

The January 10, 2022 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: Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Absent were Tony Button and Rick Roberts. Employees Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein were present. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve agenda. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REORGANIZATION: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to make the following 2022 commissioner appointments and designate city representatives as recommended by the 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 and Mille Lacs County (MLC) Attorney's Office, Attorneys; Short Elliot Hendrickson (S.E.H), Engineers; Sourcewell, Zoning Administrator; David Drown Associates Inc., Financial Advisers; and League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, Oberfeld Insurance, Insurance Company & Agency. Ayes: 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 Buck to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 12/13 Council

B) Winter Parking Regulations: No overnight parking (1 am – 7 am) Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>

C) City Hall Closed Mon. 1/17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

D) League of MN Cities (LMC) Dividend Announcement: \$1747

E) 2022 IRS Standard Mileage Rate 58.5 Cents from .56 Cents: New Wahkon Rate

F) Charitable Gambling Report: 11/2021 Isle Lions Club \$246.60

G) Treasurer's Report 2021 Year End Unaudited Cash Control Statement 1/1 - 12/31/2021

H) Treasurer's Report 12/31/2021 Ending Balance \$779,330.63

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

J) Disbursement Register 1/10/2022 Date Range 12/14/2021 – 1/10/2022 Total \$126,537.89

K) Isle Fire Department Renewal Contract for 3/1/2021-3/1/2022 Fire Service \$9375.04

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

Mille Lacs Corporate Venture (MLCV) National Leadership Development Conference (NLDC) 6/20 – 22/2022 @ Grand Casino Hinckley: Cost is \$499 but MLCV offered \$50 discount and could possibly do more. Also asked for price without hotel stay but there isn't one. Great networking opportunity. Theme this year, Stay Anchored in Servant Leadership. Council agreed to request \$350 price as our budget didn't include this.

Wahkon Days, Sat. 8/20/2022: Likely event will be both Saturday and Sunday as in 2021. Treasure hunt is sponsored by Century 21 Atwood Mille Lacs and begins Wed. 8/17. Ashly Hughes of Go Savvy Social is willing again to organize the craft, food, and kid games vendors for Sat. Buck will

ask Mille Lacs Drift Skippers if they are interested. Last year they had new staff and declined. Need to discuss details with local bar owners. Wahkon Inn is up for sale. Mugg's has Jonah and the Whales band booked again. WAVE isn't willing to become a 501C3 organization at this time. 2021 was first year city stopped spearheading the event. Buck and Hughes organized; Clerk Roeschlein was sick and Weinreich as city staff helped with set up & clean up. Parade permit was pulled by City. Due to Covid there was only the kids fishing contest and not the WAVE picnic. City attorney and auditor strongly suggest an outside non-profit take this event over. Hope to find charitable gambling organization to do buttons. In past, profit was used to fund community events, such as fireworks. Will keep updated on this via employee/staff monthly reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Hazardous Building Proceedings: Owner Roger Jorgenson 1/3 Letter, City 7/21 Letter, City Attorney 1/6 Letter With 1/5 State Fire Marshal Inspection Report: All fire code safety items have been addressed! Only one item needs further work, deck rails, and inspector will verify when completed. Jorgenson letter to council indicated his frustration the city didn't try to contact him and about three years ago, an inspection occurred, suggestions were implemented, re-inspected and were satisfactory. City did send him a letter before the process began indicating this issue would be on the monthly council's agenda until resolved. City attorney agreed that letter sufficed and no further contact was required before serving legal papers. Per Fire Marshal Kevin Sedivy, Jorgenson is willing to set up a walkthrough with the Isle Fire Dept. as they have many new members. Council agreed to send letter thanking Jorgenson for resolving the recent safety issues for his tenants, being proactive in conducting the walkthrough and explaining city's duty is safety of Wahkon citizens.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Employee, Committee & Councilmember Update: Roeschlein: Closed 1/11 for funeral. Revised Purchase Policy will be reviewed by city attorney and brought to 2/14 meeting.

Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) Agreement: Bjornson and Frederickson have reviewed. Clerk and attorney did one last revision. New agreement counts all connections and doesn't note year-round or seasonal as current contract does. Monthly usage fee was based upon 218.5 units and now that number is 415. "For calendar year 2022, City residents will pay a monthly sewer user rate of \$38.95, which is higher than the monthly Per Connection User Charge established above due to the (i) the fact that many of the 415 individual connections utilizing the Private System are seasonal, and (ii) Great American is solely responsible for all maintenance of the Private System." Draft agreement has \$20 per unit or \$8300 per month. Last year, MLIR was paying \$8263.67. Fees will be drafted per council direction. Good public relations and Council agreed to leave as is. Clerk will forward contract to MLIR for their review. Set up annual meeting on a Wednesday to further discuss. Council as a whole will review and need to approve contract once committee has met and agreed to its terms and conditions.

Zoning: In December South Shore Hospitality (Mugg's) received permit for new signs. Planning Commission meeting can't be held same day as council meeting. Little Falls meets that same day and being they are in Sourcewell's district, they must take precedent. Council agreed to schedule PC meetings on fourth Monday at 5 pm. Next PC meeting on fence regulations will be 2/28.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adjourn. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The February 14, 2022 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 Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson; absent were Tony Button and Rick Roberts. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve agenda. Ayes: 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 Buck to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 1/10 Council

B) Winter Parking Regulations Begin 11/1; No overnight parking (1 am - 7 am) Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>

C) CenterPoint Energy Price Increase 1/10 & 2/4 Letters

D) City of Isle Fire Dept. \$2500 Donation Thank You

E) Mille Lacs Equal Rights Foundation (MERF) LG220 Gambling Application Acknowledged with No Waiting Period as Usual Practice: 9/21/22 Raffle

F) Charitable Gambling Report: 12/2021 Isle Lions Club \$392.68; 11/2021 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$492.64 & \$315 WAVE Meat Raffle Rounds

G) 2022 Summary Budget Statement

H) Treasurer's Report Dated 2/2 Ending Balance \$687,413.04 & Receipts Register

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

J) Disbursement Register 2/14 Date Range 1/11 –2/14 Total \$47,707.64

K) City Hall Closed 2/21 Presidents' Day

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2022-0214 Supporting Housing and Local Decision-Making Authority: MN Assoc. of Small Cities (MAOSC) Letter: League of MN Cities (LMC) is working with MAOSC requesting cities adopt this sample resolution opposing legislation that restricts ability for local elected officials to respond to community needs. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0214. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Revised Purchasing Policy: City attorney reviewed policy and this is the final revision, which follows all statute requirements. Clerk originally revised the policy and has since learned it is best to have city attorney do it in the first place, instead of trying to track all the changes between her revision and his. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adopt the revised Purchasing Policy. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Isle Skating Rink Donation Request: Wonderful asset for the kids and families. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to donate \$200 from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Isle After Prom Donation Request: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to donate \$200 from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

2022 Explore MN Tourism Conference 3/1: East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) offered to pay registration and hotel stay for a Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway board member to attend. Non applicable as conference has sold out. Virtual attendance only. Buck may be interested in attending virtually.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Furnace Quotes: Weinrich requested four quotes but only received two. Worksheet provided by clerk adjusted SCR quote to include 10-year parts & labor warranty, as Aquarius quote had that included. Aquarius Home Services quotes were for Amana furnaces, good \$9,145, better \$11,675 and best \$12,550 and SCR offers Carrier, good \$9,712, better \$10,814 and best \$11,980. Our furnace is over twenty-five years old. City hall with community hall addition has several cold spots. Lack of interior wall insulation is factor also. Thermostat has been acting up lately. SCR quoted \$6,584 to upgrade ductwork. Does that include changing location in order to distribute heat more accurately? Unsure, but that would cause major upheaval in shop with work bench and storage shelving. Aquarius said you can't build ductwork large enough for high efficiency furnaces even in new installs. Furnace with a variable speed motor helps save ignitors from burning out, which recently occurred. Nu-Calgon iWave-R air purifier installed in ductwork last year will be used with new furnace. Frederickson prefers Carrier over Amana, suggests we go with SCR best quote, which is also the lowest quote, and to lock in the price, as everything is only going up. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to move forward with SCR best quote for \$11,980 which includes 10-year parts and labor warranty on a Carrier furnace. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. ARPA funds will be used for this purchase to improve air quality.

REPORTS: Wastewater & MN Rural Water Assoc. (MRWA) Letter: Weinreich: There was a force main break February 1<sup>st</sup> at the ponds. State duty officer was contacted as required. MPCA called city hall, came onsite prior to repair and then contacted Mayor Bjornson Thursday insisting repair be completed by 3 pm Friday. MPCA wanted repair done sooner but R.C. Habeck Excavating needed to get their equipment up and running due to freezing temperatures, and scheduled the repair for Friday, when temperatures improved a bit. Joe Jansen of MRWA coordinated the repair and did a great job for us and thank you letter was sent. Having MRWA involved did appease MPCA a bit. Weinreich was very sick and did more than he actually should have to help out the situation, which was appreciated! We did our best to mitigate it under the circumstances.

Still waiting for US Army Corp to conduct soil samples in the force main ditch. Most likely won't bid until summer 2022.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Ordering cutting edge for big plow truck. Plow edge will make the season but we'll need new one before next season.

Roeschlein: Someone emailed the city that MN Commerce Dept. has Wahkon Fire Dept. noted as having \$192.57 in unclaimed property. Clerk filed necessary forms and awaits their decision. Fire Dept. dissolved many years ago.

Mille Lacs Corporate Venture (MLCV) National Leadership Conference 6/20-6/22 at Grand Casino Hinckley original cost was \$500. MLCV offered \$50 reduction, then agreed to fee of \$350 per council request due to budget restraints. Clerk is registered.

Zoning & Upcoming Planning Commission (PC) Mtg: No permits issued. PC meeting was scheduled for 2/28 but there won't be a quorum. Council agreed to schedule it for 3/28 @ 5pm. Agenda includes discussion on fencing, car port/hoop shed, and signage not requiring new conditional use permit.

Mille Lacs County (MLC) Sheriff's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021 Report: Forty calls in total including alarms, lock outs, public assist, several suspicious activities, etc.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brian Lee was present and is requesting short-term rentals be discussed again. Several meetings will be required to allow them, including a public hearing as currently they are prohibited. City needs to support small businesses and short-term rental customers spend money in the community. Reasonable regulations are out there, check out Aitkin or Crow Wing County. Bjornson agrees we need to revisit this issue as she has several agents with investment property buyers and they can't buy property in Wahkon. Shouldn't all councilmembers be present? Two are at their winter residences. Ordinance prohibiting them is barely one year old. Buck thinks it could be a win-win for everyone with proper regulations. Bjornson would like everyone to keep an open mind and not base decisions upon one person/one location. Put on the 3/14 agenda to see if council wants formal research done again through Jake Huebsch.

Should the Isle Police Dept. be here to deal with issues if they arise? Clerk explained there were police protection contracts many years ago utilizing Isle and then Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Dept. to patrol a certain number of hours per week. Currently MLC covers us at no cost when needs arise and Isle may be called out through their mutual aid agreement. Having someone near to regulate short-term issues could be explored. Isle Police Chief Mark Reichel had recently asked the Clerk whether Wahkon would be interested in a contract again; no budget at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adjourn. Ayes: Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The March 14, 2022 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, and Ronda Bjornson; absent were Tony Button and Brenda Buck. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, 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, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 2/14 Council

B) Winter Parking Regulations Begin 11/1; No overnight parking (1 am - 7 am) Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>

C) City Letter to Roger Jorgenson, Old School Apartment Owner

D) Initiative Foundation (IF) Donation Thank You Letter

E) Isle School District Skating Rink Thank You Note

F) League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Liability Coverage Waiver Form: City does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. 466.04

G) Charitable Gambling Report: 2/2022 Isle Lions Club \$1,670.78; 1/2022 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$2,404.38

H) Savage Communications 2021 Franchise Report \$2,569.72

I) 2021 Employee Salary & Benefits

J) Treasurer's Report Dated 3/1 Ending Balance \$681,043.28 & Receipts Register

K) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

L) Disbursement Register 3/14 Date Range 2/15 –3/14 Total \$30,625.02

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2022-0314 Reestablishing Precincts and Polling Places: Required due to census redistricting. Wahkon's polling place remains the same, Wahkon Community Hall located at 151 2<sup>nd</sup> Street E. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0314. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Short-Term Rental Revisited? Subject Minutes 2015 – Current: Ordinance 2021-1 Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals was also included in agenda. Several citizens were present in the audience. Mayor explained request was made at last month's meeting during open forum to put this on the agenda. With only three of the five councilmembers present tonight, it was agreed to table the issue until 5/9 council meeting. Clerk explained council would at that time, need to make a motion whether to proceed further. Zoning issues must be addressed formerly at a planning commission meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mille Lacs Reservation Exists: Judge Susan Richard Nelson, U.S. District Court, March 4, 2022 Decision: "Over the course of more than 160 years, Congress has never clearly expressed an intention to disestablish or diminish the Mille Lacs Reservation. The Court therefore affirms what the Band has maintained for the better part of two centuries – the Mille Lacs Reservation's boundaries remain as they were under Article 2 of the Treaty of 1855."

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) Melanie Benjamin Facebook post: "All we ever wanted was for the Federal, State and County governments to read the law, which to us was clear – the boundary never went away. Recently, the federal government acknowledged the boundary and then the State of Minnesota did as well, but the County chose to go another way. Mille Lacs County has a

history of appealing cases, and so this may not be the end. There are important law enforcement questions that Judge Nelson has yet to decide. On the question of our reservation, however, we have persevered.”

Mille Lacs County press release 3/5: “Judge Nelson’s ruling is disappointing. While we have great respect for the Court, we believe it reached the wrong conclusion. We expect to appeal this decision to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and that the case may ultimately land in the U.S. Supreme Court. As a result, we believe that this will not be the last decision by a court on the status of the 1855 reservation. In the meantime, we are evaluating the impact of this decision on the thousands of non-tribal residents and businesses of Mille Lacs County within the 61,000 acres, in addition to the governmental functions of the county and the three cities and townships within the 61,000 acres. This will be a significant change for the many residents and businesses in the area that have, for over a century, been living with the shared understanding that their land was not on an Indian reservation.”

“Mille Lacs County residents have every right to be frustrated by the uncertainty that this new dispute has created. For over 100 years the United States, State of Minnesota, Mille Lacs County and even the Band all agreed that the Reservation no longer existed. As a result, we believe it is paramount that the questions surrounding the reservation status be finally adjudicated. Failure to do so will only prolong uncertainty and confusion to the detriment of the Band, those living and working in the County, and those who come to visit.”

Messenger reporter Bob Statz stated MLBO will run a full-page ad in the next newspaper. Clerk included MLBO frequently asked questions. Answers have been summarized herein. Can non-Indians own land and reside within the boundaries of Mille Lacs Reservation? Yes. Does the existence of the reservation limit access to or regulation of fisheries in Mille Lacs Lake? No. Can the Mille Lacs Band tax non-Indian land or non-Indians who live or work within or visit the Reservation? No. There is NO Indian tribe in the United States that can tax non-Indian citizens living within their reservation. Does the federal government have authority over non-Indians within the Reservation? Yes, to a limited extent. The federal government administers certain environmental laws within Indian reservations. This has been the case within the Mille Lacs Reservation for many years.

