



**MINUTES
COHASSET CITY COUNCIL
305 NORTHWEST FIRST AVENUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021
7:00 P.M. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Greg Hagy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Greg Hagy, City Councilors Terry Bartz, Tim Carlson Phil Hermel, and Jason Tabaka

Absent: None

Non Officio Members: Finance Manager Max Peters, and City Attorney John Licke

Others: There was not a sign in sheet but numerous City Residents were in attendance

3. **Resident Input:** None

4. Approve Agenda

Additions: 5)E Hire Makenzie Cole; & 5)F Hildi Agreement

Deletions: None

A motion was made by Bartz/Carlson to approve the agenda as amended. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

7:05 Public Hearing (continued from City Council meeting of May 25, 2021) for Otterrock Resort to:

- 1) Consider Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) Comments;
- 2) Decide if Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed; and
- 3) Approve, disapprove, or suggest modifications to Otterrock Resort (Emily & James Bujold) Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Property at 36225 Otter Way and legally described as Section 22, Township 55 North, Range 26 West, Itasca County, Minnesota.

Mayor Greg Hagy opened the public hearing and Zoning Officer Greg Tuttle summarized the 114 page informational packet. City Attorney John Licke noted that there will be an additional Conditional Use public hearing if this item is approved tonight.

Agency comments:

1. US Fish and Wildlife Service – Midwest Migratory Bird Program - Margaret Rheude e-mail understands there is an eagle’s nest within 660 feet of the PUD and offered guidance for construction within 660 feet of an eagle’s nest. Guidance recommended a disturbance permit and/or following the publication “building homes near eagle nests”.
2. MN Pollution Control Agency – Karen Kromar letter indicates a storm water permit is required if the project will disturb more than one acre of land. The combined area of disturbed land will be about 0.03 acres (the footprints of the cabin foundations). The letter also recommends construction equipment be muffled and that construction be done during the daytime hours of 7 am to 10 pm. The only construction is the cabin foundations as the cabins are being moved from a different location onto this property.
3. MN State Archaeologist – Jennifer Tworzyanski letter recommends a survey to identify unrecorded archaeological or cemetery sites. This site has been previously significantly disturbed due to the Tioga Mine Pit railroad spur.
4. MN Natural Resources – Jean Dolensek letter suggests: determining the Ordinary High Water Level, calculate suitable area/density, continuous mooring spaces not exceed one per allowable dwelling plus a transient space, and to follow dock guidance fact sheet.
5. MN State Preservation office Sarah Beimers letter recommends a Phase 1 Archaeological survey. This site has been previously significantly disturbed due to the Tioga Mine Pit railroad spur.
6. MN DNR Ecological & Water Resources – Samantha Bump indicate Jay Gould Lake as a Lake of Moderate Biological Significance due to its bird population. This project does maintain the existing shoreland buffer zone and does propose keeping runoff to a minimum and retain runoff on the site. The letter also references lakeshore management publications.

A written statement submitted by John Guenther was read by Tuttle.

There was discussion regarding a signed petition that was presented. It was noted that many of the people who signed were from out of town and it was explained they owned property and live out of the area.

Mayor Hagy requested anyone in opposition to the project to come forward. The following residents spoke against the Otterrock Resort:

Fred Goebel, 36091 Otter Way, Cohasset, MN 55721
Jerry Stejskal, 24740 Co Rd 62, Cohasset, MN 55721
Jen Ryan, 24754 Co Rd 62, Cohasset, MN 55721
Luke St. Germaine, 24800 Co Rd 62, Cohasset, MN 55721
Tom Newman, 35908 Johnson Lane, Cohasset, MN 55721
Harry Corwin, 24345 Ingebo Rd, Cohasset, MN 55721
James Azure, 25881 Ingebo Rd, Cohasset, MN 55721
Dave Leingang, 36502 Cedar Rd, Cohasset, MN 55721
Brad Peterson, 24626 Ingebo Rd, Cohasset, MN 55721
Bob Mrowiec, 37143 Loon Drive, Cohasset, MN 55744

Various issues were cited including but not limited to environmental concerns, safety, noise, traffic, compliance with the Comprehensive Plan, an eagle's nest, speed limit, oversight of the development, a transient population, dogs causing damage to the shore line, and over development of property.

Hagy asked three times for anyone else who has not spoken in opposition to come forward. There was no response. Mayor Hagy asked if there was anyone in favor who would like to speak.

Property owner James Bujold, 36225 Otter Way, Cohasset, MN explained his plans for the property and thanked Council for the opportunity to explain the project.

Hagy called three more times for anyone in favor of the project to come forward. There was no response and the public portion of the hearing was closed.

After discussion and questions, ***a motion was made by Carlson/Bartz to require an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) based on significant environmental impact of dogs, speed, humans, and traffic. Voting in favor: Bartz, and Carlson. Voting against: Hagy, Hermel, and Tabaka; Absent: None. Motion failed.***

A motion was made by Tabaka/Hermel to not require an EIS because all properties have dogs and humans. Voting in favor: Hagy, Hermel and Tabaka; Voting against: Carlson and Bartz. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bartz/Tabaka to disapprove the PUD. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

Zoning Officer Tuttle explained that the PUD has failed and the Bujold's have 30 days to appeal City Council's decision to the district court.

Hagy closed the public hearing at 8:35 p.m.

5. Administration

A. Approve Suggested Changes to the Personnel Policy: ***A motion was made by Carlson/Bartz to update the Personnel Policy to include employee use of personal vehicles for City business or training. In the event of an accident while on City business employees would be reimbursed up to a \$500 deductible. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.***

B. Recommendation from the Personnel Committee to Hire John Aultman: ***A motion was made by Bartz/Carlson to approve the hire of John Aultman as a 1099 contract employee to assist with GIS and other administrative projects, effective June 9, 2021 at \$50 per hour. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*** It was noted that management will decide when Aultman's services are no longer needed.

C. Recommendation from the Personnel Committee to Hire Tyler Norgord: *A motion was made by Carlson/Tabaka to approve the hire of Tyler Norgord as a part time summer employee to work at the Portage Park concession stand effective June 9, 2021 at \$12 per hour dependent upon the completion of a background check. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

D. Resolution 2021-21 to Adopt Recommendations from Office of State Auditor: *A motion was made by Tabaka/Carlson to approve Resolution 2021-21 to establish proper internal controls over certain cash handling procedures in regard to the Portage Park concession stand change fund. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

E. Approve Hire of Makenzie Cole: *A motion was made by Hermel/Tabaka to approve the hire of Makenzie Cole as a part time summer employee to work at the Portage Park concession stand effective June 9, 2021 at \$12 per hour dependent upon a successful background check. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

F. Approve Hildi Agreement for Cohasset Fire Relief Association: *A motion was made by Bartz/Tabaka to approve the Hildi agreement for the Cohasset Fire Relief Association. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

6. Miscellaneous Announcements, Reports and FYIs: City Councilor and t ball coach Phil Hermel announced that Stephanie Kessler is doing a great job as the newly hired Park and Rec Coordinator.

All matters listed under consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Claims in the Amount of \$45,908.04

B. Approve the May 25, 2021 City Council Minutes

A motion was made by Hermel/Carlson to approve the consent agenda and claims in the amount of \$45,908.04. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Mayor Hagy adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Deputy Clerk Karen Blair

Approved: 6/22/2021