

**SAUK CENTRE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Sauk Centre City Council met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. due notice being given thereof. Present were Mayor Warren Stone and Council Members Diane Kelly, Joe Fuechtmann, Shalon Wilber and Heidi Leach. Also present were City Administrator Vicki Willer, Public Works Director Ben Clink, City Engineer Keith Yapp, City Planner Sarah Morton and Police Chief Bryon Friedrichs. Mayor Stone presided thereat.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Wilber and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to approve the agenda as presented. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Wilber, Fuechtmann, Leach, Kelly and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Kelly and was seconded by Council Member Leach to approve the January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kelly, Leach, Wilber, Fuechtmann and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

4. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (Comments Limited to 3 Minutes)

Holly Fogarty – 520 Grove Lake Street, Sauk Centre, MN. Ms. Fogarty stated that she was present to discuss the neighboring property, 516 Grove Lake Street. Problems regarding this property include noise, drugs, threats, etc. Ms. Fogarty asked for help in getting this put to an end.

Sean Fogarty – 520 Grove Lake Street, Sauk Centre, MN. Mr. Fogarty asks that our long-term rental property owners are held to higher standards. He feels the property at 516 Grove Lake Street should have his license revoked.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

6. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- a. Police Chief Friedrichs presented the 2023 Police Department Annual Report:
- Department staff and years of service
 - 31 DWI arrests (1 of the 31 being under influence of controlled substance)
 - 4 underage drinking violation
 - Reportable crime statistics
 - Theft - 60
 - Burglary - 4
 - Domestic Assault - 12
 - Sexual Assault - 6
 - Assault - 7

- Robbery - 0
- Arson – 0
- Traffic Violations
 - Driving After Suspension – 57
 - DAC/DAC-IPS – 21
 - Driving After Revocation – 95
 - No Proof Insurance – 76
 - No MN DL – 280
 - Seatbelt – 22
 - Speeding – 230
 - Use of Wireless Device – 55
 - Verbal Warnings – 2,786
- 94 accidents
- 355 Assists for other agencies, to include: 100 Mn State Patrol, 146 Stearns County, 63 Melrose PD, 20 Todd County, and 26 K-9
- 46 Warrants, to include: 9 Misdemeanor, 5 Gross Misdemeanor, 16 Felony, 2 A&D Orders, and 13 Warrant Attempts
- Drug Statistics
- Miscellaneous calls for service and proactive contacts
- 380 hours of training. The cost of this training was \$3,131 which consisted of \$12,901.06 in salaries, \$0 for meals, \$408.06 in transportation, and \$1,185.29 in lodging. Officers also train on the P.A.T.R.O.L. courses, which is online training where each officer does at least one hour every month. The City pays \$720.00 per year for this online training.
- The Department retained \$31,591.91 in forfeitures.
- In 2023 the Department was given a budget of \$1,350,145.

b. The Park Board met on Tuesday, February 6 and discussed the following:

- Received Public Works Department monthly report.
- Finalized leaves for memorial wall in Sinclair Lewis Park.
- Recommended Council purchase of Truck – See 7J.
- Discussed City Forester.
- Received update on Campground Manager process.
- Met with members of the Master Gardeners regarding the Community Garden request/proposal.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Following receiving the Notice of Retirement from Police Chief Bryon Friedrichs at the last Council meeting, the Council was asked to take action to formally accept the resignation and also authorize next steps in finding a replacement.

The Personnel Committee met and recommended that the position be internally posted for fourteen days to allow existing members of the Department the opportunity to apply and be considered for the position. In addition, the Committee recommended that the Hiring Committee include members from outside the local government and may include a Chief from another City, or a representative from the Sheriff's Department.

A motion was made by Council Member Wilber and was seconded by Council Member Kelly to approve Resolution No. 2024-10, Resolution to Honor and Commend Police Chief Bryon Friedrichs of the Sauk Centre Police Department on the Occasion of his Retirement. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Wilber, Kelly, Leach, Fuechtmann and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Leach and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to authorize 14 day internal posting of position. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Leach, Fuechtmann, Wilber, Fuechtmann and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- b. At the January 17, 2024 City Council meeting, the Council tabled action on a Petition for Detachment received for property at the end of Morning View Drive currently owned by Wayne and Brianna Sens. The presented basis for the detachment is the property is not served by City Water and City Sewer and also allowable building design.