Wahkon Completes Stormwater Management Plan MLC Newsletter Article: Wahkon partnered with the Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to receive a Clean Water Fund Grant to hire Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc. to develop the plan. The Clean Water Fund comes from the 2008 Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Lynn Gallice phoned asking if we are ready to tackle any projects from the plan as there may be grant funding available. When Street Commissioner Tony Button is back in town, plan projects will be reviewed.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich is waiting for snow to melt. Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) annual meeting will be here on 4/13. Fence at ponds will be fixed soon; force main break was repaired in this area requiring a portion of the fence to be removed.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein verified there will be quorum to attend 4/11 council meeting, as two members are out of town. Mille Lacs County (MLC) Coordinator Dillon Hayes invited city representatives to their 3/15 meeting for an informal opportunity to have some open discussion regarding recent ruling from Judge Nelson that the 61,000 Mille Lacs Reservation still exists. Mayor Bjornson and Clerk Roeschlein plan to attend county meeting, as well as an informal meeting with government affairs personnel from Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe at the Wahkon office sometime this week.

Zoning & Sourcewell Agreement Termination 12/31/2022: One year extension granted to Brian Lee on his fence permit. Sourcewell letter confirms their need to terminate contracts outside their five-county district comprised of Todd, Morrison, Wadena, Crow Wing and Cass, due to staffing shortages. Cities of Isle, Onamia and Wahkon all utilize Sourcewell and will be looking for alternative. Sourcewell has done great work with reasonable hourly rates and they will be missed. Clerk is researching possible options. Costs will likely be much higher, as Sourcewell was very reasonable. Permit fees may need to be increased dependent upon professional zoning service fees.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Linda Albertson was in the audience along with several others opposed to revisiting the short-term rental issue and stated the following. I know you are tabling it until May. What I don't understand is how after spending an enormous number of manhours by our city clerk, our zoning group, the city attorney and the council, you could now be thinking about revisiting this new ordinance after less than a year. How can you be thinking about doing this leg work all over again? Thirty-day rental has been going well. City doesn't have ability to enforce short-term rules. Many have signed a petition (received in 2021) and our voices should still count.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer



The March 28, 2022 special meeting of the Wahkon Planning Commission (PC) comprised of councilmembers, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:00 pm. Mayor Bjornson called this PC meeting and public notice was duly posted. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees Present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell was also present.

Meting Minutes: 12/6/2021 Special Planning Commission: Protocol is to approve PC minutes at next PC meeting. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve 12/6/2021 PC meeting minutes. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business: Fencing: Section 5.4 Proposed Regulations: Sample from Little Falls defines regulations and allowable fencing material. Conditional use permit (CUP) would be required if material is something different. Maximum height of 6' for entire property, front & rear yard, street side and shoreland. PC directed addition of fee line at top right corner, add boxes to check, and signature line, for neighbor approving fence location if applicant property hasn't been surveyed. This requirement will get neighbors talking to ensure placement and materials are agreed upon. Plus, they may share costs, as fences can be for both parcels if placed on survey line. Maintenance must not require trespass.

Carport Possible Standards: City of Motley sample. Some cities don't allow them due to quality and wind damage. Requires 90-mph wind rating anchors. Do we only allow on certain size properties? Do we want to allow more than 12 feet in height? RVs would require more height but that also catches more wind. It was agreed to wait until full council is present. In meantime, PC said they would check into other types of materials that would be weather resistant.

New Business: Commercial Signs Section 5.9 Proposed Changes: Current ordinance language "The expansion of an existing commercial sign shall require either a new or amended conditional use permit." If signage is relevant to business, city regulations should be simple. Mugg's was granted permission to erect new signage as both ZA Huebsch and Roeschlein agreed the CUP amendment was burdensome as they just obtained a CUP. PC discussed whether to limit size of signage overall and/or individually. Frederickson gave example Wahkon Inn may want to add signage on alley side to attract snowmobilers. Should we limit to a percentage of overall building size and/or width of property? Corner lots allowed more? Building dimensions was consensus. Painted murals aren't signs and wouldn't count. Mayor recently pulled permit for new sign in Isle; research their procedure. Commercial liability insurance will cover signage liability. Banners were discussed and are defined in ordinance. Consensus was to increase total sign area and to finalize review when full PC committee is in attendance.

Set Next Meeting and/or Public Hearing Date: No meeting will be set until full PC is back in town to determine best date and time for attendance.

Adjournment: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The April 11, 2022 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. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jake Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. 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 Button, seconded by Frederickson to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 3/14 Council

B) Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) Annual Meeting Wed. 4/13 @ 10 am

C) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Assessor's Open Book Appeal & Equalization Meeting for Wahkon taxpayers disputing their tax value; 8:30 am – 4 pm Fri. 4/22 & Fri. 4/29; Contact MLC Assessor to make appointment

D) Sally Doran Memorial Wahkon Clean Up Day 8 – 11 am Sat. 6/4

E) Minnesota Rural Water Assoc. (MRWA) Annual Membership Renewal

F) Frontier Communications: Wahkon Courtesy Phone will be removed due to lack of use

G) Charitable Gambling Report: 2/2022 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$366.58

H) Treasurer's Report Dated 4/1 Ending Balance \$666,096.55 & Receipts Register

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

J) Disbursement Register 4/11 Date Range 3/15 –4/11 Total \$24,144.52

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2022-0411 To Elect the Standard Allowance Available Under the Revenue Loss Provision of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2020-0411. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. City to receive \$23,932.82 which can be used for any government expense with exception of debt service, rainy day fund deposits, settlements, and projects that conflict or contravene the purpose of ARPA. Thus far, money was used to upgrade air quality with new furnace as ours was very old. Will get quotes for new website with fillable pdfs as current one is old and unable to brought up to current standards, ex: can't view easily on cell phone.

Resolution No. 2022-0411A Supporting Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway TH 27 Downtown Enhancements, Wahkon, Minnesota National Scenic Byways Program Grant Application: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0411A. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. This grant application deadline was very quick and only "shovel ready" projects over \$500,000 could apply that are on a designated scenic byway. Wahkon was ready due to the fact MnDOT has pushed our Main Street project ahead for several years now. This grant could help offset the city portion of improvements. Application notes that Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) owns 25% of our Main Street buildings and improvements will benefit everyone. Button questioned if stormwater projects may be applicable. Will need to discuss with City Engineer Dave Blommel but clerk was under the impression improvements could extend beyond Main Street, such as new entrance signs, as long as it improves the byway. Button suggested a roof for protection over the log signs should the logs be replaced. Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway (LMLSB) committee supplied architect drawings of possible "byway" signage to view for our entrance sign. Signs are in bad shape and will need to be replaced soon.

NEW BUSINESS: Zebra Mussel Population in Mille Lacs Lake: MLC is asking permission to install zebra mussel sampler on left side of the small boat launching dock. Council agrees this information is vital to the lake and approves placement of sampler.

Mille Lacs 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Run Sponsor Donation Request: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$250 from Charitable Gambling Fund to Mille Lacs fun run. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

July Fourth Fireworks? As long as we can keep funding it without tax payer funds but we need to make it safer for everyone. The city pontoon used for fireworks doesn't have lights and a helper boat is needed for crew to denote them from. Rick Roberts used his personal boat last year but won't do it again due to embers burning his carpet. Keeping spectator boats away is big problem. Last year they were told to move out further, as distance is required for safety dependent upon size of fireworks mortar, but they did not. What is cost to use MLC Sheriff boat patrol? With lake level so low it could be done on shore of the island if owner would agree. Ask resorts if they would be interested in taking on this event. This year's Wahkon Day vendors will donate to the Community Event Fund. Bring this back to May 9 council meeting.

Vendor Policy for Main Street Property: Policy was extended by council through 2021. Do you want to continue? How do we advertise for weekend vendors? Facebook is the way to go. Marketplace on Facebook. Ask Ashly Hughes for guidance. Ad should be consistent no matter the platform. Insurance certificate isn't required for craft vendors as verified through League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT). What about food truck vendors with items different than our local establishments? Current policy doesn't allow for them. They draw people to Main Street. Get opinions from local businesses and bring back to May meeting.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Still waiting for spring and ice to melt on the ponds.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Closed Thursday 4/14. Will be attending LMCIT loss and control workshops in St Cloud. LMCIT is conducting their first visit here at city hall for safety. Cities have access to online research library for safety classes. Can all three cities work together for safety training? Clerk will attend Title VI civil rights protection webinar.

Duluth Street survey? Clerk thought knowing exact location of ROW would help in the fight against Old School Apartment tenant that is recycling air conditioners at his garage. Street ROW is only a few feet from the garages and likely being contaminated. S.E.H gave a high price of \$7000 as this area isn't platted. Mayor doesn't believe a survey is necessary for enforcement. Could check with other surveyors that have done work in the area. Contact MPCA regarding violation.

Button asked council members to drive the streets relative to upcoming spring blacktop budget. He can't believe how Lake Shore Blvd dropped and we took out 3' of soil to ensure blue clay didn't cause issues for reclamation project.

Bjornson reminded everyone of clean-up day 6/4. There will be a charge for second TV and/or monitor, as well as any tractor tires.

Zoning: Approval to 250, 260, 270 North Main for commercial signage. Clerk just obtained email from Sourcewell with possible zoning professionals, as their contract will end 12/31/2022. All three cities need services which would be great for a company to have clients in the same area.

MLC Sheriff Report; Wahkon Calls 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022: Thirty-nine calls made; medical, agency assist, theft, traffic, alarm, welfare check, etc.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brian Lee asked council if they had any questions regarding short term rentals (STR) that he can bring answers to the May meeting? Clerk explained how council will need to make motion to officially place the issue on a planning commission meeting to re-investigate whether to allow them, as currently they are prohibited. A few owners have indicated their support of allowing STR's, new owner of Olson property and relative of Bud Woolston. This topic will be on the 5/9 meeting to see whether to re-investigate whether to allow them as currently they are prohibited.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The May 9, 2022 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, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Public Works Supervisor Jake Weinreich received lift station alarm due to heavy rains and will arrive later. Professional city auditor Colleen Hoffman was present from Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC.

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

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

A) Minutes: 4/11/2022 Council Meeting

B) Arts & Craft Vendors in Wahkon, 10 am – 3 pm Sat. 5/14

C) Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) Annual Meeting Wed. 5/18 @ 10 am

D) Sally Doran Memorial Wahkon Cleanup Day 8 – 11 am Sat. 6/4

E) Mille Lacs County Spring Cleanup @ County Maint. Facility 6813 Hwy 27, Wahkon 3 – 7 pm Thurs. 6/9

F) League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Worker's Compensation PTSD Data

G) Charitable Gambling Report: 3/2022 Isle Lions Club \$338.23

H) Treasurer's Report Dated 4/30 Ending Balance \$670,475.06 & Receipts Register

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

J) Disbursement Register 5/9 Date Range 4/12 – 5/9 Total \$25,156.59

NEW BUSINESS: 2021 Financial Statements & Independent Auditor's Report, & Communications Letter: Hoffman, Philipp & Martell, PLLC: In order to accommodate travel time, this item was brought up on the agenda. Colleen Hoffman presented city audit and informed council they should be proud of Roeschlein. Her numbers are accurate, no audit journal entries necessary, and she doesn't hesitate to call with questions. There is information for local officials on state auditor website and our auditor is available to council as well. Our auditing firm is in Thief River Falls but as they already do City of Cromwell, they decided to add us. Wastewater fund is on track to pay off bonds. We have it "going on" as compared to other cities she sees. We are still cash basis and they prefer full accrual; audit price would stay the same. Accrual outlines assets and liabilities better. Audit deadline would change. Fire protection is paid directly from Charitable Gambling Fund which isn't part of the audit, so it appears we aren't offering it. Per clerk this is a state requirement; can't transfer funds into General Fund but must pay direct. Clerk and auditor will review this for future audits. Small cities with combined clerk/treasurer with one person office have lack of segregation of duties. Internal controls are noted and council must continue due diligence to review bills, payroll, etc. Fundraising activity note has been remedied as city is no longer running the event. Hoffman suggested council watch "All the Queens Horses" about a clerk that embezzled millions.

What does it take to be accrual? Inventory list. WW system has depreciated. Go with cost, not value, land owned by city. Page 22 schedule 2 wouldn't be included detailing 2021 invoices paid in 2022 if we were accrual. We don't need debt service fund at this time. Does it cost anything more? Need city list of assets going back 20 years. City hall building is fully depreciated. Hoffman noted that city technically owes for retirement as PERA employees aren't funding it fully. Amount was approximately \$85,000 in 2020 reduced down to \$69,900 for 2021. This currently isn't noted in cash basis audit but would be with accrual. Public employees have a very nice retirement benefit. Buck

thought council decided to begin accrual in 2021. Mayor recalled discussing it but clerk was nervous about the extra work. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to begin accrual audit in 2022. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works Supervisor Jake Weinreich arrived at approximately 6:20 pm.*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS & PETITIONS:** Junk/Unlicensed Vehicles Public Hearing: Letters were sent and tonight was their opportunity to be heard. Deadline for removal is 5/13/2022. Rogerson/Larson: Two vehicles unlicensed with flat tires. No one was present. Williams/Jost: Numerous unlicensed vehicles. One without hood and doors. No one was present.

**ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES:** Resolution No. 2022-0509 Adopting Findings of Fact and Reasons for Approval for Minor Subdivision Application of Mark Bruske CD-FO and Property Owners Andrew Rogers and Amy Vannunden: Weinrich spoke with City Engineer Dave Blommel and he agrees any costs associated with sewer and street access is responsibility of developer/owner. Buesgens was informed of same thing when they wanted Hill Street developed for their access years ago. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0509 with addition of two conditions that street and sewer improvements are responsibility of property owners. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Street Drainage Issues: Carlson/Maciazka: Carlson is concerned they have more water standing in their ditch (both sides of their driveway) than ever before, since Maciazka removed his culvert and they are requesting something be done about it. Maciazka was granted permission by former city employee Chris Weinreich to remove his non-functioning culvert before he blacktopped his driveway. Jake Weinreich and Street Commissioner Button went onsite and believe there is an abandoned culvert under Carlson driveway. Normally city installs first and then it is up to owner. Isn't that how we got into this problem? People don't install, fill their ditch, or don't replace them. There are a lot of places like this. Do we split 50/50 with owner? We gave owner permission to take it out so we need to help alleviate this. Will it drain correctly with electric box and pole in the area? Slope it over the driveways? Council agreed City Engineer Blommel should review the situation for possible solution. Derek Poshusta will have to install culvert that won't go anywhere. Big projects noted in the stormwater plan need grant funds, these are smaller issues but still causing issues, especially in the spring with heavy rains.

Marushin: Potential buyer paid for on-site visit by Mille Lacs County (MLC) to confirm wetland designation. Per MLC email "supposed "upland" area is in fact a type 7 forested wetland." Marushin is very upset and believes our lack of ditching caused the issues. There is a culvert under Larson accessory structure so water is moving. Ditch maintenance? Who's responsible for what and when? Big rain flushed the leaves out so it functions. MLC reply to Clerk questioning whether this was created by the city, was "Additionally, I found the water table to be within 12 inches of the surface and the establishment of a road would likely not raise the overall water table. The National Wetland Inventory has a history of missing forested wetlands due to their difficulty of being detect from aerials and lidar. I would not be surprised if this one was missed." Discuss this area with Engineer Blommel. Street integrity is key. Start with areas of concern and prioritize.

**Blight Properties & Use of Sourcewell for Enforcement:** Clerk sent letters to chronic blight properties reminding them of clean-up day and county hazardous waste collection. Sourcewell is willing to formally write letters, which may go further than clerk letters. Current ordinance defines 12" of grass as blight and inoperable vehicles must be housed within a lawfully erected building. City doesn't have

police department to issue tickets. City must obtain court order to enter someone's property to rectify issues. Due to lack of enforcement, some chronic properties continue unabated. Buck believes if we need to redo our ordinance for better enforcement capability, than we should. People have expectations when residing in city limits that there are city-wide standards. Bjornson would like to stop burdening neighbors with requirement to sign a complaint before city addresses issues.

Tenant at Old School Apartments is still recycling appliances collected from twin cities with assumption he is releasing freon and oils into the environment. Per manager, said tenant will be evicted at end of June. Pictures and letters were shared with manager. MPCA informed Clerk it is EPA jurisdiction due to reservation status and EPA has yet to reply. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has been notified. Sheriff's department doesn't want to document it either due to being more civil than criminal. Clerk will keep council advised and council agreed to begin discussion with Sourcewell on helping with blight properties.

Seasonal Worker Hourly Rate Increase Request: Per Weinreich Gary Kleen does a great job. We want to keep him here as long as we can. This will be his third summer and he will be moving closer to family in a few months. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to increase hourly rate to \$14 per hour to Gary Kleen. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Short Term Rentals (STRs): Current 30-day minimum rental ordinance is less than a year old. Included with agenda was written support to allow seven-day rentals with regulation suggestions from new property owner Sarah Patel; property used to be Olson estate. Stacy Gerrety email of support as a realtor who has had buyers interested in Wahkon properties for STRs. Brian Lee email with petition of signatures from 70 supporters. A couple local businesses signed, only a few actual Wahkon residents, while rest were from Bayview and/or surrounding areas.

Frederickson read a prepared statement respecting the ambition of those wishing to better themselves and their communities but it is his opinion that STRs do not benefit the majority of the local residents and hurts the few remaining local resorts. Heart of the matter is enforcement and liability. Motion by Frederickson to continue with 30-day minimum rental, seconded by Roberts. Discussion/debate ensued. Button agrees with Frederickson. Buck did some investigating and believes there is a way to make it work with less than 30 days. Bjornson agrees with Buck. This doesn't hurt resorts as they are booked. No longer have operational hotel in Wahkon.

Mayor reminded everyone this is not a public hearing but would allow some discussion. Derek Poshusta signed petition of support and wants his family able to continue tradition of being at the lake through STRs. Call cops if there are issues, everyone should be responsible for themselves. Richard Blomberg believes Mayor has conflict of interest as a real estate agent. Clerk reiterated city attorney has concluded there isn't and it could be said that all councilmembers, as property owners, have a potential conflict, but there isn't. Allan & Teresa Feltmann were thrilled when Olson estate stopped STR in garage apartment next door to them. They sent letter of opposition last year to council. More and more could open and we would lose neighbors, which is an asset. Neighbors can discuss things. You lose that neighborhood community. A woman spoke from the audience who makes her living cleaning STRs and it brings money to community. Tara Oberfeld explained how a neighbor to an STR sold it for her, as they loved hearing renter's stories. Button noted incident of heavy drinking and fighting last year; police showed up three hours later. People have invested their life savings into their retirement home and don't want a motel next door. Bjornson stated neighbors party too and back in history, several resorts were on Lake Shore Blvd. This was/is a resort community. Remind council we represent everyone, not just Lake Shore Blvd and Bennett Street neighborhood. Angie Lapinski

attended to hear concerns. She grew up in Isle, part of a family of entrepreneurs, and confirmed her brother Ben Lapinski, owner of Beachside isn't against STRs. Family home in Isle is next to Hunter Windfield's Resort, where a compromise was to erect fence for privacy. She wants to share the love she has for our communities with others. Buck noted the town looks sad with many buildings unused. Frederickson reminded everyone there are times you can't find a place to park on Main Street.

Brian Lee stated his property had two incidents relative to STR tenants. He didn't know permit was required and has had huge learning curve. Suggest minimum rental of seven-days with limit on number of beds. Not a police issue. Nothing more than when your relatives come up. Noise aware system and security cameras could be required. Work with neighbors. Price for one month is equal to one week rent in summer. Half Main Street businesses are shut down. Malmo doesn't have a police force and they allow them. East side of the lake has regulations and there is a way to work together to do it tastefully. He wants it reconsidered at next month's council meeting if voted down tonight Frederickson motion from above was reiterated. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to continue with 30-day minimum rental. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, and Button. Opposed: Buck and Bjornson. Motion carried. Clerk noted the monthly discussions are getting to be too much for staff, council and citizens. Based on Lee's request to add it again to next month's agenda, formal council decision is needed on how to handle future discussions on this issue. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to table any discussion of changing short-term rental regulations until 2023 when new council is in place. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

July Fourth Fireworks: Haven't had a chance to ask island owner. Beachside Resort has old pontoon we could use. Button suggested using our pontoon to launch from Bare Ass Beach and to detonate from land. Last year, pyrotechnics company could only be 60 feet away from the pontoon to detonate, which was dangerous and reason why Roberts won't use his pontoon anymore. Do we have volunteers? Need to add lights on pontoon. Roberts could store it overnight. Not ideal spot for viewing but key factor is safe distance from people and buildings. Close down the beach using our signs. Only other option is we stop doing them. How many more years can we do it financially? Button, Roberts and Weinreich will coordinate with hired contractor. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to purchase \$6000 worth of fireworks, including operator fees to do the display. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Vendor Policy for Main Street Property Food Truck Discussion: Mugg's said they wouldn't mind a few specialty food trucks now and again, but patrons must not use their property to sit and eat. Wahkon Inn believes it would be detrimental to existing businesses. People would love to sit outside and eat, but whose restrooms will they use? Per Tom Remer, businesses are barely making it, don't take away their customers. Roberts confirmed hearing the same.

Wahkon Days: Parade & Grand Marshal: Should there be a grand marshal? Who should select it? Used to be WD Committee but that has dissolved due to auditor flagging the city for conducting this event in the past. Per attorney, a non-profit should take it over. Will ask WAVE Committee if they would be comfortable selecting a grand marshal. When emailing WAVE of upcoming agenda, make sure to formally request volunteers.

Parade was hosted by City last year by obtaining a parade permit and a volunteer chair person. Council agreed city can pull 2022 parade permit. Buck asked if we want staff involved and thought they weren't last year. Staff time was budgeted for Weinreich last year and again this year. Clerk was sick so she didn't have much time in.



REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich is waiting on discharge results. MLIR meeting is 5/18 and they were shut off for a time due to heavy rains.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich and Button did annual street review for blacktop. Frederickson suggested New Castle, formerly Hard Drives, as they are doing work in Onamia. Weinreich will request quotes and bring to June meeting.

Roeschlein: Centennial quilt from 2017 was donated back to the city recently. Fern & Harry Wilkes won it and their daughter Mary Jackson thought it belonged back here. It is proudly displayed in the community hall. Keller Williams Realty "RED" day is 5/12 and they volunteered to clean Vets Park flower beds again this year. Midway Garden Club will plant Main Street flower barrels on 5/25. They've done this for many years now by donating \$100 and city pays the rest. Thank you everyone!

Button: Looking for additional volunteers to help Keller Williams at Vets Park. Eleven Walk to Honor pavers were ordered but they may not be installed by Memorial Day. No ceremony this year.

Park land behind the City Park bathroom has had some work done. Will discuss with Park Commissioner Roberts on what can be done this fall. Lots of glass on the beach at Vets Park. Bury it with additional sand? Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) previously suggested installing coconut chair log to help erosion.

Buck questioned how/when a new council is put in place? After the election, new councilmembers will take their seats at 1/2023 meeting. Mayor and two councilmember seats will be on the ballot; Bjornson, Frederickson and Roberts terms expire 2022.

Zoning: No permits for April. Clerk plans to discuss with Sourcewell, after spring zoning rush, the feasibility of still servicing all three cities beyond 2022. It would be beneficial to them to have three cities in general area.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The May 25, 2022 special meeting of the Wahkon Planning Commission (PC) comprised of councilmembers, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:01 pm. Mayor Bjornson called this meeting and public notice was duly posted. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Present were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, and Ronda Bjornson. Absent was Brenda Buck. Employees/staff present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich, Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein, and Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell. Public notice stated community hall, but that was rented, so meeting was held in public works shop, at same address. Notice on door notified citizens of change.

Meeting Minutes: 3/28/2022 Special Planning Commission: Protocol is to approve PC minutes at next PC meeting. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to approve minutes. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business: Fencing: Section 5.4 Proposed Regulations: Huebsch finds it useful to draft permit and then ordinance. Sample is from another city and it functions well. Certificate of survey, existing survey markers, or signed statement that neighbors agree to placement would be required. Any neighbor disputes would be a civil matter; city and zoning staff should stay out of it. Bjornson noted sometimes city helps too much, as it should be up to property owner. Difficult in small town where you know everyone but it is something to strive for. Proposed changes were agreed upon as written. *Councilmember Brenda Buck arrived at 5:07 pm.*

Carport Possible Standards: Included lengthy description of United Metal structure specifications. Cheaper ones don't hold up to wind and sun; even top of line have issues. Proposed ordinance is from City of Motley. It was agreed to increase 12-foot sidewalls to 14-foot to accommodate RVs.

Commercial Signs Sections 5.9 Proposed Changes: Approved to proceed as is.

New Business: Blight Ordinance Sample: Huebsch provided sample from another city working on the same issue. Strongly suggest we first find means for enforcement such as having an agreement with City of Isle Police department. Example was provided of policing service agreement between City of Ottertail and Perham Police. Having ordinance in place without ability to enforce is where we are today. Letters sent seldom bring full compliance. Process could be that Sourcewell mails up to two letters and thereafter administration fines could be imposed. Best practice would be to have fees uploaded to state via police department for ease of administrating tickets. Useful if both cities have similar blight regulations and process. When owners are fined, that will bring quick compliance. Can policing fees be assessed? That is an attorney question. Issues here are inoperable vehicles, maintenance of exterior, unsafe old structures, and excess commercial vehicles parked at residence. Language could be added, no parking of vehicles on grass and/or limit quantity. Does the process begin after a signed complaint or does city go proactive and take stock of issues every spring? It was agreed, the first step is to discuss with Isle council to see if they are supportive of an agreement for enforcement using their police department.

Set Next Meeting and/or Public Hearing Date: Public hearing for proposed zoning amendments will be 7/11 at 5:45 pm with council meeting following at 6 pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

The June 13, 2022 meeting of the Wahkon City Council 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, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Public Work Supervisor Jake Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to approve meeting agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A) Minutes: 5/9/2022 Council Meeting

B) City Hall Closed Fri. 6/17 through Wed. 6/22

C) League of MN Cities (LMC) Maximum Dues Increase 3.5% Letter

D) Charitable Gambling Report: 3/2022 MLDS Zero; 4/2022 Isle Lions Club \$503.02 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$1463.53

E) Treasurer's Report Dated 5/31 Ending Balance \$653,714.74 & Receipts Register

F) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

G) Disbursement Register 6/13 Date Range 5/10 –6/13 Total \$29,210.40

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2022-0613 Approving 2022 Election Judges for State Primary & General Elections: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0613. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Judges will be Christine Bjornson, Teresa Feltmann, Elaine Freichels, Patti Packer, Karrie Roeschlein, Shirley Shearen, Barb Stone, and Sandy Weber. Clerk Roeschlein will be head election judge. Regular judges will be paid \$11 per hour and Clerk will receive her regular wage.

NEW BUSINESS: EPA Unannounced Inspection @ Frederickson's Marina: Frederickson provided email correspondence to clerk. He has discussed this with MLC Attorney Joe Walsh and wanted council aware. EPA personnel from Chicago made unannounced visit relative to his marina fuel tank. Is it worth asking our city atty? He is in compliance with everything and is providing EPA with requested documentation. Walsh couldn't comment, likely due to ongoing county court cases. Is this a city issue? More a private issue that you brought to our attention. Should we spend taxpayers' money? Bjornson and Roberts believe it is private business matter and it doesn't affect the city at this time. City doesn't license or regulate underground gas tanks. It is frustrating as EPA Chicago office informed clerk they wouldn't send anyone to deal with the freon issue at Old School Apartments. See below for more information.

Blacktopping Quotes: Two quotes were received from three requests. MN Paving \$26,750, who are currently in the area and would do at by month end. Rocon Paving \$22,975 didn't give a date of completion. Budget is \$50,000 for blacktopping. Clerk Roeschlein stated her street hasn't had blacktop for a few years now. Blacktop was deteriorating and two blocks were removed, with only one block blacktopped a few years ago due, to budget restraints. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to hire Rocon Paving, as the lowest bidder, and to blacktop additional areas, not to exceed blacktop budget. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Street Commissioner Button will work with Weinreich to determine what more to add.

Button asked if city engineer reviewed Maciazka/Carlson drainage concerns on Lake Shore Blvd. Nothing received yet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: July Fourth Fireworks Insurance Form Details & Date 7/2 or 7/4: Street dance and fireworks in Onamia will be 7/3. Council decided on 7/4 and they'll be shot off the pontoon from Bare Ass Beach. Use bull horn to keep boaters at safe distance. As 7/4 is Monday, there shouldn't be many boats. Button, Roberts and Weinreich will coordinate with pyrotechnic team.

New Website Quotes: Clerk obtained quotes from Evolv \$3499, MSCI \$6200, Municipal Impact \$914.95 not including content transfer, then \$565.95 yearly subscription, DanieGeo Productions \$2000 estimate and \$100 month to upload documents as needed and do WAVE Facebook. Our prior person was paid \$75 per month. If we go with a bigger company we will be lost. Clerk doesn't have time or IT knowledge to do this. Need someone that is passionate about it! Danie Powell recently moved to Isle and was present. Current website is very out of date. Mobile browsing is not functioning. She has experience in this field and wants our website to be an active breathing resource! \$40 per hour with estimate of 50 hours to get it up and running. There still is more research to do relative to how our site is hosted through Diversified Media, as part of the cable franchise agreement. Messenger reporter Bob Statz offered her area pictures. She is also a photographer, which would be beneficial to the website. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to pay 25 hours as down payment to DanieGeo Productions for a brand-new city website. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Cash vs Accrual Memo: Auditor presented 2021 audit last month. Per her suggestion, council decided to go with accrual and not cash in the future. There was some confusion, as some recalled informing clerk to do accrual in the past. Clerk provided meeting minutes and no official decision was made until last month. Clerk provided memo with internet details on both. Cash is allowed for cities under 2500 population, Wahkon has 235. Memo included comments through clerk's list serve wherein most said to continue with cash, as accrual can be difficult and costly. City of Upsala went to accrual and new clerk was questioning high cost of audit. They were allowed to return back to cash. Isle is cash and has police, fire, cemetery, airport, and liquor store. Wahkon only has wastewater utility. Onamia is accrual due to grant/loan requirements. Per USDA representative, Wahkon won't be required to have accrual relative to upcoming project. Button read the information and understands why we would want to stay cash. Council questioned how many cities are cash? Clerk will ask state auditor. Motion by Button, seconded by Buck to stay on cash basis for audits. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Cities of Ottertail & Perham Police Services Agreement Sample Re: Blight Enforcement Using City of Isle Police: Clerk spoke with Isle Police Chief Mark Reichel and he is willing to enter into a contract if his council approves. Sample agreement was for \$75 pr hour. Sourcewell is willing to send blight letters but there must be enforcement. Once agreement is in place, tickets could be issued. How to split fines and such would need to be outlined. Council agreed to move forward on this and to supply Isle with sample contract. If Isle council approves, we will begin drafting new ordinances.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Discharging of ponds will be done by end of month. He is getting one more quote for fence repair.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Attended Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Summit at Grand Casino Mille Lacs with spotlight on entrepreneurship. Clean up day was slow; \$630 in donations received. National Leadership Training for three days at Grand Casino Hinckley will be 6/20-6/22. Mayor is invited to Mille Lacs Sheriff's Advisory Group meeting on 7/12. Anyone else interested in attending? Clerk to attend with Mayor.

Old School Apartments: EPA will send letter regarding appliance recycling and freon being released, but won't send agent out from Chicago. MPCA directed us to EPA due to reservation status. EPA won't supply us with copy of letter nor talk with city attorney as it is considered "on-going" investigation, but was informed the city or Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe would need to be involved for enforcement. Garrett Greeman is being evicted 6/30, which may end up in court. Council agreed city attorney need not become involved at this time.

Wahkon Days: Tammy Johnston volunteered to chair parade, sponsored by city. Weinreich will erect parade signage. Mille Lacs Health Foundation will have their butterfly release. Wahkon Inn and Mugg's will each have bands and will need to do their own clean up. Beer wagon is no longer our responsibility. Get information to Messenger. Buck offered to drop off MLDS folding tables again this year. Thanks! Danie Powell offered to do the event flyer. Council agreed Community Event Fund would be used to rent three restrooms and a sink for public health reasons, same as last year.

City attorney sent Brian Lee letter to stop & desist advertising rental of less than 30 days on Airbnb.com per ordinance.

Roberts: Two very old Birch trees were removed in Veterans Park. One was diseased, half the bark around base was gone and other one was rotten half way up. Didn't want them to fall and damage monolith. Rocky's Tree Service gave us a discount for removal and stump grinding. She also plants trees too.

Button: Braham Monument requires ten pavers for minimum engraving order. They are busier than ever and suggested a different timeline for ordering in the future. He rushed our order so Button could have pavers in the Walk to Honor by Memorial Day weekend. What about taking the forty names from the WW I plaque and getting pavers engraved? Council liked the idea. WAVE Committee will discuss it also. Button contacted another monument company who requires 25 for minimum order.

Buck questioned whether city should hire someone part time to learn the clerk's job as she plans to retire in six years and finding good employees is difficult. Discussion ensued. How do you know they'll take the job after being trained all those years? Discuss this at budget meeting, along with police cost for future enforcement of blight.

Zoning: Three permits issued in May.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brian Lee questioned how someone would obtain permission for a resort; through a conditional use permit (CUP). He also asked about regulations on bringing in dirt relative to his neighbor's new residence. Dirt work for foundation is included in the approved permit. Drainage should be contained to their property and must not adversely affect another property. Floodplain ordinance requires owners to build out of the floodplain which is 1254.1 elevation.

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

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The July 11, 2022 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, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, 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 the consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

- A) Minutes: None
- B) IRS Mileage Rate Increase .625 Cents Effective 7/1/22: New Wahkon Rate
- C) Sacred Heart Church Bazaar Sunday 8/14/2022 On-Sale 3.2 Liquor License
- D) Treasurer's Report Dated 6/30 Ending Balance \$643,773.85 & Receipts Register
- E) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report
- F) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Tax Settlement Report \$140,009.37
- G) Disbursement Register 7/11 Date Range 6/14 –7/11 Total \$25,292.97

NEW BUSINESS: Notice of Filing for City Offices: 8/2 – 8/16: Offices to be filled at the General Election are mayor for two-year term, and two (2) council members, each for a four-year term. Office will be open, as required, until 5:00 pm on last day, 8/16. Filing fee is \$2.00. Withdrawal deadline is 8/18 until 5 pm.

Abandonment & 90-Day Absence Rule Discussion: In past, with lack of candidates, it has been noted that snowbirds were allowed, wherein they may be out of state for more than 90 days. Having a number of snowbirds on council may mean not having a quorum present here. Covid-19 lessened virtually attendance rules but they are now in place; posting notice, public access at site where member is, with visual and audio at all times. Roberts stated he was informed his attendance wasn't needed. Buck assured her place was publicly accessible. Clerk is new to IT and conducting meetings with faulty broadband could cause issues with discussion and especially motions. Covid grant funds were used for the meeting computer for such attendance. Clerk will work diligently on process for virtually attendance in future. Council agreed 90-day rule isn't applicable as snowbirds aren't abandoning their office.

Mille Lacs Area Health Foundation Donation Request: Council agreed they prefer to donate to something specific which usually occurs annually in the fall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Carlson/Maciazka Street Drainage City Engineer Memo: Four options were outlined. Button is for the least evasive which is filling ditch forcing drainage over driveways. There are numerous utility lines in the ditch. Adverse drainage doesn't occur annually. Clerk spoke with Mary Carlson recently after she reviewed the memo and she agreed with this option to see if it works. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to hire contractor to do the work promptly at city expense. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Wahkon WW Project Questions: "Would the city have any concerns with transferring, in advance, any potential cultural material that may be found during construction to the Mille Lacs Band? Typically, any cultural material that is found (other than human remains or

associated funerary items) would be considered property of the city. However, the Mille Lacs Tribal Historic Preservation Office has requested ANY material that is found, be given to the Mille Lacs Band.” Council needs a definition of what comprises Native American cultural material before agreeing to this. Curt Kalk, Government Affairs for Mille Lacs Band (MLBO), was in attendance and agreed, giving example of materials found elsewhere. Specific definitions in memorandum of understanding are needed. Cultural is vague and too broad. He also suggested utilizing federal funds for a designated person with archaeology experience, to be onsite to review items for all parties involved. Said person could be shared by all three cities, Isle, Onamia and Wahkon, as all have large utility projects underway. Someone that is knowledgeable to preserve items, but also aware that contractors and materials can’t stand idle for too long, due to cost and pending contractor projects. Some of this information was conveyed by Kalk during open forum section at the end of this meeting, but was added directly here, and he will discuss this with MLBO.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Discharge is complete. Apply alum end of August, if needed. Chemical prices are much higher.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Gave summary of National Leadership Development Conference she attended 6/20-6/22. Very informational and great network opportunity. Tomorrow night, clerk and mayor will attend MLC Sheriff’s Advisory Group meeting in Milaca. New website is still being researched; updates forthcoming.

Button explained how WAVE decided against a picnic on Sunday of Wahkon Days, but Christine Bjornson offered to take this on with volunteers she has, which will be fully discussed at next WAVE meeting.

WW I plaque in the park could be mounted on black granite preserving it and making it unremovable. Council was supportive of the idea to engrave Walk to Honor pavers for each of the forty names on the plaque. Hopefully Messenger could do a story. Special program could be scheduled once their installed. Braham Monument is half staffed with lots of work, making it difficult to do small paver orders. Current minimum order is ten. He worked diligently to have our order ready to install for Memorial Day. Funds could come from Veterans Fund or WAVE. Two large birch trees were removed for safety of people and the monolith.

Frederickson asked on progress of Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) contract. Attorney made approved changes and contract was forwarded for their board approval.

Bjornson brought up fact our welcome entrance signs need to be replaced. Any thoughts or ideas? When Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway began, there were some suggestions for byway signage. Scenic byway grant funding opportunity may cover this, but we’re still waiting to hear if we were selected. Those funds would first go toward city portion of Main Street amenities for 2026 MnDOT highway project.

Zoning & Other Business: Three permits were approved along with zoning question. Property owner requested permission to bring in their storage container to abut their garage. They offered to extend roof line and side it like the garage. Storage containers are only allowed temporarily for construction per ordinance but it doesn’t specify roof pitch for such an example as this. Council agreed to adhere to ordinance and not allow this application of a storage container.

Zoning Amendments Public Hearing Date? Clerk missed deadline for proposed 7/11 public hearing, which must be published and posted. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch can't make second Monday meetings but he didn't see any challenges if he weren't present. Zoning Ordinance has had four amendments since original adoption and clerk suggested a brand-new ordinance be adopted with all changes, which council agreed with. Public hearing is set for 8/8 at 5:30 before council meeting at 6 pm.

Ben Lapinski conditional use permit (CUP) is pending, as subdivision must be recorded first. Resolution approving subdivision required CUP process for his violation of storing numerous fish houses on residential property. Council agreed to work with Lapinski to expediate this through a special meeting.

MLC Sheriff's Dept Wahkon 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report: Informational.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Curt Kalk, gave additional insight regarding U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Wahkon WW Project Questions, which was added to paragraph above, so all information is together.

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

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer



The August 8, 2022 special meeting of the Wahkon Planning Commission (PC) comprised of councilmembers, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:30 pm. Mayor Bjornson called this meeting through public notice, which was duly posted, and it began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Present were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, and Ronda Bjornson; absent: Brenda Buck. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell attended virtually.

Meeting Minutes: 5/25/2022 Special Planning Commission: Protocol is to approve PC minutes at next PC meeting: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve the meeting minutes: Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Proposed Text Amendments to Zoning Ordinance: Mayor opened the public hearing at 5:31 pm. Proposed changes are duly noted within Ordinance 2022-\_\_\_ “Amending The City of Wahkon Zoning Ordinance Regarding Fences, Commercial Signs, and Carports”, which was part of the agenda. There were no comments from the audience. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to close the public hearing: Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing closed at 5:33 pm.

Discussion and Recommendations: Motion to Council: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to make recommendation to council to adopt proposed Ordinance 2022-\_\_\_ “Amending The City of Wahkon Zoning Ordinance Regarding Fences, Commercial Signs, and Carports.” Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The August 8, 2022 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, and Ronda Bjornson; Absent: Brenda Buck. Employees present: Wastewater Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein; City Engineer Dave Blommel attended virtually. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts 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: 7/11 & 6/13 Council Meetings

B) Notice of Filing for City Offices: 8/2 – 8/16

C) Charitable Gambling Report: 5/2022 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$1001.68 & \$185.87; 6/2022 \$4.40 and \$400 Donation to Kids Fishing Contest

D) Treasurer's Report Dated 8/3 Ending Balance \$807,937.08 & Receipts Register

E) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

F) Disbursement Register 8/8 Date Range 7/12 –8/8 Total \$27,140.53

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Ordinance No. 2022-1 Amending the City of Wahkon Zoning Ordinance Regarding Fences, Commercial Signs, and Carports: Planning Commission, comprised of councilmembers, recommended adoption. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1 AMENDING THE CITY OF WAHKON ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING FENCES, COMMERCIAL SIGNS, AND CARPORTS. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2022-0808 Approving Summary Language for Publication of Ordinance No. 2022-1. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0808. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2022-0808A Accepting 2022 July Fourth Celebration Donations: Mayor read donators names and thanked them for the financial support: Cooper Fox, East Central Energy, Frederickson Marina, Hans Woelfle @ Keller Williams Realty, Island View Resort, Isle Lions Club, Isle Sportsman's Club, Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal, Mille Lacs Drift Skippers, Mille Lacs Island Resort, Mugg's of Mille Lacs, Sacred Hearth Church, SCI Broadband, Teals Market, Wahkon Inn, Wahkon Presbyterian Church, and Wayne's Sanitation for a total of \$4050.00. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0808. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: MnDOT Preliminary 2022-0725 Main Street 2026 Plans: Engineer Dave Blommel: Council agreed to move this up on the agenda. City staff recently reviewed plan with DOT based upon public and council input. There will be a transition zone for ADA. DOT plan includes grass but we may want something different as there isn't city water. National Scenic Byway grant application is still pending and city will once again submit application for Transportation Alternative Program grant, both grants would be used for city cost portion. Few parking spaces will be eliminated due to bump outs and ADA corners. Currently people park too close to intersections as they aren't marked. DOT would credit us for cost of normal project and we would pay difference for anything above and beyond. Based upon Clerk suggestions, DOT agreed to widen 3<sup>rd</sup> St. E. intersection as it is

narrow. Bjornson asked if the driveway at corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. E. could be eliminated if new owner of the property decided to build garage off alley? Blommel believes DOT would happily eliminate it. A few extra parking spaces were added around the curve to Isle, but not as many as first thought. Per Weinreich's suggestion, blacktop will be kept around lift station #3 to accommodate repair trucks. Angle of North Main will be corrected to DOT standards. City requested 10-foot parking lanes, but after DOT review they were decreased to 8 foot due to bike lane. Drainage culverts will all be redone to DOT specifications. Old highway entrance to Beachside Resort will be removed. Blommel pointed out overlay plan where DOT validates different size vehicles can travel the road safely and believes this plan is ready for approval. Audience member Jon Berczyk wants safety for pedestrians and worries additional parking on highway could be dangerous. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve MnDOT Main Street/Hwy 27 preliminary plans. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Blommel will inform MnDOT to move forward with the plan. After their internal review, city will need to hold public hearing for this project slated for 2026.

NEW BUSINESS: Mille Lacs Island Resort Additional Connections: Council agreed to move this item up on the agenda to discuss with Blommel. Jodi Kanera, General Manager of MLIR, emailed whether city would allow empty lots to connect to sewer. Currently no additional connections can be made per current agreement but new unsigned agreement has clause that such additions would be discussed. Blommel has no concerns when new pipe is laid and addition of a few more connections won't make much difference to overall volume. He agrees with council, procedure must be the same for them as it is for our citizens; permit, inspection and connection fee, currently \$1500. Clerk will notify MLIR of council decision to allow.

