

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

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

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

A) Meeting Minutes: 2/12/2024 Council

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

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

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

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

F) Initiative Foundation Letter

G) Savage Communications 2023 Franchise Report: \$4460.62

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

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

J) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Reports

K) Voided Check List 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zoning: None

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

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

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

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

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

A) Meeting Minutes: 3/11 Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Reports

J) Voided Check List 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zoning: None

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

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

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The May 13, 2024 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present: Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button 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 Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 4/8 Council

B) Let's Build a Better Tomorrow! Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Summit, Spotlight on Childcare: Mon. 5/22 @ Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center 8 am – 4 pm

C) City Hall Closed Mon. 5/27 Memorial Day – Fri. 5/31: Clerk Vacation

D) Wahkon Cleanup Day June 1st Saturday 9 am – Noon: Fees Charged Per Item

E) City of Isle & Isle Police Department Donation Thank You

F) Fourth of July Event Donation: Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$250

G) Charitable Gambling Report: 3/2024 Isle Lions Club \$Zero & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$706.87

H) Treasurer's Report 4/30 Ending Balance \$441,933.35 Cash; \$ Investments & Receipts Register

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Reports

J) Disbursement Register 5/13 Date Range 4/9 – 5/13 Total \$46,530.53

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Hwy 27 & 169 Roundabout Wahkon Letter of Opposition Discussion: Last month, council motion directed clerk to send letter of opposition. She wanted to convey further information before sending. Attorney Damien Toven for City of Isle, and currently hired by Wahkon to help with basic code adoption, advised Isle Council not to send the letter as they shouldn't speak for all citizens. Personally, you can object and sign the petition as an individual. He also worried that should a death occur; letters of opposition could be used by attorneys to litigate. Council disagreed. MnDOT is a partner with the city for 2026 Main Street Project. Is what DOT doing actually needed? Should council give opinion on citizen behalf? Button has concerns for area businesses to lose customers. Button is a VFW board member and was absent last month, thus didn't vote on this matter. He will not vote due to conflict of interest. VFW front parking lot would be drastically reduced. Seven of the seventeen accidents noted in plan were relative to VFW. Appreciate MnDOT wanting to make intersection safer, but it will adversely affect the businesses. Motion from last meeting to send opposition letter still stands.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: First discharge is completed. Will see if we need another one. May need alum in fall.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Jeff Bertelson sent email asking four questions regarding meters. Further meter details will be discussed at a future meeting.

Carlson/Maciazka Drainage Issue: Button: City hired contractor based upon City Engineer Dave Blommel's memo to bring in fill but more is needed. Who is responsible? City gave Maciazka permission to remove his culvert as it was more of a speed bump than actually draining anything. Appears there was something under Carlson's driveway but the ends are no longer visible. This is a very low area. Street drainage is in the city right of way. Replacing culverts when necessary is done by city after owner installs driveway culvert, if applicable, at their own cost. Button will discuss with property owners and bring back to next meeting.

Welcome Signs: The one near the Soo Line Trail is the worst with letters falling off. MnDOT hired architect to provide designs for byway kiosks, roundabouts in Onamia & Garrison, Wahkon Main Street, and welcome signs. Plan is still in the works but soon concept drawings can be reviewed. During Wahkon Days treasure hunt, make sure it is noted the lure won't be hidden near these signs.

Zoning: April report notes two permits issued.

EMPLOYEE REVIEWS: Closed Per Employees' Request: State Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to close the public meeting per employees' request and as allowed per State Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting closed at 6:32 pm.

Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to open the meeting. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting re-opened at 7:01 pm. Annual reviews for Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein should have been conducted 12/2023 but council indicated they prefer presence of full council so waited until snowbirds returned. City of Isle's longevity steps were reviewed and council recommends incorporating same for Wahkon. Both employees will receive 4.5% wage increase and Weinreich will also receive 4th year longevity pay increase of 2% for total of 6.5%. Council conveyed they sincerely appreciate both employees.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The June 10, 2024 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present: Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Thompsom to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Item D: Email received from Deb Lawler prior to meeting that isn't part of this agenda, with attachments relative to economic benefits of roundabouts. She felt it was important to have both sides of the issue. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda: Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: None

B) Isle Area Chamber of Commerce Family Fun Night 5 – 7 pm Tues. 6/11 @ Wahkon Veterans Park