The action was tabled pending obtaining additional information on proposal including evaluating why the applicant wishes to detach so informed consideration can be made and any conditions could be considered including future road cost share.

Those reasons for why the applicant wishes to detach are included in the "Support" section below. In addition, the Council discussed why the petition may be opposed which is in the "Opposed" section below:

Support Detachment Petition

- City water/city sewer does not serve the property.
- Ability to construct detached garage larger than allowed by City Zoning.
- Ability to construct primary dwelling with sheet steel with exposed fasteners which is not allowed by City Zoning.

Oppose Detachment Petition

- City services will continue to be provided including street access and maintenance including snow removal.
- Property will benefit from future roadway, yet wouldn't contribute toward it.
- City provided public safety services including city owned police / fire / ambulance. Public safety calls would become a County call through Stearns County but access would be through the city.
- City provides electric utility services.
- City will allow private septic and well under grandfathered in Policy.
- City zoning allows 3,600 sf of accessory structures (1,200 sf attached garage and 2 – 1,200 sf detached)
- Property abuts City limits on three sides. Detachment would result in further irregularity in city boundary.

The Council reviewed the Petition. It was noted that if the Council and Township both support the petition the State will approve it. If both oppose, the State will deny it. If one of each, the State will conduct a hearing to review the merits of the case and make a determination. They may require mediation to see what the City has done to try to mitigate the reasons for the requested detachment. The State's cost for taking the proposal to an Administrative Law Judge will be allocated by the judge, 50% to the property owner and the other 50% divided between the City and Township at his or her discretion.

A motion was made by Council Member Kelly and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann regarding Resolution No. 2024-07, Resolution of the City of Sauk Centre Responding in Opposition to Petition for Detachment of Certain Land Pursuant to MN Statute §414.06. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kelly, Fuechtmann, Leach, Wilber and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- c. A Purchase Agreement was presented for the sale of Lots 4,5,&6 Block 1, Authors Addition in Sauk Centre. The proposal meets the terms and conditions set forth by the Council for the sale.

The EDA reviewed the proposal and recommended that authorization be granted to the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the Purchase Agreement and also the related Closing Documents.

A motion was made by Council Member Wilber and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to approve Resolution No. 2024-11, Resolution Authorizing Execution of Documents. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Wilber, Fuechtmann, Leach, Kelly and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- d. The following have agreed to work as election judges for the City for the 2024 Presidential Primary election:

- Vicki Willer, Clerk & Head Judge
 - Diane Bosl
 - Wendy Drobny, Health Care
 - Sandra Friedrichs
 - Jacquelyn Kirckof
 - Amy Trisko, Healthcare
 - Nicole Vogt, Head Judge

A motion was made by Council Member Kelly and was seconded by Council Member Leach to approve Resolution No. 2024-12, Resolution Appointing 2024 Presidential Primary Election Judges. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kelly, Leach, Fuechtmann, Wilber and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- e. Patrick Gonzales tendered his resignation as a Seasonal Employee for the Sauk Centre Civic Arena.

He has stated that he made this decision due to personal reasons.

A motion was made by Council Member Fuechtmann and was seconded by Council Member Kelly to accept the resignation of Patrick Gonzalez. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members: For: Council Members Fuechtmann, Kelly, Leach, Wilber and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- f. Dave Deters submitted his Notice of Retirement from the Sauk Centre Fire Department.

Deters has been a member of the Department since July 7, 1992.

Following his retirement, the Department will be two short of its optimum 30 members. The Department requested to advertise to create a hiring list to fill these two positions and also have a list to draw from for potential future retirements.