NEW BUSINESS: Wahkon Days 2022 Memo: There will be arts & craft vendors, Spirit of the Wings fundraiser, music on Friday at Wahkon Inn and Saturday at Mugg's, with parade on Saturday. Sunday is the WAVE kid's fishing contest and free picnic. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson, to close 2<sup>nd</sup> St. E from Hwy to Meshigun Ave., portion of alley in Block 9, north half of alley in Block 9, 1<sup>st</sup> St. W from Main St. to Summit Ave, including blocking off alley within Block 16, post temporary no parking on parade detour route, line up area, and waive noise ordinance for Wahkon Days 8/19-8/21/2022. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon New Website Update: Daniegeo Productions: Danie Powell showed sample from her computer for all to see. Don't want to upgrade fully until she has more direction. Want it easy to navigate, be viewer friendly on cellphone, and easy to pop in and pop out. She is now able to post meeting notices as requested by clerk. Her goal is to have local news and events, community resources for citizens and tourists alike.

"Show It" is a program platform she uses to set up design, which would cost \$20 to \$30 per month, including backups. Currently our website is using Word Press, which is outdated. Show It has a help desk and all info could be transferred to another, if Danie was unable to continue in the future. Clerk Roeschlein noted that Danie and Diversified Media need to discuss what is free to Wahkon per our cable franchise agreement. Council agreed they liked her design and to proceed.

REPORTS: Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Blacktop begins tomorrow.

Roeschlein: Jim Lease is a vendor requesting permission to set up Friday 8/19 and stay set up until after the Wahkon Day vendors leave on 8/20 as he has a large display. He will pay the \$10 market vendor fee to city and fee to Go Savvy Social for Saturday 8/20 for two spots. Council agreed contingent we receive copy of his insurance.

Clerk is speaking with a possible contractor for zoning services in 2023, as Sourcewell can no longer continue. They don't have staff to handle anyone outside their service district. Wahkon, Isle & Onamia thought we could entice them to continue due to our proximity. If staffing improves in the future, they would be sure to contact us.

Council had inquired as to how many cities are cash versus accrual for year end accounting. Per Office of State Auditor: 2020 there were 345 cash and 509 accrual, then in 2021 cash increased and accrual decreased by one.

Veterans Park: Button discussed WWI memorial, which he was asked to remove, but was unable to saw the metal posts. Idea is to mount the monument to granite to make it more permanent. Black India Granite is way out of line in price so we won't be able to match the existing monolith. Mesabi or North Star granite with waves of gray & black would cost \$4500 to \$5000 not including cost for footings. WAVE tentatively approved this project but awaits formal quote. May 2023 is goal to have it in place, including Walk to Honor pavers for each of the forty names on the plaque. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to move forward with the WWI Plaque Granite Monument and Walk to Honor Pavers with use of WAVE and Veterans Park Funds. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Button will coordinate with Braham Monument.

Bjornson: County Commissioner David Oslin contacted her regarding upcoming federal court case in Minneapolis between Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and county sheriff and attorney this Thursday at 11 am. Anyone interested could ride with Oslin as she is unable to attend, due to a conflict.

Zoning & 2022 Permit List: Four permits issued for a total of eleven permits thus far for 2022.

Meshigun Point Properties Update: Frederickson had very good meeting with Jake Huebsch and Bogart, Pederson & Assoc. (their surveyor) regarding final plat of two single units, final phase of development. They meet again on 8/15 to ensure all details are known and plan of action agreed upon.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brain Lee asked if city has an economic or comprehensive plan. No but city did discuss comp plan in past and thought due to our small size the cost wasn't warranted. City doesn't have city water which can be a detriment for growth. We depend upon MLC and East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) to help businesses. Council agreed this issue is timely with pending 2026 MnDOT Main Street project. How can we grow the city? Possibly new zoning administrator could help direct us through brainstorming meetings in 2023 to revitalize Wahkon.

It was noted that Bob Statz from Mille Lacs Messenger did a great article recently on Wahkon's new businesses. Thanks Bob!

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The August 15, 2022 special meeting of the Wahkon Planning Commission (PC), comprised of councilmembers, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:06 pm. Mayor Bjornson called this meeting through public notice, which was duly posted, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers Rick Roberts, Tony Button, and Ronda Bjornson were present; absent were Chip Frederickson and Brenda Buck. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell was also present.

Meeting Minutes: 8/8/2022 Special Planning Commission: Protocol is to approve PC minutes at next PC meeting: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Button to approve meeting minutes. Ayes: Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application for Ben Lapinski to operate a commercial business at 400 South Main within the Mixed Municipal Zoning District: Huebsch summarized staff report indicating commercial use is allowed in mixed municipal district with reasonable conditions. Property has been surveyed as part of the subdivision approval granted in recent past. He noted Lapinski was approved a fence permit under the old ordinance, as new one was just adopted and must be published before becoming effective. One citizen contacted him with concerns of fence becoming unsightly. Property would be used for auto repair of Beachside Resort business vehicles. Storage and repair of fish houses, also necessary resort ice fishing business equipment. At the resort itself, located at 550 North Main, he doesn't have much dead storage area. Plan includes erecting building for repair work and to thaw equipment. *Councilmember Brenda Buck arrived at 5:11 pm.*

Mayor opened the public hearing at 5:12 pm. Applicant Ben Lapinski was present. Joan Straw explained past history with Lapinski regarding property lines, gardens, garbage and new fence. She has discussed this with staff and mayor. Some assumptions on both our parts have been cleared up mostly. Buried garbage onsite from prior owner was unearthed during land excavation and was plowed toward her yard. Complaint was heard for violation of fish house storage rule, which is why he wants CUP. She assumed fence would be at her elevation, but it was raised. Fence takes away from her property enjoyment. Ben and I are now comfortable with calling each other. In looking at corner of the fence now, she thinks it will work out fine working with Ben. Huebsch noted new fence ordinance requires natural grade and 6" off property line installation, but Lapinski fell under prior fence ordinance. Wanted fence off the ground to provide neighbors more privacy. Lapinski considered erecting fence past the driveway. Straw's fence is in the way currently. He may extend it 30 feet than what currently was installed. Neighbor Allen Rogers told him he isn't concerned at this time regarding no fence on his side. Plantings or something may be done in the future. Lapinski went back to far corner of his property and he can't see Straw's door. Straw has a dog that sometimes goes under the fence. Per Ben she could plant bushes as they discussed.

Tom Jackson questioned why nobody asked him. Only knew about this when excavation began. His property abuts Lapinski and he has issues with people trespassing; please consider some barrier to prevent this. Clerk read email in support of approving this CUP from Chip Frederickson, councilmen and local business owner. Present was Robb Dubbs, owner of Mugg's, who stated Ben's ice fishing business has been good for Wahkon establishments and he encourages anything we can do to support this. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to close public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing closed at 5:29 pm.

Discussion and Recommendations: Motion to Council: Button questioned storage of propane tanks. Resort has storage caged area, which will continue. Storage of private fish houses will have tanks kept with their house. Plans include a driveway gate, as annually some are stolen. Roberts asked if some fish houses currently stored at resort will be moved. Yes, some of the orange ones near the highway will be moved to this property. Future MnDOT Main Street Project will likely require the resort to stop storing items in their right-of-way. Huebsch brought up condition of no camping and asked how scrap would be disposed of. A community he knows is having issues with old boats piling up. Lapinski has scrap metal guy that picks up items 3-4 times per year. Lapinski questioned ability of allowing fish house owners to stay overnight for the 3-4 weeks when ice is good for side by sides, but not trucks pulling fish houses. Huebsch explained this could be allowed with conditions for a specified time. Council agreed there aren't facilities to accommodate this and it would be hard to police it. Neighbors could be concerned over drinking, noise, etc. Not worth addressing this for such limited time frame. There won't be any resort type lodging in the fish houses, strictly storage with maintenance work inside, mostly in winter, and summer should be quiet. Currently there are no abandoned fish houses and he has storage contract language to deal with them. Fish houses shouldn't be seen. Location makes sense per Mayor. Building to be constructed in October with mechanics bathroom. Roberts asked about lighting. Motion lights on building and security cameras. Hours of operation? Can't pinpoint this, as they plow early, but he'll take that into consideration relative to neighbors. Huebsch suggested Lapinski be allowed to continue his fence under old fence requirements to match existing fence aesthetics. No parking on street due to snow plowing regulations. Motion by Button, seconded by Buck to recommend council authorize conditional use permit to Ben Lapinski with two conditions (1) no overnight use and (2) owner shall be allowed to erect and extend a fence that is of the same manner and consistency as the approved fence already in place. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Button to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The August 15, 2022 Wahkon special council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:46 pm. Meeting was scheduled to begin at 5:30 but the Planning Commission meeting held before this meeting, ran longer than anticipated. Mayor Bjornson called this meeting through public notice, which was posted as required, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell was also present.

Planning Commission Recommendations & Council Action: Ben Lapinski Conditional Use Permit (CUP): Planning Commission recommendation is to approve CUP with two conditions.

Resolution No. 2022-0815 “Conditional Use Approval” for Ben Lapinski to operate a commercial business located at 400 South Main, PID #25-017-2401 with two conditions (1) no person shall use fish houses, recreation vehicles, or other similar appurtenances for overnight use (2) the property owner shall be allowed to erect and extend a fence that is of the same manner and consistency as to the approved fence permit issued on 7/22/22 (Permit #P11-22). Motion by Button, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0815 approving conditional use permit to Ben Lapinski with two conditions. Ayes: Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Button to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The September 12, 2022 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: Public Works Supervisor Jacob 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 Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 8/8 Council Meetings

B) League of MN Cities (LMC) Annual Dues Renewal \$433 & MN Mayors Assoc. Membership \$30

C) Charitable Gambling Report: 7/2022 Isle Lions Club \$2691.51 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$2333.60

D) Treasurer's Report Dated 8/31 Ending Balance \$803,931.94 & Receipts Register

E) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

F) Disbursement Register 9/12 Date Range 8/9 – 9/12 Total \$88,076.11

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PETITIONS: Short Term Rental (STR) Land Use Violation: Bonita Monson received stop & desist letter written by Sourcewell and was present to request ability to continue. She asked four years ago and was informed there were no requirements. Began in 1949 as resort, never had one issue all those years. She has a home next door and is onsite. Don't understand how one bad site can cause all of this. Onamia has no regulations and Isle charges \$200 fee. Wahkon should require a fee and if there are problems then it could be revoked. Her patrons frequent Wahkon businesses. Renting it out allows the family to continue enjoying the land. Current rule is no one can rent less than 30 days. Frederickson asked if she could obtain a variance? Clerk noted that people are informing her another STR is renting less than 30. How do we prove it? Clerk recalls none of our attorneys, nor the county sheriff's department will deal with ordinance enforcement. This issue could be addressed in agreement with Isle Police Dept in addition to blight enforcement where misdemeanor tickets are issued. Damien Toven is Isle's attorney. Council originally passed a motion to not discuss STRs anymore until new 2023 council is in place. Can you get a bed & breakfast license as those are allowed? Check with state. Nothing we can do at this time until enforcement capabilities are found, likely through Isle PD agreement, which likely will begin in 2023.

NEW BUSINESS: Culvert Non-Replacement Request: Dale Matte wasn't present but his letter is requesting ability to remove culvert at 1980 Lake Shore Blvd. He was required to replace collapsed culvert in 2008 at his cost but believes it isn't necessary. Need policy, as land excavation/alteration section from old zoning ordinance, that detailed size of culvert, wasn't carried over into new ordinance. Need engineer assistance to draft real policy. Does owner put in first one and then city maintains? Culvert isn't crowning at this time and appears to be functioning. There is a ditch in the area. Council instructed Weinreich to verify culvert is operational and to work with city engineer and/or zoning staff to draft written policy on this.

Wahkon Area Vision Effusion (WAVE) Committee Decision to Become 501C6 Non-Profit: Christine Bjornson was present: Both the city attorney and auditor recommend they be on their own. WAVE met and motion was made to move forward in becoming a non-profit. In past, WAVE didn't want to be a non-profit and was under city umbrella. They have done numerous wonderful community projects but after 16 years, current members are getting older. Christine Bjornson has willing volunteers and they



want to raise funds for community improvements and make Wahkon Days bigger and better. Being a non-profit would allow them to do raffles and get sponsors. Giving a tax deduction receipt for donations aren't allowed with this type of non-profit but there are only so many non-profit avenues for such groups and is based on what their mission is. Isle Area Chamber is 501C6 and WAVE could review their bylaws for possible use. WAVE Fund can be used to hire a professional to do paperwork. Linda Dahlen, chamber treasurer and professional accountant, outlined necessary steps and believes some of it can be done by the committee. Clerk expressed need to remove herself from this new chapter in order to distinguish full separation from city. Community Event Fund is comprised of profits from past Wahkon Days, which was used to plan the next event until informed to stop by city professionals. Now it is used for fireworks and city cost of events, such as portable restrooms. Button wants Veterans Park Fund to remain part of city funds for future repairs. Before transferring any funds directly to the new non-profit WAVE organization, city attorney and auditor will be involved. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson authorizing WAVE Committee to move forward in becoming a non-profit. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Broadway Vacation Request Preliminary Discussion: John Wilson was present. Weinreich and Street Commissioner Button made site visit. Broadway is small dead end dirt road with three cabins on each side in Pottstown Plat. Original right of way (ROW) was 80' until vacation was approved for 10' on each side, leaving 60'. Wilson has plans to retire full time here and wants to build an addition. Burial mound along with buffer are documented at corner of Broadway and Nicollet, located within private property and ROW, preventing improvement to Broadway in that area. Tim Connelly was also present and supports proposed vacation, as he has plans to improve his cabin. Actual gravel road is located on north side of Broadway and Wilson is proposing vacating south side for 25 feet abutting both blocks, #3 & #4. He actually only needs 4' or so beyond the 10' to build, but as city can't improve it, he is requesting city initiate the vacation. There were issues in the past with removal of dirt from the burial mound by prior owner which caused remedial action from the state. Button stated Broadway gravel road is dead end that was regraded and plowable now. Lake Shore Blvd pavement is 30' wide so this should work for a dead end. Bjornson doesn't like vacating city streets as it could set precedent for others to ask and she doesn't want to limit street use. Engineer Dave Blommel emailed his questions and suggested a survey. He questioned ability to only vacate one-side; question for city attorney. Council agreed they won't do it themselves at this time. Property owners have ability to go through the vacation process for formal decision.

