Day Sat. 6/3 @ Wahkon Parking Lot 9 am – 1 pm

D) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Household Hazardous Waste Electronics & Appliance Collection: Thurs. 6/15 @ 6813 Hwy 27 Wahkon 3 – 7 pm

E) MN Management & Budget: Notice of Pay Equity Compliance

F) Sacred Heart Church Bazaar: Sat. & Sun. 8/19-20: On Sale 3.2 Liquor License

G) Treasurer's Report: 4/30 Ending Balance \$679,829.02 & Receipts Register

H) Voided Check List 2022 & 2023

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

J) Disbursement Register 5/8 Date Range 4/11 – 5/8 Total \$33,183.28

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Pre-Sale Report for City of Wahkon, Minnesota \$540,000 General Obligation Temporary Bonds, Series 2023A: Ehlers Public Finance Advisors: Todd Hagen: Attended via phone call that could be heard by all through a speaker. This step is required to move forward to finance the Sewer Improvement Project through the issuance of three-year temporary bonds payable by 2/1/2026. This works within USDA budget per Brett Repulske. Project is more than bond amount, but this will get us by until loan and grants kick in. Wahkon will obtain State's triple A rating and bids will be on public market so banks can bid as well. This is highest rate possible which should lower bond rate, and gives us full faith credit. If city couldn't make bond payment, state would step in. Limited disclosure attracts more bidders. Estimate of 3.5% interest rate but we will know more at 6/12 meeting when formal bids will be discussed. Ehlers fee is \$850 per year to be our Continued Disclosure Agent, which will take pressure off city staff. Reporting requirement for bond finances which can be done by city staff or professional for three-year period. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to hire Ehlers as our Continued Disclosure Agent at \$850 per year for period of three years. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0508 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Temporary Bonds, Series 2023, in the Proposed Aggregate Principal Amount of \$540,000: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0508. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0508A Covenanting and Obligating the City of Wahkon to be Bound by and Use the Provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 446A.086 to Guarantee the Payment of the Principal and Interest on Certain Bonds and Authorizing the Execution of a Credit Enhancement Program Agreement: This will market our bonds using State's triple A rating as a city utility project. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0508A. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0508B Approving a Minor Subdivision Application of Indravadan Patel and Sarah Patel: Saehr Consulting Memo & Patel Subdivision Form with Attachments gives details with recommendation for council approval. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0508B. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Sidewalk Inspection & Maintenance Policy Draft: Tabled until next month when Street Commissioner Button will be in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS: Street/Alley/Trail Closures Request for 7/15 Outside Wedding: Jeanne Dobbs located at 280 3rd St. W sent letter of request but was unable to attend. Teresa Ebnet is here on her behalf to answer any questions. Requesting permission to erect barricades at lake trail and after alley on 3rd St W as the dead-end area will be used for daughter's wedding. Reception will be at Wahkon Inn. Safety is major concern for attendees as she has witnessed full size vehicle come through the trail. Council agreed to the closures and in order for Weinreich not to be doing this on a Saturday, blockades will be dropped off for Dobbs to erect. She indicated neighbors have been notified but per Robert's request Clerk will notify residents officially of the closures.

Isle Police Department Donation Request: Email from Chief Mark Reichel indicates they have major expenses they need to raise funds for. New radios \$50,000 and current computer software won't be supported after 2024, cost of \$25,000. Motion by Frederickson to donate \$500. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$1000. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

New Welcome to Wahkon Entrance Signs Discussion: Signs are ready to fall apart. Walker city park sign was \$1000 which Roeschlein provided picture of. Hope to use rock base as they appear to be in good condition. Need to be maintenance free. Company that made Walker's sign can also repaint it when it fades. Could wide open area at south sign be used for picnic tables and/or trail parking? Likely not as it is highway right-of-way. We can use ARPA funds, approximately \$4600. City Park muskie sign is great, should we try something like that? Do more research and bring back to council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: MnDOT Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program, Mille Lacs Scenic Byway Improvements Project (2026 Wahkon Hwy 27 Project): Awarded \$621,154 Funding by Central Mn Area Transportation Partnership (ATP): To be used for city project cost for amenities such as trees, benches, lighting, dependent on our wants and needs and budget.

MnDOT 2026 Wahkon Main Street/Hwy 27 Project Update: Still in process of final review and beginning visual quality aspect relative to amenities.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Covid Funds Expenditure Report: Received \$23,932.81 and have expended \$19,456.00 for furnace and flooring. In 2023 budget these funds were also noted for building exterior and signs. Council agreed remaining \$4,476.81 could be used should new entrance signs be ordered.

Seasonal Maintenance Worker: Only received one application. Do we hire? No need for interviews at this time with only one so let's give him a chance. Buck would recommend him as he works for Mille

Lacs Drift Skippers. Motion by Buck, seconded by Roberts to hire Adam Connelly at \$15 per hour with 30 days probation. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. After 30 days bring back to council for possible raise increase depending on work quality.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Started discharging this week. Lots of water to move. It has calmed down. Mille Lacs Island Resort's Omni is still in for repair. Bad time of year as the gallonage data is key to knowing what they are sending us. Timeframe for such repairs should be outlined in contract. They have breaks as evident by Gopher State One Call locates sent to the city. Electric bill for main lift station was \$540, highest in a long time.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich will bring bags and rakes for volunteers of Keller Williams RED day at Veterans Park.