A motion was made by Council Member Wilber and was seconded by Council Member Leach to accept the resignation of Dave Deters from the Sauk Centre Fire Department. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Wilber, Leach, Kelly and Mayor Stone. Against: None. Abstain: Council Member Fuechtmann. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Kelly and was seconded by Council Member Wilber to authorize advertisement for the firefighter position/hire list. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kelly, Wilber, Leach and Mayor Stone. Against: None. Abstain: Council Member Fuechtmann. The motion passed.

- g. Kathy Struffert submitted the following request:

April Marthaler is a licensed EMT and has applied for a position as an EMT with the Sauk Centre Ambulance. She took the EMT class on her own and recently passed all the required skills and written testing. She has been doing ride alongs with the Sauk Centre Ambulance during her EMT training and has been gaining the skills needed.

We believe April will be a good asset to our service.

A motion was made by Council Member Leach and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to approve the appointment of April Marthaler as Probationary EMT, effective January 29, 2024. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Leach, Fuechtmann, Wilber, Kelly and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- h. Three Pay As You go (PAYGO) payments are due for Tax Increment Development Projects as follows:

TIF 1-12	Felling Trailers	Pmt 8 of 18	\$26,244.19
TIF 1-13	FJERA	Pmt 2 of 18	\$4,601.49
TIF 1-14	Savory Smokehouse	Pmt 2 of 18	\$2,718.08

This is the second half of 2023 Increment due in February, 2024.

A motion was made by Council Member Kelly and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to approve Pay As You Go Payments as presented. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kelly, Fuechtmann, Leach, Wilber and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- i. Pam Borgmann, representing Artify Sauk Centre, submitted a request for a road closure for the 2024 Annual Chalk in Sauk Event.

The event is being moved from Sinclair Lewis Avenue to Park Road. The request is to close Park Road from Main to the Boat Launch with an access to the Bandshell parking lot from Oak Street. Detour would be 2nd Street. Hours of closure are Friday, June 21 at 9:00 p.m. to Sunday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. A sign by Friedrichs to direct to campground.



A motion was made by Council Member Wilber and was seconded by Council Member Kelly to approve the road closure as presented. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Wilber, Kelly, Leach, Fuechtmann and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- j. At the January 3, 2024 City Council meeting, the Council adopted a Resolution Authorizing Solicitation of Bids for the replacement of the 2002 Ford F250 Park Pickup.

Bids were sought through the State Bid Holder and also bids were sought from local dealerships with the following results.

Bidder	Truck	Price
State Bid	Ford F250 Crew 4WD	\$50,503.00
State Bid	Dodge Ram ¾ ton Crew 4WD	\$48,055.00
State Bid	Chevy 2500 Crew 4WD	\$45,107.00
John Wiese Ford	Ford F250 Crew 4WD	\$52,905.00
D Welle Southtown	Dodge Ram ¾ ton Crew 4WD	\$44,796.00
D Welle Southtown	Chevy 2500 Crew 4WD	\$45,107.00
State Bid	Dodge Ram ¾ ton Crew 2WD	\$45,419.00
State Bid	Chevy 2500 Crew 2WD	\$43,137.00
State Bid	Ford F250 Crew 2WD	NA
John Wiese Ford	Ford F250 Crew 2WD	NA
D Welle Southtown	Dodge Ram ¾ ton Crew 2WD	\$42,058.00
D Welle Southtown	Chevy 2500 Crew 2WD	\$46,554.00

A motion was made by Council Member Kelly and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to approve Resolution No. 2024-13, Resolution Accepting Bid and Authorizing Purchase of a Pickup for the Sauk Centre Park Department. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members: Kelly, Fuechtmann, Leach, Wilber and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Representatives of CentraCare were at a previous meeting discussing with the Council its proposal to enter into an agreement with an outside party for the operation of the long-term care portion of the hospital. Those discussions have moved forward and CentraCare will be partnering with CURA for those services.

The City met with the legal teams for CURA and CentraCare on how this impacts the City Lease Agreement with CentraCare. In the near term while under an Operating Agreement there is little if no impact.

The long-term plan is for CURA to take ownership of that part of the hospital property which would require approvals by the City for a property subdivision and also to resolve any lease implications. This could ultimately result in the CentraCare exercising its option to purchase the hospital property in its entirety.

- b. The South Sauk Centre Industrial Park Project included stormwater improvements at the Truck Stop property to redirect stormwater from the Truck Stop through the new industrial park and to the holding pond area. That portion of the project was struck due to cost considerations. The 2024 Budget includes funding to complete the project using primarily Stormwater Utility Revenues.

The City Engineer was asked to refresh the cost numbers for discussion and potentially moving the project forward.

By general consent, the Council approved moving forward.

- c. At a prior meeting there was discussion on a potential CIP project for 2025 to include all or parts of the streets from SLA to 9th between Main and Ash.

City and Utility Staff to meet on Tuesday, February 6 to look at the size and scope of the project and how it could be accomplished as well as any alternative projects that may be an option including the “Pave All Gravel Roads” option.

City Engineer Yapp stated that the estimated project cost would be 5.75-6 million dollars and would be a 2 year project.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. County Commissioner Steve Notch reached out to the City to see if there is any interest in having someone from the Sauk Centre Area in serving on the Stearns County Opioid Community Advisory Committee to review and recommend distribution of funds that will be received by the County from the Opioid Settlement. Stearns County is estimated to received \$9,000,000 over the next 18 years.

The Stearns County Opioid Community Advisory Committee will be responsible to prepare budget recommendations for the County Board on the use of funding as part of the annual budget process.

Use of funding recommendations will focus on the following three pillars:

- Prevention
- Harm Reduction
- Treatment/Recovery

The County Board of Commissioners will review and approve work plans, budget spending, and services. To ensure the opioid settlement dollars are used most effectively, decisions will be made using the following principles:

- Prioritize community-driven needs
- Use evidence-based practices to guide spending
- Invest in youth prevention
- Focus on disparately impacted communities
- Develop a fair, transparent criteria for funding decisions

Performance Measures will be established to track the effectiveness of County efforts.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

The Council considered the following Consent Agenda Items:

- a. Schedule of Claims - Unpaid Claims \$445,457.19
Paid Claims \$0.00
Total \$445,457.19

- b. Resolution No. 2024-14, Resolution Accepting Contributions:

Men’s Card Playing Group	\$197.36	Senior Center
Kandota Township	\$1,000.00	Amb. Dept. (ALS Setup)
Sauk Centre Seniors	\$2,000.00	Senior Center

- c. Sauk Centre Youth Hockey Association has submitted an Application & Permit for a 1-Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for a beer & wine event at the Sauk Centre Civic Arena on March 23, 2024. Fee and Certificate of Insurance is being provided.

- d. Resolution No. 2024-15 Resolution Approving an Off-site Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Conservation Club. The permit would allow for a Raffle to be held on June 8, 2024 at the Sinclair Lewis Park Bandshell.

- e. Resolution No. 2024-16 Resolution Approving an Off-site Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Youth Hockey Association. The permit would allow for a Raffle to be held on March 23, 2024 at the Sauk Centre Civic Arena.

A motion was made by Council Member Wilber and was seconded by Council Member Leach to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Wilber, Leach, Kelly, Fuechtmann and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

The council thanked the Men’s Card Playing Group, Kandota Township and Sauk Centre Seniors for their generous donation.

11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Mark Grinstead will advance to Step 7 effective March 1, 2024.

- b. Fire Service Meeting with Townships – February 20, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

- c. Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting – Monday, April 8, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

- d. Spectrum Channel Lineup Changes.

12. CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Stone recessed the Regular Meeting and convened in Closed Session pursuant to MN §13D Subd. 3(c) 3 Potential Sale of Real Estate Lot 2, Arrowsmith, Plat 3

- a. A motion was made by Council Member Wilber and was seconded by Council Member Kelly to authorize the City Administrator to respond to the Purchase Offer for Lot 2, Arrowsmith, Plat 3 by accepting the proposal. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Wilber, Kelly, Leach, Fuechtmann and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Fuechtmann and was seconded by Council Member Leach to adjourn the meeting. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Fuechtmann, Leach, Wilber, Kelly and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

With no further business, Mayor Stone adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Mayor Warren Stone

City Administrator Vicki Willer