C) City Hall Closed Wed. 6/19 Juneteenth Holiday

D) Wahkon Hwy 169 & 27 Roundabout Letter to MnDOT

E) Wahkon Days 2024 Memo: Street/Alley Closures & Waive Noise Ordinance

F) LG220 Application for Exempt Permit: Sacred Heart Church 8/17 Bazaar Raffle

G) Fourth of July Event Donations: Isle Lions Club \$2000 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$250

H) Charitable Gambling Report: 4/2024 Isle Lions Club \$64.83 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$304.52

I) Treasurer's Report 5/31 Ending Balance \$420,973.35 Cash; \$783,821.50 Investments & Receipts Register

J) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Reports

K) Disbursement Register 6/10 Date Range 5/14 – 6/10 Total \$25,485.78

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2024-0610 Accepting 2024 Cleanup Day Donations: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2024-0610. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. First National Bank of Milaca \$200 and \$19 from participants beyond actual fees charged. Thank you!

NEW BUSINESS: Notice for Filing for the City of Wahkon General Election: Filing period 7/30-8/13 for two council seats (4-year term) and mayor (2-year term) for 11/5 General Election

Potentially Dangerous Dog Issue: Incident occurred 5/19 when a dog owned by a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe member attacked another dog while walking with the owner. Sheriff was contacted who handed it over to Tribal Police, who handed it back due to conflict of interest. Dog owner works for Tribal Police. Clerk emailed Sheriff Kyle Burton questioning whether owner received potentially dangerous dog letter. Sheriff replied "This is very complicated issue, which was made even more complicated by Judge Nelson's ruling on the status of the 1855 reservation boundary. The current ruling says that the entire area is a reservation and as such, civil regulatory issues come into play regarding band members within that area. Technically our deputies can't even cite a band member for speeding or driving on a suspended driver's license within that 1855 area, which includes your city. I too have public safety concerns with this. Generally, animal ordinance matters on a reservation would fall under civil reg."

Chief Deputy Aaron Evenson emailed this morning with further information. "In general terms, we upon first call of a dog at large call issue a verbal warning to the owner which was done in this case." Complainant informed responding deputy he did not want anything done other than informing owners to keep their dog on their property. "For the dangerous dog determination portion of

this speaking in generalities we do not deem a dog dangerous or potentially dangerous unless it has bitten a person unprovoked or injured/caused damage to another domestic animal. From my understanding these did not happen in this case.” “For ordinance enforcement within city limits should a municipality have tighter regulations than the county, this would fall on the city police agency...” County doesn’t have a contract with Wahkon to enforce ordinances. They did what complainant requested.

2024 Blacktopping: Weinreich: Received two quotes for reclamation of Hennepin Ave between 2nd & 6th Streets. Minnesota Paving & Materials \$107,950 and Rocon Paving \$85,777. Street Commissioner Button questioned whether the width could be reduced from 30’ to 20’ at 2nd St to match the rest? Existing 10’ blacktop would be left in place and the savings used for additional blacktop needs. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to award blacktopping project to lowest bidder Rocon Paving for \$85,777. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Button and Weinreich will discuss width reduction with Rocon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Welcome to Wahkon Interim Sign Suggestion: Button: Sign near Soo Line Trail is in the worst condition and the O fell off and can’t be reattached. Suggestion is to put up painted plywood with letters as interim sign. Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway is working with an architect through a MnDOT contract for design concepts of byway kiosks, Wahkon Main Street 2026 Project, Wahkon entrance signs, and roundabouts. Will ask Steve Dubbs, Chair of LMLSB to attend 7/8 meeting to discuss.

Soo Line Trail Wahkon Sign Condition: Roberts: This is the metal art sign that displays business placards, has Wahkon across the top and beaver at the bottom. Sign sways at top 6” or so. Cement footings are angled. New ones should be installed deeper as this is a very heavy sign. 3/8” bolts on anchor plates are loose and full of paint. Unsure who can remove sign and reconstruct footings. Jim Staricha has equipment capable of removal. Weinreich will contact Staricha.