Set Special Budget Council Meeting; Tax Levy Deadline 9/30: Meeting set for Wed. 9/28 @ 8 am

Habeck's Bar & Grill LLC dba "Wahkon Inn" Liquor Licenses Request: On Sale, Off Sale & Sunday 10/31-12/31/2022: Tom Remer is selling the Wahkon Inn. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve On Sale, Off Sale & Sunday 10/31-12/31/2022 to Habeck's Bar & Grill LLC dba Wahkon Inn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

MN Basic Code (MBC) of Ordinances Memo: Past council reviewed 2019 MBC but with untimely death of Mayor Sandy Reichel, fast track retirement of Chris Weinreich and Covid, public hearing wasn't held so adoption never occurred. New councilmembers have since come on board that haven't reviewed the code and it hasn't been addressed since. Clerk verified the 2019 MBC is still the most current. League of MN Cities (LMC) updates the code every 3-5 years. Council wants more enforcement capabilities for blight. Current 2004 code had several sections omitted upon adoption, limiting enforcement. Mayor Bjornson attended Isle Council meeting per direction from council, to discuss contracting with Isle PD for enforcement, which they tentatively approved moving forward

with drafting a contract. Isle City Attorney Damien Toven was at said meeting and would be available to assist. Review of 2019 MBC would begin next year once newly elected council is in place but do we want to begin process of contracting with Isle PD? Attorney Toven is available to attend 10/10 council meeting to fully discuss. Buck and Frederickson agree we should begin this process now in preparation for blight enforcement in 2023. Council agreed to meet with Toven at 10/10 meeting. Memo mentioned possibility of utilizing Toven to help with MBC review in order to expediate it as there are always legal questions to be answered. Mayor noted meeting him relative to Isle PD is the first step to see how best he could assist the city with our needs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon New Website Update: Daniegeo Productions: Danie Powell had planned to attend but something must have come up. She was so excited after coordinating with our website host, SmartBundle, as all her questions were answered. Last meeting with council she mentioned there could be monthly fees for storage, but in the end that is covered through the Cable Franchise agreement. She is proceeding with the new website which should be up and running soon. SmartBundle will be working with clerk & MCSI (our IT) on city cloud storage using Microsoft 365, as the current one is having issues. All of this is moving to the point where all cloud and emails will be through SmartBundle.

Veterans Park WWI Plaque Granite Monument Quote: Braham Monument quoted \$5343 for Mesabi Black granite wedge marker to which the plaque would be mounted. WAVE Committee is for this project including engraving all WWI plaque names on Walk to Honor pavers. Braham needs time over winter to accomplish this in prep for Memorial Day 2023. Button explained how this project began when a young lady in her teens at a dedication ceremony approached him asking why all the veterans named on the plaque didn't have a walk to honor paver. There is an existing concrete foundation under the plaque which will be used but we must ensure it sits at grade level. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to authorize purchase of a granite wedge marker for \$5343 and engraving cost for walk to honor pavers of all WW I veterans named on the plaque. Cost will be split between WAVE & Veterans Park Funds. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) & City Wastewater Contract Update: Jodi Kanera from MLIR contacted clerk regarding confusion as to who owns the force main servicing the resort. She had an old letter indicating it was ours and clerk forwarded information she found stating it was the resorts. Since then, Kanera contacted the state for the original construction permit which was issued to the city. Any work in state ROW requires it be done by a city entity, as no private utilities are allowed. Her statement was "It can't be MLIR." Force main was installed on behalf of the resort, paid for by the resort, and is located outside city limits. Joyce Bzoskie, Breezy Point President, owner of MLIR, wants this clarified before signing the contract. Kanera indicated they aren't looking to circumvent their responsibilities but now is the time to answer that question. Council agreed to contact city attorney and engineer for clarification.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich has ordered alum. Not much to discharge. Couple new connections and Roberts has his new line.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Bjornson wanted to acknowledge and thank Gary Kleen for being a great employee as our seasonal mower. He has sold their property and will be missed as a citizen as well!

Zoning: Three permits were approved. Meeting date for Meshigun Point Townhomes final plat and variance request needs to be set. Council agreed planning commission meeting will be on 10/17 at 5 pm and special council meeting to follow at 5:30 pm.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Joan Straw mentioned 2' buffer for Ben Lapinski's fence, but that is new ordinance requirement and his permit was under old ordinance. Lapinski stated at public hearing he can't finish the fence due to her fence, which she disagrees. Can city ask him to finish the fence? She boils sap in the spring for syrup and has concerns of propane gas tanks. Fence would alleviate that concern but he is asking her to help pay for it. She is having conflict and feels disrespected. She sees four propane tanks from her property and assumed they would be stored safely. Private fish houses have their own propane tanks, which remain with the house. Lapinski stated his propane tanks were stored in a cage as required. None of this is part of the conditions for the approved conditional use permit. Council was unsure if technically they could require him to finish the fence but would ask Jake Huebsch, Zoning Administrator, to write a polite letter requesting the fence be continued per Straw's request.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The September 28, 2022 special meeting of the Wahkon Council was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 8:00 am. Councilmembers present were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein. Meeting was called by the mayor with proper notice posted and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW GENERAL & WASTEWATER 2023 BUDGETS: Approximately \$226,927 in reserves or 75% of 2017-2021 (5 year) average expenses; auditor recommendations if 50-75%. Council went line by line reviewing both budgets. Should we think of PT office employee? Roeschlein will retire in 5-6 years but one never knows. How much time should new clerk/treasurer be trained? Look into this for future budget. Entrance sign logs are deteriorating but still standing. Button obtained quote for granite sign of \$15,454 each plus crane to install. Council agreed to not budget funds at this time but to investigate new signs. No maintenance, less is more, simple and bold. Design contest? No grant funds at this time. MnDOT 2026 Main Street Project doesn't extend out to the signs. Ellen Ruth Boat will need some work as you can see light through the boards. No funds budgeted at this time. Clerk to verify what Charitable Gambling funds can be used for. City building's steel siding is getting pitted and faded. Per Frederickson it can be sandblasted and repainted. Council agreed to wait until prices come back down; not in 2023 budget. Health insurance premiums are unknown, clerk estimated 10% or \$1000 per month per employee. Utilities have increased over last year; 12% electric, 75% of gas, and 20% garbage. ARPA Covid Grant remaining is \$11,980 and can be used for anything. Council will make final determination when bids are known; possibilities include hall tile, building exterior and entrance signs. Blacktop is biggest expense for streets. Weinreich did great job last year within budget but we could use more. Council decided to budget \$60k for blacktop and \$15k for ditches. Levy has been held at \$247,020 since 2019. Council agreed to increase levy to \$260,000, increase of 5.3%.

Wastewater expenses include partial payments of \$21,530 each year (2021-2022) relative to engineering fees for upcoming project with amount owed of \$172,240. Professional fees of \$200k were budgeted. Once project is over and costs are known, along with grant/loan package, budget will be more accurate. Receipts don't include any grant amounts at this time. Council agreed 3% annual increase will be imposed as required by Sewer Ordinance. Expenses aren't fully known as there can be breaks, pump repairs, and such but once the project is completed, R/M costs will be less. Budget includes \$86,815 bond payment as recommended by auditor. In past, extra receipts at year end were transferred over to WW Emergency/Improvement fund and bond payments were paid from there.

MOTION TO ADOPT BUDGETS: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to adopt 2023 General & Wastewater 2023 budgets. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. 2023 General Fund Budget with receipts of \$291,401 and disbursements of \$315,370 leaving a deficit of \$23,969. Figures are estimated and reserves will be used if necessary. 2023 Sewer Budget with receipts of \$240,740 and disbursements of \$424,765, leaving a deficit of \$184,025.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-0928 APPROVING FINAL 2022 TAX LEVY COLLECTIBLE IN 2023: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2022-0928 with a tax levy of \$260,000. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The October 10, 2022 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:02 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich, Public Works Supervisor and Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to approve agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A) Minutes: 8/15 Special Council & 9/12 Council Meetings

B) MN Assoc. of Small Cities (MAOSC) Membership Renewal

C) 2023 Liquor License Renewals: South Shore Hospitality LLC dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, Habecks Bar & Grill, LLC and Wahkon Inn Bar & Restaurant LLC dba Wahkon Inn (sale is pending, but just in case, approve both, as only one will be used), and Aadhira LLC dba Lake Stop

D) Special Planning Commission Meeting Mon. 10/17 @ 5 pm

E) Special Council Meeting Mon. 10/17 @ 5:30

F) Charitable Gambling Report: 8/2022 Isle Lions Club \$366.00 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$2661.94; MLDS \$1060 to WAVE for Meat Raffle Volunteers

G) Treasurer's Report Dated 9/30 Ending Balance \$742,412.78 & Receipts Register

H) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

I) Disbursement Register 10/10 Date Range 9/13 – 10/10 Total \$29,426.48

Wahkon New Website Update: Daniegeo Productions: Moved up the agenda from Unfinished Business. Danie Powell was present. Meeting notices were posted as directed, but currently old website is down for some unknown reason. She contacted SmartBundle. Newly designed website is ready for review; link will be sent to council & staff. Won't go live until SmartBundle does necessary IT work. Clerk will work with Danie to catalog ordinance/policies in near future. She'll add clerk as "editor" to keep site current. Mayor noted clerk is busy, but still wise to have that capability. Danie will be paid \$100 monthly to post notices and keep site current once website is live to the public.

Blight Enforcement & Isle Police Dept Contract: Attorney Damien Toven: Moved up the agenda from Unfinished Business. Toven was present and has been in business for 23 years, mostly as city attorney for cities, Isle, Milaca, Bock and others, including prosecution services. For some, he is more hands on and others, on as needed basis. To draft Isle PD agreement for limited investigations and enforcement of zoning and other ordinance violations, likely will fall under their monthly retainer with him.

Clerk suggests Toven help council review 2019 MN Basic Code of Ordinances to expediate process in 2023 with new incoming council. He can attend special meetings; however, he does have conflict with our regular council meeting, but could attend virtually. Council agreed meeting attendance would be as needed. City needs enforcement language in nuisance code similar to Isle for ease of enforcement process. If there is violation, it must be investigated by law enforcement. If confirmed, it can be dealt with two ways, as a civil issue or through criminal prosecution. We have agreement with Mille Lacs County (MLC) attorney for prosecution, but according to last email, they aren't open to ordinance enforcement. In all cities, nuisances must be dealt with. Some are resolved and some are chronic; city can clean it up and assess property.

Short Term Rental (STR) Violation Enforcement Discussion: Moved up the agenda from Unfinished Business. It is against city ordinance to rent less than 30 days. Those operating a STR are in violation.

Due to extensive work with other cities, he has the enforcement process down for these violations, as well as nuisances, which saves time. Prepare complaint after investigation by Isle PD, go to court, unless it will be a trial. With civil abatement there are more costs for pleadings, filing fees, etc. Criminal prosecution could require \$1000 fine but likely \$300 would be agreed by the court. Fine is divided up when paid. Would need to address how fines are distributed between Isle & Wahkon. His hourly rate hasn't been increased in years, currently \$125 per hour, approximately a third the cost of a private firm. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to hire Attorney Toven to draft law enforcement agreement between Wahkon and City of Isle Police Department for ordinance enforcement as requested. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to establish agreement with Attorney Toven for legal counsel on zoning code and STR violations. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Paul District, The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO), Through Its Tribal Historic Preservation Office, And the City of Wahkon, Minnesota Regarding the Wahkon Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota: City attorney made a few changes, including suggestions from city engineer. USACE is working on final draft. City is required to pay professional to be onsite during excavations to determine if any artifacts were uncovered. Can't we get funding from MLBO? Force main will be directional bored next to current one, which means less excavation. Federal monies received in grants and loans make this a requirement. Kurt Kalk of MLBO government affairs, had mentioned at prior meeting, there needs to be a reasonable expectation and process for such projects. All cities, Isle, Onamia, Wahkon, and MLBO should have a plan in order to expediate projects so contractors aren't held up and costs increase. Previously disturbed land should warrant for something, but some believe that creates even more concern as items could be disbursed all over. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve the MOU and CRMP with changes noted by City Attorney David Anderson. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP): Wahkon Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project Mille Lacs County, Minnesota: This was discussed along with MOU. See motion above approving both.

Onamia Area Friends of the Library Donation Request: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to donate \$250 from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) & City Wastewater Contract Update: Last month council was updated to the fact that MLIR wants to know officially whether the force main outside city limits servicing them is actually theirs as DOT gave the permit to work in the right-of-way to the City. Yes, but it was on behalf of this resort of which they paid all costs. Clerk had conference call with City Engineer David Blommel and Attorney David Anderson. Anderson has this outlined in the contract that the force main is theirs and will send letter this week.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Discharging as we speak. Another pond to discharge after that.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich obtained two quotes to paint city truck due to some rust. One company gave two quotes, one to paint, the other to replace the box, which was

the cheapest. Pine Center Auto Body \$7062.38 & \$4108.69 (replace box) and Shannon's Auto Body Inc. \$13,377.64. Truck was purchased in 2015 for \$31,340 and has low miles. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to get truck fixed with a new box through Pine Center Auto Body for \$4108.69. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Button looked on Blue Book and truck value is approximately \$22,000.

Cable Internet Phone Service: There have been ongoing issues with the city landline, such as dropped calls, calls going straight to busy signals, and static. Frontier has indicated problems are due to outside contractors, but issues sometimes still occur. Should we hire Frontier to install new phone lines in this old building? Lines are all over and could be brittle or mouse chewed. Buck said MLDS is having same issues but can't change due to their contract which automatically renews unless stopped. Clerk will call to verify whether city has such a contract. Council agreed clerk should investigate cable internet phone service through SCI Broadband.

WWI Plaque: Button brought pavers to Braham Monument so every WWI veteran will have a Walk to Honor paver. Granite monument for plaque has been ordered as authorized by council and WAVE Committee. Hope to have Messenger do article about this project to gather information and to notify their families. We have depleted our paver inventory. Plaque was removed for precise measurements and is stored safely.

Zoning: Sourcewell report noted four permits for September.

Lapinski Fence City Letter & Reply: Sourcewell sent letter as requested by council last month. Joan Straw was present and wants the fence extended as noted on permit sketch, however, the permit did not specify length. Per Lapinski reply he fulfilled his obligations. Per Huebsch of Sourcewell, he doesn't see any zoning violations. Straw has concerns of hazardous materials, particularly propane tanks, and is requesting city inspect storage of gas tanks as a condition. Two conditions were required for his conditional use permit, and this wasn't one of them nor can conditions be added after the fact. Lapinski did state at public hearing, tanks would be stored in locked area, but was referencing the resort tanks and not tanks on private fish houses stored at this South Main parcel. City doesn't regulate such tanks and he should have insurance. Per Sourcewell, these are civil matters between neighbors.

Tom Jackson also discussed his concerns relative to tanks left on private fish houses. None of what he did to me was brought up to the council at the hearing. Trespassing and altering his property when doing excavation. There are more private fish houses than he indicated. No conditions were imposed on quantity. Definitions can be debated and everyone has different views. What are the repercussions if information provided at the hearing aren't true? This isn't a court of law, no one took an oath. Mayor stated she is sorry they are going through this. City depends upon opinion of professional staff and as there were no violations, the permit to build the garage was approved. Council will decide whether zoning fees should be increased for additional visits to combat issues, but again, these are civil issues. City can't dictate or prove trespassing; they only regulate land use per ordinance.

Mille Lacs County (MLC) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Sheriff Report for Wahkon: Informational

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Bill Christian from Milaca spoke of county public hearings on STRs. Button was there as were others. Sheriff deputy stated there are basically no complaints as compared to other residences. Everyone who spoke against them here in Wahkon are from one street. If you don't like it, you file complaints. Owner

must be able to defend himself; three strikes you're out. These decisions are affecting real estate values here. He commends council for finding way to enforce the rules but reminds them there are several owners renting for cash quietly.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer



The October 17, 2022 Wahkon Planning Commission (PC) special meeting, comprised of councilmembers, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:00 pm. Council called this meeting through public notice, which was duly posted, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Councilmember Chip Frederickson wasn't present in his official capacity, but as co-owner of Meshigun Point Townhomes development, and was out in the audience, along with Gary Frederickson, as applicants. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell was also present.

Meeting Minutes: 8/15/2022 Special Planning Commission (*protocol is to approve PC minutes at next PC meeting*): Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve meeting minutes. Ayes: Roberts, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Meshigun Point Townhomes (MPT) Plat & Variance Applications: Jake Huebsch gave summary. MPT is requesting impervious up to 33%, which is 8% above 25% Shoreland Management Ordinance requirement. In July 2008, city approved planned unit development (PUD) for MPT and per development agreement, construction would be in phases to construct two triplexes, two duplexes and two singles (future development of outlots) for total of twelve units. The outlots were held to ensure work was done per agreement, which has been accomplished. Seven letters of support were received and none opposed. DNR was notified twice and no comments were received for or against. Per Huebsch experience, if they don't comment they have nothing to state. He did have several phone conversations with DNR during the application process. Seventeen conditions were approved back in 2008 per resolution. Since then, conditions unique to the property have changed, such as the marina being considered part of the lake. If they would have known, development would have been done differently. Recession and Covid also delayed progress and made it difficult to provide continuity in the interpretation of ordinances, rules, and acceptable construction practices. City Attorney David Anderson requested time to review paperwork so he can draft appropriate resolution for approval at a future council meeting. City Engineer David Blommel gave a memo regarding drainage, as private property owners Judy Gervais and Gary Schiltz share a driveway and have approached city in the past regarding lack of drainage on Bennett Street. Drainage pond was requirement of last permit and question is whether it is being used to its' full capacity. Is there an opportunity to tie into that? Button noted there was a drainage swell between development and Schiltz, but since then arborvitaes were planted, thus it isn't functioning very well. Area is flat, so drainage plan is needed. Also suggested snow fencing to alleviate snow drifts out into the street. Snow is currently pushed off Bennett where the single unit will be built, thus plan is needed with the development.

Mayor opened public hearing at 5:13 pm. No citizens in the audience had anything to add. Craig Wensmann from Bogart-Pederson, development surveyor, calculated approximate 4000 square feet of impervious pavers were installed per agreement, then DNR rules changed not allowing them, so last permit for duplex didn't have any. New single units will have impervious paver driveways. Basin was part of 2008 drainage plan which was required to be built as part of last permit; it is dry now with cattails. Wensmann will devise a drainage plan. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to close the public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Hearing closed at 5:19 pm

Discuss/Make Council Recommendations: Wensmann will devise plans for drainage and snowplowing and work with city engineer and Weinreich. Mayor suggested there be a corrective plan of action for "what if issues". Frederickson has ample room to store snow should that be required, and also plows

for Gervais & Schiltz, same owners with drainage driveway issue. Wensmann agreed with Button that now is the time to remedy drainage with all parties so when developed, necessary work can be done. See Blommel memo on elevation in this area.

Huebsch explained single unit planned for outlot 2 will require a lake setback variance. In 2008, the marina wasn't considered part of the lake, but today it is, thus setback should be 50 feet, but plans have it at 18 feet. Both variances, impervious and building setback, could have been addressed today, but it was his professional opinion to focus solely on the impervious to ascertain DNR position, along with plat approval as vital first step, which developer agreed with. Both single units will be part of the full development.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Button to recommend that council approve Meshigun Point Townhomes final plat of outlots 1 and 2, and a variance to exceed impervious surface by approximately 8%, for a total impervious of approximately 33%, contingent upon final approval by city professional staff of (1) stormwater drainage plan and (2) snowplowing plan. Approval is based upon findings and facts as outlined in staff report. Ayes: Roberts, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. In order for City Attorney David Anderson to draft resolution of formal adoption, he needs time for proper review. Resolution will be presented to council for official adoption at their 11/14 council meeting for ample time to review and draft necessary paperwork.

Adjournment: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The October 17, 2022 Wahkon City Council special meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:37 pm. Council called this meeting through required public notice. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Councilmember Chip Frederickson wasn't present in his official capacity but as co-owner of Meshigun Point Townhomes development and was out in the audience along with Gary Frederickson, as applicants. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell was also present.

**MESHIGUN POINT TOWNHOMES PLAT AND VARIANCE APPLICATIONS (DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS):** Planning Commission recommends approval of plat and variance contingent upon approved stormwater drainage and snowplowing plans. Huebsch will work with city attorney to draft final documents. Mayor suggested there be contingencies within the plans to answer "what if" scenarios. Craig Wensmann of Bogart & Pederson (MPT surveyors) will work with city engineer on required plans. Huebsch noted policy is that water generated on a property must be addressed by that property. Drainage issues with the shared driveway by Schiltz & Gervais (private property) is combination of extenuating factors and not solely due to the development. It would benefit everyone if a plan of action was decided upon before the single unit is built on outlot 1.

Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to accept recommendations of Planning Commission to approve Meshigun Point Townhomes final plat of outlots 1 and 2, and a variance to exceed impervious surface by approximately 8%, for a total impervious of approximately 33%, contingent upon final approval by city professional staff of (1) stormwater drainage plan and (2) snowplowing plan. Approval is based upon findings and facts as outlined in staff report. Ayes: Roberts, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. In order for City Attorney David Anderson to draft resolution of formal adoption, he needs time for proper review. Resolution will be presented to council for official adoption at their 11/14 council meeting for ample time to review and draft necessary paperwork.

Adjournment: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Button to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The November 14, 2022 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, and Ronda Bjornson. Councilmember Tony Button & Brenda Buck were absent. 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, 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, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

- A) Minutes: 10/10 Council and 10/17 Special Council Meetings
- B) Charitable Gambling Report: 9/2022 Isle Lions Club \$1588.67 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$491.01
- C) Treasurer's Report 10/31 Ending Balance \$745,949.04 & Receipts Register
- D) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report
- E) Disbursement Register 11/14 Date Range 10/11 – 11/14 Total \$26,117.42

REPORTS: (C) Zoning (I) Joan Straw EM With Zoning Administrator Replies: Jake Huebsch: Moved up on agenda to accommodate Huebsch attending virtually due to another meeting. Straw email dated 10/10/22 explained her issues relative to Ben Lapinski property build with fence for Beachside Resort ice fishing business repairs and storage. Lapinski received approved conditional use permit with two conditions. Huebsch made his notes in red, most of which are "civil issues" between property owners. Fence was approved through old ordinance with condition he could extend it under the old rules. City then changed it, which should tighten up regulations. Per Huebsch, Lapinski went through entire process but it isn't satisfactory to neighbors. Wanted to point out these are civil matters for transparency, with recommendation city not get involved. If hired contractors cut trees or did other things, that is between those parties.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: (D) Agreement for Police Services & Resolution #2022-1114C Entering Into an Agreement for Police Services Between the City of Wahkon and the City of Isle and Its Police Department: Moved up on agenda to accommodate Attorney Damien Toven who attended virtually due to another meeting. Isle council meets tomorrow night. Agreement valid for one year, with automatic yearly renewal unless written notice is given. \$50 per hour for police work and \$75 for court. Agreement is for blight/nuisances and/or short-term rental violations, not general police protection, as requested. Frederickson asked how we determine penalties? Blight/nuisance section of MN Basic Code (MBC) doesn't have much for enforcement as some sections weren't adopted. New council will review updated MBC in 2023. Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance states no rental less than 30 days with enforcement. Yes, council wants to begin this process as soon as possible. Roberts questioned whether Isle would respond to 911 calls. Not as part of this agreement, but possibly through mutual aid agreement with county; Mille Lacs County (MLC) Sheriff responds to emergencies in Wahkon. Agreement is for investigation and preparation for city ordinance enforcement on case-by-case basis. Isle Police can't stop and issue tickets in Wahkon on their own. Very limited in scope but agreement can be changed if needed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. Res 2022-114C. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (A) City Attorney Legal Services Agreement (Combined): Damien F. Toven & Associates, LLC: Moved up on the agenda to accommodate Attorney Toven virtual attendance due to another meeting. Limited to only what we direct him to do on case-by-case basis.

Hourly rate for attorney \$125 and paralegals/assistants \$75. We have prosecution services with MLC at reasonable price of \$500 per quarter for deputy involved citations. MLC wasn't interested in ordinance enforcement and if they were, fee would increase. Mayor's name was misspelled. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to enter into legal service agreement with Damien F. Toven & Associates, LLC. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

*Council member Brenda Buck arrived at 6:10 pm.*

NEW BUSINESS: Employee 2023 Health Insurance Decision: Oberfeld Insurance: David Oberfeld: Moved up on agenda to accommodate timely discussion with professional staff. Minnesota Public Employees Insurance Pool (MN PEIP) saw 49% increase for year two; last year 9.06% increase. Clerk budgeted \$1000 based on \$905.34 current rate, as 2023 rates weren't known. Wahkon can get out of two-year commitment. Their new module doesn't spread costs across the pool but instead those with higher medical costs see higher premiums. Small group is considered 15 or less employees, we have three, including retiree on Cobra, required to be offered per statute. Retiree will be on Medicare 7/1/2023 thus won't need Cobra. Many insurance pools are back in the game, but currently not less than five employees. Past insurance costs were provided by clerk along with Oberfeld research of three different Blue Cross plans, which were lowest he could find. Lowest premium plan, High Value Gold \$500 Plan 556, includes area providers, except Essentia Health & St. Joseph Hospital in Brainerd, which is used by Cobra retiree, so that plan isn't an option. In past, everyone had same premium but now they're based on age. PEIP directly billed Cobra retiree but city will need to be reimbursed in future as full premium must be paid by City. Monthly difference between other two plans is \$79.39. BlueAccess Gold \$500 Plan 635 is employee's choice. Total of \$2845.57 for three employees; \$523.11, \$1078.96 and \$1243.50 individually. Personnel Policy states "City will contribute 100 percent cost of single premium per month for group health insurance for each eligible employee." Motion by Buck, seconded by Roberts to go with BlueAccess Gold \$500 Plan 635 for 2023 employee health insurance. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PETITIONS: Request for Vacation of Street Easement Petition: Broadway Street aka Broadway Avenue: 25 Feet of North Side abutting Block 4 and 5, Plat of Pottstown: Set Public Hearing 12/12: Petition was initiated by John Wilson and signed by eight property owners in all. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to accept the Broadway vacation petition and set the public hearing for 12/12 council meeting. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution #2022-1114 Annual Designation of Election Polling Places: Required annually, even if city doesn't have election in odd years in case school district requires one. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution 2022-1114. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Polling place is Wahkon Community Hall 151 2<sup>nd</sup> Street E.

Resolution #2022-1114A Accepting 2022 Clean Up Day Donations: \$830 in all; \$200 for First National Bank of Milaca and \$630 from citizens that day. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution #2022-114A. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2022-1114B Accepting Cash Donations Towards Wahkon Days Festivities & WAVE Park Improvements: WAVE \$1395 total from MLDS \$1375 and resort map park \$20. Wahkon Day \$1050 total from Isle Sportsman's Club \$500, MLDS \$400, Larry & Mary Hanson \$100, picnic \$50

and Go Savvy Social \$250. Motion by Buck, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution #2022-1114B. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2022-1114D Approving Preliminary and Final Plat for Meshigun Point Townhomes Second Addition: At 10/17 special meeting, two conditions for approval were drainage and snow removal plans, which were received 11/11 and put in cloud for review. Plans drafted by Bogart Pederson with input from City Engineer Dave Blommel. Per Frederickson (co-developer) plenty of room to plow straight off Bennett with excess moved by developer to drainage pond area. Snow fence erected if winds make it necessary. Drainage plan includes coordinating with Gary Schiltz and Judy Gervais on their driveway replacement, along with development work to alleviate drainage issues for all parties involved. Motion by Buck, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution 2022-1114D. Ayes: Roberts, Buck, and Bjornson. Abstain: Frederickson. Motion carried.

Resolution #2022-1114E Adopting Findings of Fact and Approving a Variance Application to Exceed Impervious Surface Limits for the Meshigun Point Townhomes Development and the Meshigun Point Townhomes Second Addition Plat: Variance seeks to authorize the Planned Unit Development to exceed impervious surface requirements by 8% for a total of 33%. Only supportive comments were received at 10/17 public hearing and nothing from DNR. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution #2022-1114E. Ayes: Roberts, Buck, and Bjornson. Abstain: Frederickson. Motion carried.

Resolution #2022-1114F Adopting 2023 Special Assessments for 2022 Delinquent Utility Fees: Clerk mailed notices late due to general election. Process requires notification to MLC by 11/15 with preliminary list. Owners have through 12/31 to pay, then past due amounts will be collected along with 2023 property taxes. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution #2022-1114F. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2022-1114G To Certify City of Wahkon Election Results November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 General Election (Canvass Election): 187 registered voters, 138 persons voting in person and 11 absentee ballots received by MLC. Mayor 2-year term: John (Bill) Thompson 63, **Ronda Bjornson 72**, Seth Williams 13, and zero write in votes. Council Member 4-year term: **Chip Frederickson 85**, Jasson Bauer 61, **Rick Roberts 87**, and 8 write in votes. Due to small separation of mayoral votes between Thompson and Bjornson, he could have requested a public funded recount, but declined. Mayor questioned ability to canvass their own election results, but protocol allows current council to do this. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2022-1114G. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Internet Phone for City Hall Replacement of Frontier Land Line Discussion: Bjornson stated they've been awesome, relative to SCI Cable providing Century 21 phone service. Roberts had past issues with Frontier charging fees they never had. Per SCI, we can still use our new phone system. Numerous times this past year, poor quality or calls not going through. Frontier blamed issues on other contractors but as they don't maintain their pedestals it is no wonder. Other cities have gone with internet phone. Isle & Onamia have Frontier. Monthly fee would be approximately \$50 over Frontier \$87.71. Confirmed we aren't held to Frontier through a contract. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts go with SCI Broadband internet phone to replace Frontier land line at city hall. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Contract Purchasing Policy Possible Addition: This was on clerk's list serve that it helped with large projects relative to change orders. City Engineer Blommel opinion "I think the limits in that change

order are appropriate, and even helpful. We will need USDA concurrence on change orders either way, but in case there is a time where meetings are a ways out this would be very helpful.” Contract purchasing section was in memo giving parameters under which public works supervisor has authority to approve and then council is updated at next meeting. Council agreed to have city attorney review possible amendment.

Guide for Cities, How Cities May Spend 10% Lawful Gambling Contributions Required from Charities: Auditor suggested budget includes this in future. Last few years, Isle fire protection fee has been paid from it. Council agreed to ask city attorney if these funds could be used to offset future expense of Isle PD.

Mille Lacs County (MLC) Forfeited Parcel List: Three parcels; some are wetlands. Three lots east of Stevens Road, which is used to access Bare Ass Beach may be useful for parking or other city use. Bjornson noted she had these lots for sale but there were probate issues. Hwy 27 side of them are fairly dry with back being wet. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to research city options to possibly obtain PID #25-520-0080 & -0090 parcels for city use. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Santa Bus Donation Request: Patti Wiersgalla: Her team began doing this in 2020. At first, they were going to deliver presents but decided to have a drive through at Onamia VFW, which they'll do again. Fruit bags supplied by Social Concerns Committee. Virgil Wind will pay Santa. Vivian LaMoore plans to be trained by Toys for Tots next year, which is why age limit is now 12. The three local schools will inform families and flyers will be posted. \$3000 in donations received last two years with \$4000 goal this year, as each year there are more kids. Volunteers are needed to shop, organize and the day of the event. Boxes will be around for people to drop off unwrapped toys. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to donate \$500 to Community Santa Bus from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. A non-profit organization will host the funds, which is needed prior to issuing the check.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Through Its Tribal Historic Preservation Office, And The City of Wahkon, Minnesota Regarding the Wahkon Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota (FINAL): Addition/changes made by city attorney & engineer were implemented. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, through its Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and the City of Wahkon, Minnesota regarding the Wahkon Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP): Wahkon Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project Mille Lacs County, Minnesota (FINAL): Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve Attachment A: Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP): Wahkon Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project Mille Lacs County, Minnesota. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Wahkon New Website Update: Daniegeo Productions: Website is ready to go live but waiting on Digital Crisis to do final step. Payments can be made online now. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to finalize website contract with final payment once website is up and running. Ayes:

Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. She will post notices and do necessary updates for \$100 per month.

MLIR & City Wastewater Contract Update: City Attorney 10/19 Letter to MLIR: Per this letter and contract, force main is MLIR. After letter was sent, Mayor asked clerk to send email stating that any further ownership questions should be made by their attorney, as the city has done their research and this is our stance. Joyce Bzoscie replied to the email to proceed in finalizing the contract. Exhibits need to be done, which MLIR will need to assist with.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Discharging at ponds is finished. He met with City Engineer Blommel relative to upcoming force main replacement project in 2023. Will need to look at priorities as project costs have soared including diesel. February 2023 bidding is the goal.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: RC Habeck can no longer do snow removal on Main St/Hwy. Two bids received; Mike Hagel of Bromax Contracting LLC, hourly equipment price range \$95 - \$150 and Don Kunesh, \$165 per hour for all equipment. Bromax has two-hour minimum which Habeck did as well. Habeck rates were \$150 and \$140 depending on equipment used. MnDOT reimburses city for removal of their portion via contract. There is reference in contract for extreme snowfalls when time permits, arrangements can be made with sub-area supervisor to utilize state and municipal equipment in cooperative effort. Council agreed to raise city equipment rate to \$100 as it has been \$75 for years. Isle is also reimbursed but they have equipment and staff. Clerk o check with Isle if they would be willing to help, if needed, as part of our mutual aid agreement. Council agreed to proceed with lowest bid, Bromax Contracting.

Frederickson asked what needs to be done to move the process along with Isle PD and Attorney Damien Toven, particularly enforcement of short-term rental (STR) violations, as it was agreed to be proactive. Ordinances for blight and nuisances must be reviewed by new council to ensure necessary enforcement is included. Special meetings will be required when all council is back in 2023. STR ordinance is ready to go and council agreed to move forward.

Zoning: No permits but there was activity for items. Need to view fee schedule to ensure they cover majority of zoning professional fees. Should fees be based on value? Does that require adopting building code? Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell will be done at year end but is able to work beyond to finalize permits he did. Scott Saehr will attend 12/12 meeting as possible zoning replacement.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer



The December 12, 2022 special meeting of the Wahkon Planning Commission was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:30 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was called by the council and proper public notice was given. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. As co-developer/applicant, Chip Frederickson didn't participate in votes relative to this application. Absent: Councilmember Tony Button. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell was also present.

MEETING MINUTES: 10/17/2022 SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION (Protocol is to approve PC minutes at next PC meeting): Motion by Roberts, seconded by Buck to approve 10/17/2022 special planning commission meeting minutes. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

MESHIGUN POINT TOWNHOMES PLAT AND VARIANCE APPLICATIONS: PUBLIC HEARING: Huebsch gave his staff report. Final plat and impervious variance were approved last month. This final step is needed as DNR didn't consider the marina to be part of the lake when planned unit development (PUD) was originally approved but since then, their definition has changed and now considered part of the lake. Future townhome to be built on Outlot B meets setback from main part of the lake but not from the marina. DNR was notified twice and no reply has been received. Two comments were received in support from Gervais and Preston. Request is to reduce townhome setback requirement from marina to be 15.5' and 35' instead of 50'. PUD site plan was approved in 2008 and if DNR definition hadn't changed a variance wouldn't be necessary

Mayor opened the public hearing at 5:35 pm. No audience members were present to speak on this issue. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Buck to close the public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Buck, and Bjornson. Abstain: Frederickson. Motion carried. Public hearing closed at 5:36 pm.

DISCUSS/MAKE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS: Drafted resolution by city attorney approving this variance is part of the upcoming council meeting as a means to expediate the process, only if approved by council or it will be amended based upon their decision. DNR had no comments. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Buck recommending that council approve Meshigun Point Townhomes variance for Outlot B. Ayes: Roberts, Buck, and Bjornson. Abstain: Frederickson. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Buck to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The December 12, 2022 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Absent: Councilmember Tony Button. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Zoning Administrator Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell was present. 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 Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 11/14 Council

B) Onamia Depot Library Donation Thank You

C) Kennedy & Graven Chartered Hourly Rate Increase Letter

D) Charitable Gambling Report: 10/2022 Isle Lions Club \$442.15 & Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$1,889.44; MLDS \$110.00 to WAVE for Meat Raffle Volunteers

E) Treasurer's Report 11/30 Ending Balance \$742,144.61 & Receipts Register

F) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

G) Disbursement Register 12/12 Date Range 11/15 – 12/12 Total \$33,704.94

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PETITIONS: Broadway Street Vacation Request. Clerk called City Attorney David Anderson and he was heard on speaker for this issue. Jake Huebsch gave staff report. Public hearing for vacation of right of way (ROW) as requested by petition, initiated by John Wilson. All properties in Plat of Pottstown were notified via mail. Public notice was published and posted as required. Request is to vacate 25' of north side of Broadway Street abutting Blocks 4 and 5. Wilson and Tim Connelly paid to survey the ROW abutting their properties which was available for review. City Engineer Dave Blommel requested survey to ascertain utility locations but not all property owners wanted to help with the cost. Blommel reviewed Wilson/Connelly survey and it sufficiently indicated no utilities were in the vacated area. Weinreich has no concerns as existing class five road is entirely located on south side of Broadway. City Attorney Anderson has been involved since onset to ensure compliance with rules.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:05 pm. John and Linda Wilson, and Connelly were present. Wilson thanked council for onsite visits. Initially he requested in September the city initiate the vacation which council denied. Wilson drafted petition of which all property owners signed. His reason to vacate has to do with the Indian Burial mound that was disturbed in 2006 by previous owner. Dirt was distributed to others when bones were found which then required police and state archaeologist to investigate. Mound was surveyed with buffer zone which is partially located in ROW and nothing can be done with that land. Vacating it would protect it and increase tax base. He can't come up with reasons why it shouldn't be done. If all vacations were denied, then we wouldn't need a council to make these decisions. Wilson plans to be full time residents. Two written comments were received in support of the vacation from DeRoo and Bentz. No one sent letters of opposition. Clerk received several calls but once they learned where it was, none had any issues. No one had comments from the audience. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to close public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Hearing closed at 6:11 pm

Frederickson stated this is a pretty unique situation, and Wilson did his homework. Bjornson stated we aren't in the business to give land away but there isn't anything beyond to develop. Remaining ROW would be 35 feet. Buck believes it is win-win with increase to tax base. Weinreich answered Roberts question that it wouldn't impede his ability to plow.

City Attorney Anderson explained staff did their due diligence. Sometimes there is a reluctance to vacate city property as you just don't know what the future holds, but in this case, staff and council support this vacation. Supportive comments were received with no opposition. It must be in the public interest to vacate, which is outlined in Resolution No. 2022-1212 drafted by Anderson as a means to expediate the process, only if approved by council or it would be amended based upon their decision. If resolution wasn't prepared ahead of time, final decision would need to wait for another meeting. Anderson was no longer needed on the phone and hung up.

**ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES:** Resolution No. 2022-1212 Vacating a Segment of Broadway Avenue Located Within the City of Wahkon: This resolution was drafted to expediate the process but it is up to council to approve, deny or amend. Clerk included notice in red on this resolution "ready for adoption if approved by council after public hearing or it will be amended based upon their decision." Someone emailed thinking it was already decided prior to the meeting. Staff must come prepared otherwise it would be left for another meeting. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution No. 2022-1212. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk questioned what costs should be paid with escrow. Huebsch explained how applicant created the work and should pay accordingly; taxpayers shouldn't pay. Legal description is needed and Wilson will work with his surveyor on that. Huebsch is very impressed with our city attorney. Anderson is very responsive via phone calls and email. He works with thirty cities and not all are like that.

Resolution No. 2022-1212A Adopting Findings of Fact and Approving a Setback Variance (Meshigun Point Properties LLC): Public hearing was held tonight at 5:30 at a Planning Commission meeting. Again, this resolution was drafted by staff to expediate the process but it is up to council to approve, deny or amend it. Resolution approves minimum lake/marina setback of 15.5 feet as depicted by exhibit A. Motion by Buck, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2022-1212A. Ayes: Roberts, Buck, and Bjornson. Abstain: Frederickson. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Saehr Consulting: Scott Saehr was present to discuss P&Z services. Sourcewell is transitioning out at year end. He has a staff member and serves three communities not including Wahkon. Huebsch used to work with Saehr at Sourcewell awhile ago and went on to say Saehr has been a city administrator and is FD volunteer; very well-rounded person. Sourcewell has been our ZA for 5-6 years but they had to make difficult decision, due to staffing shortages, to focus on their district, thus reason we need a new ZA. They gave us one year notice in order to find replacement. Mayor thanked Huebsch for all his work on behalf of the city! Saehr is from Pierz and has a cabin north of here so he drives right by. His intent is to have a smooth transition with open door policy to call with anything. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson, to enter into a contract with Saehr Consulting for planning and zoning services effective 1/1/2023. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

**City Possible Investment:** Memo outlined money market account increased from .25% up to .45% and checking .03% to .05% leaving the city with very little interest on half a million dollars. Currently city has investment with 4M Fund earning better interest on the Street Aid received from the state. With interest rates on the rise, should the city invest in 4M Fund, which is supported by the League of MN Cities (LMC)? No penalties and only 4M+ has a 14-day "aging" requirement. Rates are between 3.635% and 4.15%. FDIC was discussed. FNB of Milaca covers funds over \$100,000 based upon our average balance; auditor verifies this annually. Council agreed, as long as funds can be pulled when

needed, it benefits the city to earn more interest. Clerk to research further and bring resolution outlining course of action. Approximate investment of \$150k from General Fund and \$50k from WW Operating Fund.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon New Website Hosting Issues: Savage Communications agreed to host city website per franchise cable ordinance. When ordinance was updated (every 15 years) they didn't realize this requirement was still in there as they never did have the capability. Under old ordinance, they contracted with DMDS to do it for us which worked well. DMDS is no longer in business and now it is Digital Crisis. They are delaying giving Danie Powel the administrative rights to the WIX account that was setup for the new website. Savage Communications wants nothing to do with Digital Crisis and contacted us that they were preparing to move away from them. Believe we are being used to get Savage to continue with them. Savage is working with us to resolve this, but in future, city must ensure we authority is kept here, so we aren't in the middle like this. Council was disappointed and expects Savage Communication to honor the ordinance. Clerk is working with them to get this resolved. Will check to see what Isle & Wahkon do for their website. As Danie Powell has finished the website, which looks great, council agreed to make last website design payment, as this has nothing to do with her work. There may be extra hours beyond the website design contract, as she has been instrumental to Roeschlein in figuring out what our website needs are.

Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) & City Wastewater Contract Final Approval: MLIR gave green light to finalize this agreement as they agree the force main is theirs. Need to work on exhibits with help from MLIR. In order to proceed, formally approval is required. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement with MLIR. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Waiting on project to begin in spring with bidding in February as the goal.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Isle council agreed staff can help with snow should we need assistance, but only with our equipment. Mutual aid agreement outlines insurance and such, in order to protect each city. Walk to Honor paver cost has increased from \$28 to \$65 and council agreed to increase donation to \$150.

Zoning & 2022 Permit List: Huebsch: Bullis accessory structure permit was issued. Other activity included MPT and Broadway vacation. There were 19 permits in 2022. It has been busy, which is good! We made it to the finish line. Wheels of government turn slow but as Frederickson noted, as long as they keep turning. Council thanked Huebsch for all his efforts on behalf of Wahkon.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brian Lee: In reading minutes from last meeting, he asked why city is paying to enforce short term rental (STRs) violations when there are other issues needing attention. Has there been issues with STRs this past year? Why aren't we looking at doing this cooperatively? Why is that a focus? Everyone is pushing snow across the street which is illegal. City is working on zoning violations at this time and Isle PD must do the investigation. Huebsch explained that counties won't touch zoning violations, which is why he provided sample agreement where one city PD helps with violation in another. Our city attorney could get involved but that is costly. Administrative fine process is less costly and speeds up the process and compliance. In order to investigate other violations such as nuisances, council must adopt newest MN Basic Code, which they'll do in 2023. Huebsch suggested per day of non-compliance zoning violations be added to fee schedule, which would give us another avenue. Letters

don't always get resolution, but a daily fine most likely will. Attorney Damien Toven is working with state to have it in their system for STR violations. End product is so Isle PD can issue a ticket after investigation warrants it. City Attorney David Anderson was informed and agrees it works best to coordinate with Isle PD and local attorney. Lee stated people do STRs to help pay their taxes. Ordinance is in place and everyone should be on notice that renting less than 30 days is prohibited. Any evidence of violations will be turned over to Isle PD.

EMPLOYEE REVIEWS: Closed Per Employees' Request: State Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to close the public meeting per employees' request and allowed per State Statute 13D.05 Subd 3. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting closed at 7:00 pm. Annual reviews were conducted for Public Works Supervisor Jacob Weinreich and Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to open the meeting. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting opened at 7:21 pm. Council decided to give 4.5% raise effective 1/1/2023 for both employees. Weinreich should communicate with commissioners when OT is required. Roeschlein should think about when a PT office person is needed in preparation for her retirement down the line.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

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Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer