



MINUTES
COHASSET CITY COUNCIL
305 NORTHWEST FIRST AVENUE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021
6:30 P.M. CLOSED CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
7:00 P.M. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

6:30 p.m. CLOSED City Council Work Session to Discuss Union Negotiations

7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Greg Hagy called the meeting to order 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 Security Officer Dean Scherf

Others: Spencer Igo, Justin Eichorn, and Bob Mrowiec

3. **Resident Input:** Bob Mrowiec, 37143 Loon Drive, Cohasset MN questioned activity at the previous Cohasset Mill & Lumber site. Mayor Hagy explained that any activity on this site is in connection with the downtown development project, which is currently in the permitting phase.

4. Approve Agenda

Additions: 5)I Motion to approve Tioga Recreation Area amendment to miscellaneous lease LMIS010060 and pay additional lease fee of \$20,427.00.

Deletions: None

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

Legislative Update with Spencer Igo: Igo thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to provide an update. A special session ended July 1 and Igo reported this session included the Huber Engineered Wood LLC legislation, which Cohasset is happy to welcome to the area. Igo stated he focused on issues that important to Northern Minnesota including the logging industry, affordable housing, responsible forest management, and mining. Igo thanked Council and stated he will continue to advocate for our area.

Senator Justin Eichorn stated Igo picked up right where Layman left off without missing a beat and he was thankful for his assistance with the Huber project and other projects. A lot of great

work was done for the region and the State, and Eichorn outlined many of the issues that were addressed.

Igo and Eichorn were thanked for their time. The legislative update can be viewed on ICTV.

7:15 Public Hearing RE: DEED Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) for Huber Engineering

Mayor Hagy closed the regular City Council meeting and opened the public hearing.

Finance Manager Max Peters explained the purpose of the public hearing is in connection with the submittal of an application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for a grant under the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) Program. The grant is a loan in the amount of one million dollars which will be used to assist with the expansion of Huber Engineered Woods, LLC, specifically, the creation of jobs, employee training and retention, and machinery acquisition. If Huber complies with certain aspects of the MIF Program the loan will become a grant. The grant will be City managed through DEED and passed through to Huber.

Mayor Hagy called for questions and/or discussion. Peters confirmed that there was no written or electronic correspondence. Hagy called three time for anyone in favor of the application to the MIF program to come forward. There was no response. Hagy called three times for anyone opposed to the grant application to MIF to come forward. There was no response. The public portion of the hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Carlson/Tabaka to approve an application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for a grant under the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) Program as outlined above. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

4. Approve Agenda

5. Administration

A. Request from Fire Chef Davin Tinquist for Acceptance of Derrick Martilla's Resignation: *A motion was made by Carlson/Bartz to acknowledge Derrick Martilla's resignation. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.* Carlson noted that Martilla will be missed.

B. Approve Quote from Statt LLC for Industrial Park Signs: *A motion was made by Tabaka/Carlson to approve the quote from Statt LLC in the amount of \$1100 for signs to be placed at the entrance to the Cohasset Industrial Park for businesses located within the Industrial Park. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

C. Approve Quote from John Deere for a Diamond Boom Mower: *A motion was made by Bartz/Carlson to approve a quote from John Deere in the amount of \$41,620.00 for the purchase of a diamond boom mower. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

D. Approve Resolution 2021-28 MN DEED MIF Application: This item was addressed during the public hearing portion of the meeting. *A motion was made by Carlson/Bartz to approve Resolution 2021-28 RE: the submittal of an application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for a grant under the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) Program. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

E. Tioga Beach Road Speeding Discussion: Mayor Hagy explained that he has received calls from residents who are concerned about safety on this road as traffic is congested between the boat landing/bike trail and Tioga Beach and the speed limit of 40 mph is disregarded. The radar speed sign will be installed to get an idea of the average speed. Potential solutions include lowering the speed limit, speed bumps, or hiring a police force - which would affect the levy. Discussion was held between Council and Security Officer Dean Scherf regarding coverage of the area by the Sheriff's Office and the issuance of speeding tickets. City crews will be eliminating some brush along the roadside for improved visibility.

F. Approve Signage for Kilde Fields: Discussion was held regarding some new signage for the fields at Portage Park. Bartz is working on obtaining some estimates and this item will be tabled until some estimates are available for review.

G. Allow Temporary Permitted Wood Cutting in Portage Park Trail Area to Clear Approximately 200 Downed Trees due to Storm Damage: Mayor Hagy explained that the City will be issuing permits at no cost to residents who are interested in obtaining some firewood by harvesting downed trees at the Portage Park trails. Access to the trails will be limited to four wheelers and trailers: trucks are prohibited. No standing wood or widow makers may be taken, harvesting of wood is limited to trees that are down. Permits are limited to City of Cohasset residents and a signed liability waiver/permit is required. Wood clearing is not permitted in the 40 acre Wildlife Management Area. *A motion was made by Bartz/Carlson to approve wood cutting permits as outlined above. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

H. Discussion RE: Moving Gate by Original Water Tower due to Parking Concerns: Mayor Hagy explained that he has received complaints about parking by the gate near the water tower and suggested moving the gate to another location to alleviate the problem. After discussion among Council and Security Officer Scherf, Hagy agreed to contact MP to obtain permission to move the gate.

I. Approve Tioga Recreation Area Amendment to Miscellaneous Lease LMS010060 – Pathfinder Playground: *A motion was made by Hermel/Bartz to approve the amendment to the miscellaneous lease in the amount of \$20,427.00 as outlined above.* Peters stated that this is the final payment. *Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.*

6. Miscellaneous Announcements, Reports and FYIs: Scherf announced that the annual Running the Rapids marathon will be held at Portage Park on Saturday, August 14. The

organizers have volunteers working and the race begins and ends at Portage Park. Scherf requested that residents be on guard for increased traffic, as well as runners and walkers.

Carlson thanked the City Public Works crew for their storm clean-up efforts.

Tabaka reported that the original speed bumps on the River Road have been reshaped so they are not as abrupt, and he feels the new speed bump is in need of reshaping as well. Councilor Bartz stated the speed bump is slowing traffic down and he would like it to remain as is. Carlson agreed that the new bump is abrasive; Hermel stated he got a jolt as well, but it is slowing traffic down as you cannot safely go over it at more than 5 mph. It was agreed that Mayor and others will test out the speed bump and discuss it again at the August 24 meeting.

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 \$66,370.84
- B. Approve the July 27, 2021 City Council Minutes
- C. Acknowledge May 3, 2021 PUC Minutes
- D. Acknowledge June 1, 2021 EDA Minutes
- E. Acknowledge April 7, 2021 PC Minutes
- F. Acknowledge Cemetery Deed for Jeffrey and Diane Randall

A motion was made by Carlson/Hermel to approve the consent agenda and claims in the amount of \$66,370.84. Voting in favor: Hagy, Bartz, Carlson, Hermel, & Tabaka; Voting against: None; Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Greg Hagy adjourned meeting.

Submitted by Deputy Clerk Karen Blair

Approved: 8/24/2021