Employee Retroactive Pay Request: Last month employee reviews were conducted. Raises were approved by council and implemented effective the next payroll of 5/20 for 5/5-5/18. Mayor Bjornson inquired prior to meeting whether raises should be retroactive, as it had been 18 months since last review. Roeschlein, thinking as a treasurer and not an employee, said they would be reflected upon the next payroll. Employees are cordially requesting retro pay back to 1/1, one year since prior year’s wage increase. Payroll for 1/1 included 12/31 and for ease of record keeping purposes, timeframe would be 12/31/23-5/4/24. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to authorize retroactive pay request for Weinreich and Roeschlein from 12/31/23 to 5/4/24. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Cleanup Day 2024: Judy Bezanson sent email “I suggest everyone pay a flat fee of \$20. Then for certain items like electronics, add an additional fee of \$5 or \$10. It’s a great service and I’d hate to see it discontinued.” Council agreed to continue the event; 6/7/25 from 8-11 am per Jim’s Mille Lacs Disposal request in order for driver to have Saturday afternoon off.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Project begins 7/8. Nelson Sanitation was called out to clean and televise lift station #4 force main as pump gallons per minutes is dropping. Found 6” force main squashed; still functioning but will need replacement. City Engineer Blommel was informed and will discuss with USDA whether this can be part of the upcoming project. If not, would be best to have Northdale Construction do the work as they are in town for project. Hopefully line won’t need to be replaced under Lake Shore Blvd. Should know more by 7/8 meeting.

Water Meters: Roeschlein will work with Blommel and City Attorney Dave Anderson on getting ordinances and such in place for installation beginning in August before snowbirds leave. Meters will allow sewer fees to be more accurate based on water use. Data would be received by radio read via a brain box transmission as Weinreich drives by.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: MN Rural Water Association is having water & wastewater training at Tulibee Tavern 6/26-27.

8th District Circuit Court Hearing: Bjornson: She, Thompson and Roeschlein will attend 6/12 oral arguments in St. Paul regarding Mille Lacs County's appeal of Judge Susan Richard Nelson's ruling in the law enforcement case the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe filed against the county in 2017. In 2023, Judge Nelson affirmed the 61,000-acre Reservation wasn't disestablished and original boundaries of the 1855 treaty remain intact. Wahkon filed an amicus brief in support of the county that the reservation was disestablished along with the townships of Kathio, South Harbor and Isle Harbor.

Family Fun Nite: Bjornson: Isle Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting four of these in June. Tomorrow 5-7 pm hosted by WAVE held at the Wahkon Veterans Park with hot dogs, cotton candy, and rock painting. Community hall is backup plan if it rains.

Walk to Honor Pavers: Button: Braham Monument will continue engraving pavers but would like to stop soon. A small company he contacted may consider doing them but not yet. Most don't do them as they aren't profitable. Originally engraving price was \$25 and today it is \$80. Paver donation was recently increased from \$100 to \$150. Need to order pallet of pavers. Engravers don't want weathered blank pavers brought in as they don't engrave well.

Zoning: May report indicates two permits were issued.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Thompson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The July 8, 2024 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Tony Button at 6:03 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Bill Thompson, and Tony Button. Absent: Mayor Ronda Bjornson. Employees present: Jacob Weinreich Public Works Supervisor and Karrie Roeschlein. Other staff present: City Attorney Damien Toven. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Button. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A) Meeting Minutes: 5/13 & 6/10 Council

B) 2024 Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Inauguration 7/9 @ 10 am Grand Casino Mille Lacs Event Center

C) League of MN Cities 6/13 Letter

D) Mille Lacs Equal Rights Foundation Raffle Drawing Rescheduled 7/16: Application Acknowledged With No Waiting Period

E) Temporary 1-4 Day On-Sale Liquor License: Sacred Heart Church 8/17 Bazaar Raffle

F) Charitable Gambling Report: 5/2024 Isle Lions Club \$613.71 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$864.00

G) Treasurer's Report 6/30 Ending Balance \$560,947.63 Cash; \$786,017.23 Investments & Receipts Register

H) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Reports

I) Disbursement Register 7/8 Date Range 6/11 – 7/8 Total \$57,193.31

NEW BUSINESS: Main Street 2026 Project Concepts: MnDOT Landscape Architect Sr. Michelle Huettl: In order to accommodate Huettl's drive time, item was moved up on the agenda. City was awarded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for 2026 Main Street Project to use for amenities such as lighting, trees, benches, etc. DOT provided funds for architect to draft plans for Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway kiosks, roundabouts in Garrison & Onamia, Wahkon main Street and welcome signs. Huettl supplied three options to council after meeting with City Engineer Dave Blommel and others. Would like council input prior to an open house in August.

Concept #1 with trees in grate, #2 trees & shrubs/grasses level with sidewalk, #3 same as #2 but with cement edge. Cost estimates vary between \$15-\$20k. Council wants as low maintenance as possible. Midway Garden Club plants flower barrels and tends Veterans Park. Would they take on Main Street? Wahkon doesn't have city water for ease in watering. Plants would be drought resistant. DOT maintains them for two years with intention of nominal maintenance thereafter, including no watering required. Spring of 2027 planting would occur.

Clerk read email from Luke Wehseler of DOT regarding reason for reducing parking lane from 10' to 8'. "The 10' parking was when it was adjacent to the driving lane. Now that we have a 5' bike lane, 8' parking will be plenty sufficient."

Council debated each concept with leanings toward option 1 for ease of plowing. Rob Dubbs reminded everyone this is a once in a generational opportunity. Consider all options for more vibrant downtown, bringing in more people and taxes. Steve Dubbs was part of virtual meeting with City

Engineer Dave Blommel who recommended option 3 as it breaks up the sidewalk sea of concrete. Council agreed to keep all three options on the table with requested modification to #3 with a rolled curb. Per Huettl, option 2, level with sidewalk should only have grasses, no bushes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PETITIONS: Wahkon to Install Water Meters: Bill McConville: This isn't a formal public hearing but was placed on the agenda here in order to have discussion prior to consideration to adopt meter ordinance. Public hearing for the Wastewater Project, including installation of meters on private wells, was held 11/12/19 with two citizens in attendance. Meters are part of this year's project to replace the force main. Approximately 20 people were in attendance. McConville explained how most of their water is used in their yard, thus not an accurate measure of what actually is going out to the ponds. Clerk read City Engineer Blommel's email explaining metering sewage would cost more than \$10,000 per service, as it includes a manhole and flume. "Unfortunately, without the water meters our ability to understand and bill according to use is significantly hampered. One of our secondary goals with this project is to establish an equitable billing system that can be applied to Mille Lacs Island. The contract reads, and always has read, that the city will bill Mille Lacs Island like our residents."

First meter would be installed at city cost and if applicable, second meter can be purchased by owner to meter outside water use for reduction in gallons. Button was informed by plumber when living in Apple Valley it would take 5-10 years to pay for the second meter based upon outside gallon reduction. Public frustration is that we have no fee schedule indicating future billing. Fees are increased annually 3% per ordinance, which will continue through 2025. Once a year of meter readings are known, gallon fee schedule will be implemented. Citizens already pay for electric and gas meters. Citizens are upset it is their private well being monitored.

Randy Heltemes: Notification process didn't inform all citizens as he didn't know about it. Public notice was posted and this has been discussed since at least 2019. Suggestion is to do pilot program to see if it is worth it. He reminded everyone the city is actually the taxpayer. He had his attorney review meter ordinance briefly. Clerk & Mayor Bjornson had prior conversation with city attorney that this is allowed; utilities have the right to meter.

Sara Carlson: Extra staff cost to read the meters and do billing. Would there be a higher cost for seasonal? Joe Robinson, prior City Wastewater Operator, asked why we can't just bill MLIR appropriately for what they send? Currently they are doing that but goal is for both the city and MLIR to fix inflow & infiltration (I&I). Angela McConville: Don't understand why the government makes you buy a meter to supply them with data, to help you do your business by monitoring our water? Thompson explained how the ponds were increased to accommodate flows, which was very costly. Now city is replacing the force main. Reducing I&I would reduce flows. Suggest city use better communication tools. Messenger publishes article after every meeting which are open to the public. Dan Neinstadt: Can we put meters on MLIR only? This project includes meter for MLIR but if citizens aren't charged by the gallon they can't be. Project is being paid for with 77% grant with remainder via low interest loan. Comment was made that grant money isn't free. Brian Bezanson thanked council and mentioned possible plumbing options relative to silcox, which would alleviate deduct meters. Council is looking at the big picture with goal of equitable billing based upon use.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Ordinance 2024-1 Pertaining to the Installation, Maintenance, and Operation of Water Meters in the City of Wahkon: Alternate bid for meters was already awarded by council. Per Engineer Blommel statement to clerk, city could cancel the award but decision would need to be made tonight and some reimbursement to contractor would be owed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to adopt ORDINANCE 2024-1 PERTAINING TO THE INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF WATER METERS IN THE CITY OF WAHIKON. Ayes: Frederickson, Thompson, and Button. Opposed: Roberts. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2024-0708 Approving Summary Language For Publication of Ordinance No. 2024-1: This must pass with minimum of four votes in favor otherwise entire ordinance must be published. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Thompson to adopt Resolution No. 2024-0708. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Button. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Wahkon Welcomes You Entrance Sign Draft Concepts: Three options provided by AFLA Architects specific to Wahkon, along with email explaining tentative maintenance of each. Current log signs required no maintenance and council would prefer the same. Braham Monument quoted price of \$11k to \$14k depending on size; granite requires zero maintenance. WWI monument is black Northstar Granite. Who did Onamia's signs? Current rock bases will be utilized. Steve Dubbs stated maintenance free isn't actually free. Good designs keep maintenance down. Izatys sign is 45 years old and still looks great. Braham has granite sign which to him isn't inviting. He suggested council give their ideas so architect can design other options. Council tabled the issue for now.

Isle Fire Department Public Safety Fund Donation Request: Co-Chief David Miller was unable to attend but provided email. Goal is to purchase new extraction tools with estimated cost of \$35k. Wahkon received \$10,502 to be used solely for public safety; \$5002 remains. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to donate \$5002 from Public Safety Fund, to City of Isle for Isle Fire Department toward extraction tools. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Button. Motion carried unanimously.

Wahkon Area Vision Effusion (WAVE) Committee Donations Pass Through City: Christine Bjornson: WAVE has 501C4 status and 501C3 organizations can't donate to C4. City of Isle takes donations for non-profit organizations. Ex: Donations to Isle Area Chamber for Isle Days. As WAVE wasn't considering doing gambling, they went with C4 based on accountant's advice. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to allow pass through donations on behalf of WAVE Committee. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Button. Motion carried unanimously.

Notice for Filing for the City of Wahkon General Election: Mayor (2-year term) and two council seats (4-year term each) are open. Filing closes Tues. 8/13 at 5 pm.

Mille Lacs County (MLC) Soo Line Trail Master Plan Online Survey Closes 8/31: Informational

Schubert Street Public Lake Access Use Discussion: Dianne Eckert: Ongoing question since when Thompson was mayor as to its use. Within right of way (ROW) there is rock wall and two sheds that have been there a long time, as well as electric box. Eckert wants to know during the summertime, if vehicles have access? She recalls prior council stating yes to snowmobiles and no to vehicles with fish houses. Public access isn't in the best of shape. She has added riprap to protect her shed. Someone pulled jet ski with 4-wheeler using this access. Council discussed how this same argument occurs regarding Maple Lane. First year of spear fishing vehicles parked on both sides to access the lake. Neighboring owner had to call sheriff as they had blocked their driveway. Installation of signs doesn't always get compliance. City Attorney Dave Anderson informed clerk that council could dictate type of use based on street condition, width, etc. If city improves ROW, it will bring more people there. If we shut Schubert down, others would want same, such as Maple Lane. Council agreed to leave it as is, which is a public access to the lake.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Dog Issue ICR 24004541: Joan Straw: No straight forward answer as to why this dog can't receive potentially dangerous dog designation. Everyone is bound by the same law but when you are dealing with trust land, fee land, and/or certain situations, level of law enforcement could be different. Case has been closed per Chief Deputy Aaron Evenson's 6/10/2024 email. Evenson rightfully noted MLC isn't contracted to enforce city ordinances. Per Attorney Damien Toven, citizens should contact sheriff's department in such situations; if it can be enforced it will be. Appellant court decision is still forthcoming and depending upon decision, county may go to U.S. Supreme Court arguing the reservation was disestablished.

2019 MN Basic Code Discussion: Attorney Damien Toven: Clerk and Toven have reviewed the code and added comments. Council can review it at their convenience to give input. Fee Schedules from other cities were provided as samples. Various resolutions are required. City must decide what current ordinances to keep. Council agreed to hold special meeting to review MBC on 7/29 at 6 pm.

Licensing of Cannabis Businesses Discussion: Attorney Damien Toven: Put on radar to think about. Moratorium Ordinance was adopted effective until 1/1/2025.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Spring discharge is over. Northdale Construction is staging project materials and will meet with tribal monitor.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein will attend meeting hosted by Dillon Hayes, MLC Administrator regarding recreational marijuana business licensing. Scott Saehr, Wahkon's zoning professional will also attend.

Zoning: June: No permits thus report.

MLC County Sheriff 2nd Quarter Report: 47 calls to Wahkon. Last year there were 34 during same timeframe.

Open Forum: Sara Carlson at 1380 Lake Shore Blvd wants resolution to drainage issue caused by city allowing Jim Maciazka to remove his small culvert when he blacktopped his driveway. City did add some fill last year but water still backs up into her trees. Heard you are thinking of bring in more fill; it isn't just rain as there is also a wetland in the back. There weren't any issues when the culvert was there. Street Commissioner Button believes there was a culvert under Carlson driveway which is no longer functioning; Carlsons disagree explaining they are the high point and Maciazka is in the floodplain while they aren't. Very limited elevation between properties to effectively drain.

Citizen brought up speeding on Lake Shore Blvd. Signs indicate 20 mph but some are going 50. Clerk will check with MLC Sheriff Dept to see if they have radar sign available.

Randy Heltemes asked what could be done for property owner across the street from him; his property is low and drainage goes into his garage. Drainage is a problem along Lake Shore Blvd for many properties. Lot development and ditches filled in have increased the problem.

Citizen noted Meter Ordinance 2024-1 allows owners not to install a meter but there is a \$100 per month non-compliance fee.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Thompson, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Thompson, and Button. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The July 29, 2024 Wahkon Special Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:10 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present: City Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Other staff present: City Attorney Damien Toven. Special meeting was called by council to review Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances 2019 Edition and proper notice was posted.

Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances 2019 Edition Review:

Title I: General Provisions

Chapter 10: General Provisions

Title III: Administration

Chapter 30: General Provisions

Chapter 31: Departments, Boards & Commissions

Chapter 32: Emergency Management

Title V: Public Works:

Chapter 50: Garbage & Rubbish

Chapter 51: Sewer Regulations

Chapter 52: Water Regulations

Chapter 53: Storm Water Drainage Utility

Chapter 54: Rates & Charges

Title VII: Traffic Code

Chapter 70: Traffic Regulations

Chapter 71: Parking Regulations

Chapter 72: Snowmobiles

Chapter 73: Recreational & Other Vehicles

Chapter 74: Bicycles, Roller Blades, Roller Skates, Roller Skis & Skateboards

Title IX: General Provisions

Chapter 90: Abandoned Property

Chapter 91: Animals

Chapter 92: Health & Safety; Nuisances

Chapter 93: Streets & Sidewalks

Title XI: Business Regulations

Chapter 110: General Licensing Provisions

Chapter 111: Commercial Amusements

Chapter 112: Liquor Regulations

Chapter 113: Peddlers & Solicitors

Chapter 114-115: Reserved

Chapter 116: Regulating Lawful Gambling

Chapter 117: Garage & Rummage Sales

Chapter 118: Regulation of Public Dances & Special Events

Chapter 119: Sexually Oriented Businesses

Title XIII: General Offenses

Chapter 130: General Offenses

Title XV: Land Usage

Chapter 150: General Provisions

Chapter 151: Zoning

Chapter 152: Subdivision Control

Chapter 153: Anti-Blight Regulations

Council went through every title and discussed written comments from staff. Direction given to Attorney Toven where applicable of which changes will be made and brought back to council for final review before adoption. Frederickson stated this should have been completed this spring and must be adopted before new council takes effect 2025, preferably as soon as possible.

Adjournment: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The August 12, 2024 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Bill Thompson, and Ronda Bjornson. Absent: none. Employees present were: Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, 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 Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 7/8 Council & 7/29 Special

B) Wahkon Days Street Closure Fri. 8/16: 2nd Street E From Main Street to Alley

C) Notice for Filing for the City of Wahkon General Election: Deadline Tues. 8/13 @ 5 pm

D) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Soo Line Trail Master Plan Online Survey Closes 8/31

E) LG220 Isle Sportsmans Club 9/20/2024 Raffle @ Tulibee Tavern: Applications Acknowledged with No Waiting Period

F) LG555 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers WAVE Meat Raffle Volunteer Donation \$145

G) Charitable Gambling Report: 6/2024 Isle Lions Club Zero & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$665.88

H) Treasurer's Report 7/31 Ending Balance \$553,921.13 Cash; \$800,585.95 Investments & Receipts Register

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Reports

J) Disbursement Register 8/12 Date Range 7/9 – 8/12 Total \$66,869.42

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2024-0812 “Voting Operations, Technology, & Election Resource (VOTER) Account Agreement” MN counties receive state aid for elections. Last cycle MLC gave each city \$75 out of the \$7400 aid. This election MLC received \$28,854.53. MLC Auditor/Treasurer Brenda Eklund sent email along with this resolution/agreement allowing them to keep all funds as they administer absentee and mail balloting (not applicable to Wahkon) for precincts and pay for all maintenance of election equipment that we use. Council questioned how much and would have preferred being asked prior to sending resolution/agreement. Quick calculation estimated it just under \$300. Council agreed to table this until clerk can obtain more information from MLC.

Resolution No. 2024-0812A “Accepting 2024 July Fourth Celebration Donations” As the above resolution was tabled, this one will be re-numbered as -0812. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2024-0812. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Beachside Resort \$200, Copper Fox \$250, East Central Energy \$100, Frederickson Marina \$250, Isle Lions Club \$2000, Isle Sportsmans Club \$250, Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal \$200, Mille Lacs Auto \$250, Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$500, Mille Lacs Island Resort \$200, Mugg's of Mille Lacs \$300, Sacred Heart Church \$200, SCI Broadband \$200, Tulibee Tavern \$300, and Wahkon Presbyterian Church \$600 for total of \$5800.

NEW BUSINESS 2019 MN Basic Code: Set Required Public Hearing Date for Regulation of Peddlers & Solicitors and Findings of the Report of the Attorney General's Working Group on the Regulation of Sexually Oriented Businesses: Council agreed 9/9 at 6 pm during monthly meeting.

2024 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Update: City Engineer Dave Blommel participated via phone call. All directional boring is completed; 700+ feet must be excavated due to rocks. Project has gone pretty well so far.

Discussion ensued on whether to keep old force main as emergency backup. If it sits empty, would it rot out in five years? Pipe is brittle and hard to cut. Contractor could insert tracer wire for ease in locating it. Is there a reason to locate that force main? Blommel leans toward not using it as a backup nor wasting money on tracer wire. Council agreed. Clean outs of old force main could be removed once new line is operational. Abutting property owners would appreciate that.

USDA agreed LS #4 repair can be done in conjunction with our project. Unexpected issues could arise such as finding LS pipes in worse condition than anticipated. We have \$300k as buffer just in case. Blommel thanked Weinreich for the great job dealing with the project.

Contractor's Application No. 1 Payment: Northdale Construction \$485,352.01: Blommel: This first payment is covered by interim bond proceeds held by Ehlers. After all bond proceeds have been expended, additional payments will be recouped from our federal funding partners, Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to authorize payment No. 1 to Northdale Construction for \$485,352.01. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 MnDOT Main Street South Main Trees Issue: Blommel: White Pine and Spruce won't likely survive project. Council agreed White Pine is historical and must be kept. Spruce can be removed. Tree on 3rd St E south side will need to be removed for additional width. Trees on north side should be ok. One tree near Ellen Ruth Park and one on corner lot, north side of Hwy 27 will need to be removed. Council agreed to avoid removal of trees if practical.

Seasonal Mower Wage Increase Request: This isn't a formal review as past practice has been not to conduct them for seasonal workers. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to increase seasonal mower wage by \$1.00 per hour effective upcoming payroll. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. New hourly wage will be \$17.00

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Force Main was hit during the project. MPCA wanted to talk to directional boring contractor in addition to Weinreich regarding the incident; very little was spilled.

Employee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: MnDOT did core drilling for 2026 Main Street Project; evaluating environmental and soil conditions. Holes will be patched soon.

Municipal Clerks Finance Officers Association (MCFOA) Region III will meet here in Wahkon for a mental health discussion, lunch and then boat launch in Isle. Approximately 25 clerks will be here from all over the region.

Zoning: July: One permit issued plus general planning & zoning questions. Also attended cannabis meeting at MLC with Clerk Roeschlein.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Thompson, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Thompson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein
Clerk/Treasurer