Roeschlein: Wahkon Days Portable Restrooms & Wash Station: City rented them in 2022 and in order to get same price, they were ordered for 2023. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to authorize \$410 payment from Community Event Fund for portable restrooms and wash station as public health measure. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Maciazka & Carlson Drainage: Trash pump used to pump water to rear of Maciazka property after not receding and complaints began. Several options were provided by City Engineer Dave Blommel and the one selected isn't working. Carlson sent email demanding something be done as they have been dealing with this for a few years now. Lee Hohlen also has drainage issues where abutting owners filled their ditch and/or using inadequate sized culvert. This affects his ditch ever year and he would like city standards implemented. Per Weinreich, Street Commissioner Button is aware of the issues. Discuss drainage with Blommel at June meeting and utilize stormwater plan.

Council Resignation: Buck: Selling their house with 6/15 closing and moving to North Dakota to be close to family. Plans to attend 6/12 meeting. She'll provide written resignation with effective date. Thereafter, council will declare vacancy and appoint new council member. Will get the word out and clerk will provide those interested with simple application as to why they want to be on the council.

MLC Commissioners meeting 5/30 @ 4 pm for city and township clerks, mayors, and chairs to discuss how to further working relationships and continue to improve public service to all county residents.

Veterans Park WWI plaque granite monument and pavers purchase was approved to be split between WAVE and Vets Park Funds. However, Charitable Gambling Funds can be used instead as allowed to honor veterans. Bring back to council when project total amount is known as order is still in process,

Weinreich Celebration of Life 6/17 open house 2-6 pm. Council agreed to allow Weinreich family to use shop garage in conjunction with renting the hall for ample room due to expected high attendance. Dale & Christine Bjornson did the same for their wedding.

Zoning: Two permits issued and two other activities were noted, Patel subdivision (approved above) and short-term rental ordinance inquiry to revise current ordinance, no action required at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The June 12, 2023 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 were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, and Ronda Bjornson. Absent: Brenda Buck. Employees present were Public Work Supervisor Jake Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. City Engineer David Blommel was also present. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, 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 Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: None

B) MnDOT 2026 Main Street Project: Tues. 6/13 Field Walk @ 10 am and Visual Quality Meeting @ 11 am

C) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Household Hazardous Waste Electronics & Appliance Collection: Thurs. 6/15 @ 6813 Hwy 27 Wahkon 3 – 7 pm

D) Chris Weinreich Celebration of Life 2-6 pm Sat. 6/17 @ Wahkon Community Hall

E) City Hall Closed Mon. 6/19 for Juneteenth Holiday

F) MLC 6/8 News Release, Public Input Wanted as County Updates Hazard Mitigation Plan

G) Movement Headquartered in Wahkon: Thomas Ivan Dahlheimer

H) League of MN Cities (LMC) 5/22 Dues Increase Letter

I) RED Day Veterans Park Volunteers 5/11: Thank You!

J) WAVE Committee Hwy 27 Cleaning Crew 5/11: Thank You!

K) Lake Stop Liquor: New Owner Off Sale Liquor License 7/1-12/31/2023: Newhamzaghani LLC *After the meeting, noticed applicant went back to using "Morning Star Market"*

L) Wahkon Days 2023 Memo: Closures & Waive Noise Ord

M) Appeal No. 23-1261 In the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit; Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, et al., v. County of Mille Lacs, Minnesota: Brief of Amicus Curiae City of Wahkon, Kathio Township, South Harbor Township, and Isle Harbor Township in Support of Appellant County of Mille Lacs Minnesota and in Support of Reversal of the Decision Below.

N) Charitable Gambling Report: 3/2023 Isle Lions Club (ILC) \$0 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$991.21; 3/2023 ILC \$0 and MLDS \$1,213.53; MLDS July 4th Donation \$250

O) Treasurer's Report: 5/31 Ending Balance \$668,890.93 & Receipts Register

P) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

Q) Voided Check List 2023

R) Disbursement Register 6/12 Date Range 5/9 – 6/12 Total \$42,421.33

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mugg's of Mille Lacs CUP Incompliance Deadline 6/1 Passed Without Resolution: Mayor accommodated Jason Bauer request to move this up on the agenda due to another commitment. City 2/20 letter sent certified mail by Saehr Consulting wasn't picked up. Clerk hand delivered it 3/21. No formal plan was provided by owner as requested. Grease bin will be moved once emptied. Do we turn it over to city attorney? What about liquor license renewal this fall? Steve Dubbs was in audience and at time of CUP he was part owner but has since been bought out. He brought up fact that plans were provided and that is what was built. However, conditions were added and recorded. Other businesses have dumpsters visible, but again the condition is "kept in an enclosed area." Bauer mentioned times when dumpster lid is open and litter blows around. He is tired of cleaning it up from his yard. Looking from his kitchen window, dumpster area is visible and not enclosed. Council will specifically look at the area and discuss next month.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Post-Issuance Debt Compliance Policy & Procedures: Ehlers Todd Hagen. This was overlooked for wastewater pond expansion project years ago but is an IRS requirement since 1986. Ehlers drafted it for a fee and will assist with procedures. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Post-Issuance Debt Compliance Policy & Procedures. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0612 Awarding the Sale of General Obligation Temporary Bonds, Series 2023A, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$540,000; Fixing Their Form and Specifications; Directing Their Execution and Delivery; and Providing for the Payment: Ehlers Todd Hagen. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0612. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Utility project paid with 40-year USDA loan and \$30,000 grant. Bonds will be interim construction loan, which will be invested to earn interest, until payments are needed and loan takes effect. Guaranteed triple A State rating backed by a USDA loan. Ehlers had a couple inquiries. Northland Securities were best at 3.8%. Everything came in as expected with 6/29 closing.

Sidewalk Inspection & Maintenance Policy: This was tabled at last month's meeting as Street Commissioner Button wasn't present. City Attorney David Anderson drafted this policy after Clerk questioned city policy of sending letters and waiver forms to businesses for snowplowing sidewalks. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe wanted their attorney to review it before signing and some businesses never return the form. Is city expected to not plow their sidewalk if no waiver is signed? Attorney Anderson email was included wherein he believes collecting waivers is onerous and recommended instead this policy. 7/31/23 is initial City-wide sidewalk survey completion date. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Sidewalk Inspection & Maintenance Policy. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: 2022 City of Wahkon Independent Auditor's Report and Three- & Five-Year Audit Quotes: Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell: Crystelle Philipp: Move to next item until she arrives.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 2023 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Bidding: S.E.H Dave Blommel: Opinion of probable cost updated detailed worksheet has project at \$1,848,315.00. Almost ready to bid but waiting on few USDA approvals. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to authorize S.E.H to advertise and accept bids on behalf of the City for the 2023 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. USDA finalized our agreement end of January and we have a new representative, Tyler Ray, as Brett Repulske is now broadband coordinator. Water meters will be bid separately in case project bid is high. Prices have leveled off and we must adhere to prevailing wage requirement.

MnDOT 2026 Wahkon Main Street/Hwy 27 Letter Re: Formal Request of Municipal Consent of Final Layout & Set Public Hearing Date: S.E.H Dave Blommel: City was successful in obtaining Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant for approximately \$640,000 to help offset some of our cost for project. Council set public hearing for Mon. 8/14 at 5:30 pm as a special council meeting.

Wahkon Entrance Signs: Aune Fernandez Landscape Architects (AFLA) Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway (LMLSB) Improvement Projects Draft Proposal: LMLSB Chair Steve Dubbs: Proposal includes Wahkon streetscape & community sign, as well as, byway projects for intersection of Mn TH 169 & Hwy 27 and concept standards based possibly on civilian conservation corps for cost of \$39,100. Dubbs is hopeful to find funding and noted architect Carlos Fernandez (CJ) worked with

LMLSB in the past. Also, Beaver Bay, Grand Marais complete streets and North Shore byway. CJ will attend tomorrow's MnDOT visual quality meeting at no cost. For south Wahkon welcome sign, could utilize both sides for trail and highway visibility.

Carlson/Maciazka Drainage Memo Revisited: S.E.H Dave Blommel: City paid contractor to do some dirt work but it didn't alleviate the drainage issue. Carlson is frustrated with no resolution and length of time this is taking. Ditch has been filled in over the years and there is existing electric utility box in the area. Not much we can do besides installing culvert. This is the high point and both driveways are at the same elevation. Go north toward Carlson, plow in 4" pipe with inlet. Going to freeze but once thawed it would drain. We work with the hand we are dealt. Is this city responsibility and cost? City gave permission to Maciazka to remove small culvert, which never really worked. When pumped this spring Weinreich had to pump it behind his property. Adding dirt won't fix this. Moving forward how do issues such as this get resolved? Land Excavation/Alteration was inadvertently omitted when Zoning Ordinance 2017-1 was adopted. Prior public works supervisor Chris Weinreich's policy was owner pays to install new and city maintains thereafter as it is street right-of-way. Need specific regulations outlined in ordinance. On positive note we do have stormwater plan. Blommel suggests hiring contractor to alleviate this issue and patching Carlson driveway blacktop, which is cracked and sinking.

Seasonal Maintenance Worker Update: Adam Connelly's last day was Friday 6/9 as job required more hours than he could give to do the quality work expected. He has other jobs and thought this would fit his schedule but it doesn't at this time. Can Weinreich do it? Do we place another ad? Only received one applicant last time. Charles Orme was in audience and is willing to do the job. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to hire Charles Orme, contingent on required paperwork being completed, at \$15 per hour with 30-day probation. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: 2022 City of Wahkon Independent Auditor's Report: Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell: Crystelle Philipp: Complimented Clerk on great city records and gave her A+ compared to other clerks she works with. Apologized for missing 3/31 state deadline for cash basis cities, but we are their only one, while other clients have later deadline, but this won't occur again. Unmodified opinion is what we strive for which we are! No, we don't need to be accrual for our WW project and clerk has USDA email confirming this. Last few years, audit has zero for fire protection, as the fee is paid from Charitable Gambling Fund to City of Isle. Beginning 2024 we will budget CG Fund. City should have a fund policy outlining whether they are committed, unassigned, etc. This may be beneficial as outside entities could assume all funds are unassigned making it appear city has ample funds. Example: 4M Street Aid Fund is committed to MnDOT 2026 project. Clerk will soon begin to tract investments through CTAS module. Audit findings notes internal control as previously reported not resolved due to one person office; out of 70 cities they audit only one doesn't have this note. Important to have internal controls. Auditor is always available to council and city staff for any and all questions.

Three- & Five-Year Audit Quotes: Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell: Crystelle Philipp: Five-year \$8200 annual fee is less than three-year rate of \$8500. Clerk is very happy with this firm. Isle is charged extra to ask questions of their auditor. Hoffman fee is all inclusive, which saves everyone time if we discuss things. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to hire Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell to conduct city audits for a five-year period, 2023-2027 for an annual fee of \$8200. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: One last discharge to complete at month end then we are out of water to move. Omni System at Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) is operational again and annual meeting is Wednesday.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Blacktopping: Can't get anyone else to call back to supply quote; received only one quote from Rocon Paving \$17,850. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to hire Rocon Paving to blacktop up to budget amount of \$50,000. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Street Commissioner Button and Weinreich will determine areas to add.

Roeschlein: Clean-up Day combined with Isle was successful but in future don't need it four hours long. Juneteenth was to take effect in 2024 and personnel policy was amended as such but then state law made it effective 6/19/2023. How many paid holidays are there now? Bjornson mentioned mayors on the list serve were questioning this as well. Will need to review/amend policy in future.

Cannabis moratorium is being suggested by City Attorney Anderson until regulations are known, which council agreed with. Ordinance will be part of next meeting. Brenda Buck was unable to attend tonight and her written resignation is effective 6/13/2023. Council agreed to solicit candidates to attend 7/10 meeting where someone could be appointed and participate that night.

Forfeited Land: Park Commissioner Roberts will go onsite to see if this parcel is something the city wants to obtain as possible parking for Bare Ass Beach.

MN Basic Code: Council agreed to review 2019 code in August once newly appointed council member is on board.

Walk to Honor: Button explained that pavers were ready but not installed yet; goal is Veterans Day. New WWI granite monument will need pedestal base. Fireworks display from Bare Ass Beach will utilize pontoon thus we need someone to pick it up. Last year's display was about nine minutes and he has requested crew make it longer. Pyro company states \$1000 worth of fireworks equals one minute display.

Zoning: Three permits issued and two "other activity" were noted.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: WAVE Chairperson Christine Bjornson gave update. They are working with accountant to become an IRS non-profit. Bank account has been set up. Prom dance was successful. They are organizing Wahkon Days. Friday night Rowdy Cowboy show at Wahkon Inn. Final year for Social Savvy to organize vendors. Sacred Heart Church changed their bazaar date to same weekend as Wahkon Days.

Short Term Rental (STR): Bonnie Monson can't give up on her STR property. Wants some direction as to what she can do. Been in the family for 75 years mostly as a resort. Her mom died 21 years ago and since then she has been allowing others to use it and last few years began renting it out. Resort regulations require five cabins; she has one cabin and a home. She reviewed rules for Bed & Breakfast (B&B) but commercial kitchen is required even if you serve packaged food. City is supposed to set up rules for usage and not behavior as that is a police issue. Button mentioned council in past said B&B with manager onsite could be acceptable. Currently STRs are prohibited by ordinance, only rentals of 30 days or more. Zoning amendment request is an option to petition city to change the ordinance. Brian Lee pointed out MLC has ordinance which Wahkon could follow. Hard to fathom Wahkon doesn't allow this as resorts were all over the lake and now, we don't have many. Lake is here to enjoy. It is a retirement community but tourists keep it alive. Monson noted how her renters spend money in the community at restaurants, fishing guides, etc.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, City Clerk/Treasurer

The July 10, 2023 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:01 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Council Members present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jake Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to approve agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A) Minutes: 3/13 & 4/10 Council Meetings

B) Special Planning Commission (PC) Meeting/Public Hearing, Mon. 7/24 @ 6 pm: Public Hearing on Application for Text Amendment to City's Zoning Ordinance Regarding Short-Term Vacation Rentals

C) Special Council Meeting/Public Hearing, Mon. 8/14 @ 5:30 pm: Final Layout Approval of MnDOT 2026 Main Street Project

D) Wahkon Days 2023 Memo: Fri. 8/18 Golf Cart/UTV Parade Closures

E) Charitable Gambling Report: 5/2023 Isle Lions Club (ILC) \$1047.48 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$538.09

F) Sacred Heart Church Wahkon LG220 Application for Exempt Permit: 8/20 Bingo

G) Treasurer's Report: 7/5 Ending Balance \$757,224.97 & Receipts Register

H) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

I) Disbursement Register 7/10 Date Range 6/13 – 7/10 Total \$643,224.15

J) Voided Check List 2023

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PETITIONS: Interim Ordinance Authorizing a Study and Imposing a Moratorium on the Operation of Cannabis Businesses Within the City of Wahkon: "The interim ordinance may regulate, restrict, or prohibit the operation of Cannabis Businesses within the jurisdiction or a portion thereof until January 1, 2025." Mayor opened public hearing at 6:04 pm. No comments were heard for or against. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to close public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing closed at 6:05 pm.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2023-0710 Declaring Council Vacancy: Council Member Brenda Buck resigned effective 6/13/2023 due to moving. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0710. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0710A Appointing Council Member to Fill Vacancy: Three Applications Received: Jasson Bauer, Bill Thompson & Steven Bushinski: Bjornson thought Bushinski application was the best due to background of having been a deputy. Frederickson noted he hasn't attended any meetings & Roberts didn't know him. Only one applicant was in attendance, Thompson. Button believes Thompson has the most knowledge as a past council member and mayor, and could hit the ground running. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0710A appointing William (Bill) Thompson to fill vacancy. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Administer Oath of Office to New Council Member: Clerk administered oath and Council Member Bill Thompson took his seat at the council table to participate in tonight's meeting. Council has five members now and votes from this point forward will include Thompson.

Ordinance No. 2023-1 Interim Ordinance Authorizing a Study and Imposing a Moratorium on the Operation of Cannabis Businesses Within the City of Wahkon: This would allow time to review the rules still being formulated at the state level, in order to best regulate this new law in Wahkon. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1 INTERIM ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A STUDY AND IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF WAHKON. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Moratorium effective until 1/1/2025 or until city council expressly repeals it, whichever comes first.

Resolution No. 2023-0710B Authorizing Summary Publication of Ordinance 2023-1: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0710B. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0710C Accepting 2023 Clean Up Day Donations: Received \$200 from First National Bank of Milaca. All expenses paid, donations received and disposal fees collected were calculated and remaining expense was split between the City of Wahkon and Isle for this first annual combined city clean up. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0710C. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Nyquist Elementary Playground Fundraising Committee Donation Request: Julie Morin is chair of new committee and provided council with project expense report. \$130,000 has been raised toward project cost of \$381,093.98 or \$297,344.57 adjusted for possible deductions of volunteers, material donations, etc. Goal is to erect new playground in April 2023. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to donate \$500 to ISD 473 for new playground from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Isle Area Pickleball Association (IAPA) Donation Request: President Mark Daniels & Treasurer Judie Birk: IAPA became a non-profit with the goal to construct eight dedicated pickleball courts on school property. Project cost of \$185,000 of which they have raised \$148,000 from donations and events. This is a great asset to our local community by adding entertainment options, promoting healthy lifestyle and contributing to local commerce. They have well over 200 players and their Isle Days tournament saw 117 players from seven different states. High school welding class constructed nets for them and pickleball is part of physical education curriculum. This will be a state-of-the-art complex the community can be proud of. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$500 to IAPA from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Usage Determination Form: Spirit Lake Steakhouse (SLS): Patio building was recently removed. Business includes an existing building and this patio being charged two sewer fees which has been closed for years. Owner is requesting reduction to one. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to reduce SLS account #120 from two usage fees to one. If business reopens, fees will be redetermined. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Regional Safety Group (RSG) With Isle, Onamia, Wahkon, and Ogilvie Memo & Agreement: Safety is requirement for all, even our small city. OSHA conducted surprise inspection in Isle with \$11,000 in fines. League of Minnesota Insurance Trust (LMCIT) has a program to help offset training cost. Total cost per meeting is \$1650 of which they pay \$907.50; remainder would be split between cities. At preliminary meeting, Roeschlein indicated Wahkon would prefer to split cost based upon full time

employee equivalent as we are the smallest in the group without fire or police departments. Requirement is to hold eight meetings per year but as we are just beginning, not necessary this year. Would this cover us if follow their advice but still get fined? It is up to us ultimately to be in compliance as they aren't doing the actual safety work. Safety committee would meet before these trainings as part of requirement. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to move forward with LMCIT Agreement Establishing a Regional Safety Group comprising the cities of Isle, Wahkon, Onamia and Ogilvie. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mugg's of Mille Lacs Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Incompliance Deadline 6/1 Passed Without Resolution. Clerk discussed this with city attorney and their garbage container condition wasn't written very clearly but we can require area be enclosed. Council agreed to thank Mugg's for getting grease bin in dumpster area and to extend deadline to 11/1 for the area to be enclosed. Should it be unresolved, there is a process outlined in Zoning Ordinance 2017-1 wherein a public hearing would need to be conducted for incompliance with possible CUP revocation.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Discharge at ponds is complete. Waiting for sewer project to begin. Right of way legal opinion is being worked on by city attorney. Are we down in gallons? Yes, due to lack of rain and influent is more concentrated also.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Holly Main was playing basketball on city parking lot and cut her leg on a bolt. Others in past have complained about the siding. Do we do a temporary fix or find money to build better? Council agreed to install two 4x8 sheets of plywood for now and to ask WAVE if a new basketball area would be something they would take on as a future community project.

MN Basic Code (MBC) of Ordinances: Roeschlein: Need to set meeting to review 2019 MBC with City Attorney Damien Toven. Council agreed to call a special council meeting for 8/28 at 6 pm.

Forfeited Lands: Park Commissioner Roberts went onsite to look at the two lots up for tax forfeiture through the county. His conclusion is it would be too expensive to remove trees and stumps to make extra parking for Bare Ass Beach, plus a large power line is overhead along with wetlands in the rear. Council agreed with Roberts not to proceed with obtaining these lots. Clerk will inform Mille Lacs County.

New Seasonal Employee: Frederickson asked how the new hire is working out. Per Weinreich, Charlie Orme is working out well.

Zoning: Staff report had two permits along with other activities noted.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Thompson, seconded by Button to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The July 24, 2023 special meeting of the Planning Commission (PC), comprised of council members, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was called by the council and proper public notice was given. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Employee present: Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. City Attorney David Anderson will participate via phone call.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM 12/12/22 MEETING: Special Planning Commission (Protocol is to approve PC minutes at next PC meeting): Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve 12/12/2022 special planning commission meeting minutes. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

APPLICATION FOR TEXT AMENDMENT TO CITY'S ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS (STRs): Mayor reminded everyone to come to the podium, state their name, limit comments to three minutes and to not readdress comments already heard. Clerk called City Attorney David Anderson who could be heard by all via a speaker.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:03 pm. Attorney Anderson explained Bonita Monson located at 1285 Lake Shore Blvd submitted proposed amendment allowing STRs through an interim use permit (IUP). Few years ago, IUP was the process and one STR was approved for Katherine Rich in 2019 with conditions. There were reasons for STRs to be prohibited, which council adopted requiring rentals be 30 days or more. Monson supplied a draft amendment, which could be approved as is, modified or leave current prohibition in place. PC will formally vote on their recommendation to council tonight. Their recommendation will go to council at their 8/14 meeting.

Audience: Brian Lee believes her request is more than reasonable to have a manager or owner within 1000 feet. STRs are a huge benefit to our community and businesses. Some family and friends are more disruptive than renters.

Bonnie Monson: Explained she has said everything at other meetings. Her home is next door to the rental. Used to rent only to families but then opened it up to sportsmen, which worked great. If there are problems, city could find me or the renters to deal with it. Her renters spend money renting bikes, pontoons, and at local businesses. It is not only a benefit to her but also the community. The cabin sleeps 8, but she usually doesn't have that many. She would have a back up plan if she weren't onsite. She pays two sewer usage fees.

Dan Neinstadt, new owner at 2255 Lake Shore Blvd, drove from Ramsey to participate in this conversation. He has reviewed STR minutes and wants more specific reasons why they were prohibited. Currently he doesn't have plans to rent less than 30 days but possibly in the future if they are allowed. STRs occur all over the place. Roeschlein gave brief historical timeline. Attorney Anderson added that things became bad enough that an interim moratorium was initiated to review the issue. Thereafter rental regulations of 30 days or more were adopted, thus prohibiting STRs.

Roberts recalled he visited the non-permitted STR of which there were 17 people onsite, none of which had ever met the owner. Thompson stated this hasn't been a resort community in a long time. A lot of people use STRs, including council members, but they don't fit Wahkon. Petition was received from citizens not wanting them. He knows people living by them in Isle and they are fed up. Neinstadt agreed with Thompson that there are good and bad renters. His taxes increased 50% and asks how he can offset that? Why should the next-door neighbor put up with the inconvenience of a STR?

Roger Henderson: Doesn't live in city limits, but on East Moose Lane. He pays Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) for water and sewer of which the sewer is provided by the city. He questioned if this would apply to city only? Yes, only within city limits. He is considering STR and MN Dept. of Health and county permits are required. Roeschlein stated MLIR manager Jodi Kanera just called about STR rules in the city, as she is aware of Henderson's desire to have an STR.

One letter was received from Linda Albertson, which clerk read, as she couldn't be here tonight. "I would agree that the council could amend the ordinance to state that an exception could be made if an owner is on site at all times during the short-term rentals, following all other city ordinances pertaining to rental properties. We do believe the language stating an owner or manager residing within 1000 feet is not acceptable. That manager could be 10 homes away from the property and be unaware of what is happening at the rental location. I feel there is the possibility that someone would agree to act as a manager just for the fee they are paid and really not care what is happening at the property." Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to close the public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing closed at 6:28 pm.

DISCUSS/MAKE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Button: Has never had so many people on my front lawn since becoming a council member. Has moved several times during his military career and they never wanted to move next to a hotel/motel, liquor store or athletic field. Who wants to buy a retirement home next to a hotel/motel, which STRs are? Leave ordinance as is; people can rent their properties long-term. In Isle, one person changed their vote so now they are allowed and it won't end. There isn't enough affordable housing. How many times do we have to say no? Frederickson agrees this would adversely open the door and 30 days has been working great without issues. Wahkon doesn't have a police department to follow up readily on issues. Wahkon contracts for specific services through Isle Police Department but why should citizens have to pay those fees for someone's STR business? Motion by Button, seconded by Thompson to recommend to council that Monson's text amendment to City's zoning ordinance allowing short-term vacation rentals be denied for the same reasons the prohibition was put in place. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Thompson. Opposed: Bjornson. Motion carried. Formal resolution will be prepared by Attorney Anderson for 8/14 council meeting based on this motion and will articulate reasons for denial. Depending on required 60-day timeline for this application, an extension may be necessary.

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

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The August 14, 2023 special meeting of the Wahkon City Council was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:30 pm of which public notice was duly posted as required. Roll Call: Council Members present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. City Engineer Dave Blommel was also present.

PUBLIC HEARING: Final Layout for State Project 4804-23, The Reconstruction of Trunk Hwy 27 From West of South Main Street to East of North Main Street: Darrin Nelson MnDOT Representative: *Mayor Bjornson immediately opened the public hearing at 5:30 pm.* Nelson gave overview of this estimated two-million-dollar project to improve Hwy 27/Main Street. Audience member David Olson asked about the pedestrian bump outs. They give pedestrians a safer crossing with shorter distance and make them more visible to drivers. City staff and Council Member Button and Mayor Bjornson did field walk with MnDOT recently for ADA. Very eye opening when MnDOT representative Todd Grugel, from his wheel chair, shows where Main Street and business accesses currently don't comply. Plan is to tighten up the sea of pavement which makes drivers speed. Angle parking is not allowed on state highways.

Dave & Kim Tyson of Country Caboose Quilts questioned curb & gutter drainage leading to Soo Line Trail in front of their business. Can't give details yet as hydraulics haven't been completed. Store has lowest elevation in the area and has flooded a few times over the years. Curb & gutter will capture it and drain it properly as State won't allow their drainage to go onto private property. Huge quilt store hop is held first three weeks in August with numerous customers. MnDOT must provide access to businesses. Project would be bid in 11/2025 with construction beginning 5/2026 for approximately three months.

Patti Packer has concerns with new intersection plan for North Main at 4th St. W. Not only personally, as their driveway will be impacted, but for winter ice fishing as she has seen backup of vehicles with fish houses prior to when ice is thick enough to drive on. Current angle has drivers looking way over their shoulder to see what is coming from the curve; new design would be safer. Will there be a bypass lane? Not technically but there is an 8-foot shoulder. Discussion ensued on what the city could do to assist ice fishing traffic; pull in with two lanes or make North Main one-way? Some in the audience believe there haven't been any accidents so why implement new design which could create a problem? Fran Weiers agrees and has lived on North Main for years. Nelson noted that even if traffic is backed up, there will be more site visibility and distance for safety by separating 4th St. W from North Main, thus removing the conflict. Audience and staff were asked to document traffic this winter.

Dave Olson questioned snow removal? Weinreich commented he has plenty of room currently making it safer for city staff and contractors. Can follow what other cities do by keeping snow in the 10' boulevard. Clerk questioned if MnDOT would discuss snow removal with city again as had been done years ago by Isle DOT staff. MnDOT no longer provides such service to cities. They plow their lanes, then parking area and sidewalks are city responsibility. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to close the public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing closed at 6:04 pm.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER MUNICIPAL APPROVAL OF STATE PROJECT 4804-23: Button reminded everyone this project has been discussed since at least 2015. Wahkon was established as a city in 1907 of which the state highway came in after. Main Street has no stormwater, lacks ADA compliance, and sidewalk is flush with highway in some areas. This project benefits the community with new lighting, sidewalks with curb and gutter, and redesigned North & South Main for safety reasons. Snow can be handled by hiring outside contractor. Additions could include adding sidewalk

along 2nd St E to city hall and widen 3rd St E to allow two vehicles at the intersection. City invested their small city street funds provided by the state in preparation for this project. City was awarded Transportation Alternatives Program funds of \$621,154 to offset city amenities cost. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to move forward with 2026 Main Street Project as depicted in final layout for State Project 4804-23, the reconstruction of Trunk Hwy 27 from west of south Main Street to east of North Main Street. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution approving the plan wasn't provided by MnDOT for this meeting but may be required, which can be accomplished at a future council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm. Council will take five-minute break before beginning regular monthly council meeting.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The August 14, 2023 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:15 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Council Members present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were 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, Button, 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, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 5/8, 6/12 & 7/10 Council Meetings

B) Special Council Meeting Mon. 8/28 @ 6 pm: Review MN Basic Code of Ordinances 2019 Edition

C) 2023 Non-Traditional Lenders Forum Hosted by East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) & Northspan Group: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Wed. 9/6 @ Braham Event Center

D) Central MN Council on Aging (CMCOA): Informational

E) Isle Area Pickleball Association (IAPA) Donation Thank You

F) JB's Bar & Restaurant LLC Liquor Licenses: On Sale, Off Sale & Sunday Liquor Effective 9/29/2023 – 12/31/2023; Pending Sale of Wahkon Inn

G) Isle Sportsman's Club LG220 Application for Exempt Permit Acknowledged with No Waiting Period for Banquet & Raffle Fri. 9/22 @ Wahkon Inn

H) Charitable Gambling 10% Report: 6/2023 Isle Lions Club (ILC) \$Zero & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$1,599.59

I) Charitable Gambling Report: ILC \$250 Fourth of July Donation

J) Treasurer's Report: 7/31 Ending Balance \$685,977.37 & Receipts Register

K) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

L) Voided Check List 2023

M) Disbursement Register 8/14 Date Range 7/11 – 8/14 Total \$52,313.02

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2023-0814 Accepting 2023 July Fourth Celebration Donations: Beachside Resort \$100, Copper Fox \$200, East Central Energy \$100, Frederickson Marina \$250, Island View Resort \$200, Isle Lions Club \$250, Isle Sportsman's Club \$500, Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal \$200, Meshigun Point Properties \$250, Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$250, Mille Lacs Island Resort \$200, Mugg's of Mille Lacs \$300, Sacred Heart Church \$200, SCI Broadband \$200, Wahkon Inn \$200, Wahkon Presbyterian Church \$500, & Woelfle Group \$200; total of \$4100. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0814. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2023-0814A Denying Request to Amend the City of Wahkon Zoning Ordinance: As recommended by planning commission at the July 24, 2023 public hearing. "Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the City Council of the City of Wahkon that the Applicant's request to amend the City of Wahkon Zoning Ordinance to allow short-term vacation rentals (STRs) as an interim use is hereby denied." Motion by Button, seconded by Thompson to adopt Resolution No. 2023-0814A. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Permit Process Re: Indian Burial Mound #21ML128: John Wilson: A year ago he and his neighbors petitioned to vacate portion of Broadway Ave to protect this mound, which was approved. His plan is to move the current cabin and build a new retirement home and reached out directly to State Archaeologist and MN Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). Wilson supplied council with

historical background of this mound, which was disturbed in 2006 upon Dave Emon property to the east. MIAC and representative from Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe came onsite and concluded 50' buffer. Currently cabin doesn't meet that. No county record has been made to his property even though per survey done by Marvin Kohout, registered but now retired surveyor, outlines portion of mound on Emon's but it does extend to Wilson parcel.

Wilson hired an attorney and contacted Marvin Kohout to ask about the 5' surveyed buffer. He recalled that Jim Jones of MIAC agreed to it. A second page of the survey was found "variance tract" that even the city didn't have. Shoreland Management Ordinance requires 50' setback from cemeteries. Would that be from buffer? Scott Anfinson, State Archaeologist in 2006, who wrote the two-page letter to city and Emon, was contacted by Wilson and his email stated "There is nothing in state law that requires a 50-foot buffer around a burial mound or other type of burial (see attached 307.08). The State Archaeologist sets cemetery limits for unrecorded burials, including burial mounds." Wilson contacted Jones but he directed him back to MIAC. State and MIAC are adamant on 50' buffer and haven't supplied him with file documents as requested. Wilson wants a building permit and believes the City should approve it based upon the 5' buffer survey. Thereafter the city would inform the state. Only one permit had this issue in which the property owner hired an architect to deal with it. Variance was authorized in order to build a garage and meet required setback from documented mound. There are only two officially documented mounds in the city. Per 2006 archaeologist letter "Prior to issuing building or excavation permits within or immediately adjacent to the NW quarter of Section 17, it would be prudent for the City of Wahkon to notify the State Archaeologist." Thereafter a question was added to land use application asking whether there are burial mounds.

Saehr Consulting, city zoning professionals, has legitimate concerns of approving such a permit as this isn't something they've ever dealt with. Suggested city attorney become involved. It was reiterated that Wilson and the city has protected the mound through the recent vacation. City emailed League of MN Cities but no reply received. Council agreed to contact city attorney to discuss how to proceed. Technically no land use permit has been received but Wilson would appreciate knowing how to proceed as he has expended much already plus city should be aware of the process.

Prohibiting Cannabis Use in Public Places Ordinance: City Attorney David Anderson Email: As of 8/1 it will technically be legal for persons to use cannabis/hemp products in public places unless prohibited by MN Clean Indoor Air Act or city ordinance. Council discussed and agreed it has occurred in the past and how would an ordinance be enforced? Can't see having an ordinance as they will stand just outside the area and smoke. If this becomes a public concern bring back to council.

Rural Music Ministries Donation Request: Daniel Roeschlein: Great local event for three days at Redemption Hill in Isle of Christian music, bounce houses for kids, food vendors, etc. In order to ensure all can attend, donations are requested at the gate. Motion by Button, seconded by Thompson to donate \$250 to Rural Music Ministries from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Part Time Seasonal Employee 30 Day Probationary Period Ended 7/14/2023: Wage Increase? Weinreich informed council he is doing really well. Hopefully he will return next spring. Bob Statz wrote Mille Lacs Messenger article on seasonal mowers thanking them for keeping our cities looking great. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to increase Charlie Orme's wage from \$15 to \$16 per hour effective 7/14/2023. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Applied weed and algae treatments with alum likely being applied at the ponds next month. Not a lot of water at the ponds. Need adequate water level so ice doesn't freeze pipes.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Wahkon Days is this weekend. Thank you WAVE volunteers and Weinreich! Roberts indicated the banner at entrance sign could be moved for better viewing. Frederickson brought up condition of these signs, particularly the south sign is falling apart. Should they be removed? There are metal posts through the logs which will keep them standing. Likely a MnDOT permit is required to rebuild them or erect new. Mayor will ensure treasure hunt rules mention the lucky lure will not be at either sign to keep public away. Council approved city attorney amending personnel policy to adhere to new laws for approximate cost of \$1000 - \$1344.

Button installed the WWI pavers and brought the plaque to Braham Monument to be placed in forthcoming black granite monument. Will decide whether to have dedication program on Veterans Day 2023 or Memorial Day 2024. Existing base will work for the monument.

Bjornson would like to begin working on a permanent dock/pier through fundraising. Someone had inquired if there was a place to dock in order to enjoy Wahkon Days, which we currently don't have. Button had done research in the past. A pier would be an amenity to Mille Lacs Scenic Byway and waterway kayak trail. In fishing with her grandson, the pier with high rails isn't conducive for little ones. Would be best to have one side for mooring. The old pier was located historically at the end of the Walk to Honor path. Currently this area is leased to the resort. Restart the process sometime soon

Zoning: Three permits issued and other activities were noted for the month. Informational

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brian Lee believes it is imperative for council to appoint a separate planning commission as four of the five members live blocks away from each other. No one has stepped up to do this so council is the planning commission. Could be feasible if there are citizens interested. Hard enough to get council candidates.

Bonnie Monson, whose request to amend the zoning ordinance to allow STRs was denied through Resolution No. 2023-0814A stated everyone has them and could the question be put on the ballot? Button recalled asking the same question and finding out it wasn't allowed. Some questions can't be posed to the citizens but must be dealt with by elected officials. Referendum questions have to do with expending taxpayer funds. Monson is willing to send questionnaire at her cost. Thompson isn't for any of this as the topic has been ongoing for three years now. Can't stop her from doing that but it wouldn't be a city sponsored questionnaire.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer