

**SAUK CENTRE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015**

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

The Sauk Centre City Council met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers pursuant to due notice being given thereof. Present were Council Members Keith Johnson, Dave Thomas, Heidi Leach, Diane Kelly and Mayor Warren Stone. Also present were City Administrator Vicki Willer, City Planner Sarah Morton, Public Works Supervisor Matt Zinniel, Ambulance Director Kathy Struffert and Administrative Assistant Nicki Vogt. Mayor Stone presided thereat.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Leach and was seconded by Council Member Thomas to approve the agenda with removal of Police Report. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Leach, Thomas, Johnson, Kelly and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Thomas and was seconded by Council Member Kelly to approve the February 4, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, with changes. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Thomas, Kelly, Johnson, Leach and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

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

Dennis Fletcher, Owner of Fletchers Bait. Mr. Fletcher asked that the Council tread lightly as it relates to weed spraying on Sauk Lake. See 7b.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

6. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- a. Removed from Agenda.
- b. Ambulance Director Struffert presented Lifesaving Awards to Quint Swedenburg, Jami Cole and Jasmine Huntington for saving the life of 66 year old Sauk Centre resident, Lois Openhoven.

Mayor Stone thanked Swedenburg, Cole and Huntington for their hard work and dedicated service to the Sauk Centre Ambulance Department.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. A nomination was received from Betty Keenan to serve on the Senior Center Board for a three year term. According to City Code Section 32.03, the Senior Center Board shall

consist of 5 to 15 members. Two-thirds of the members shall be citizens of the City and one-third shall be residents of the greater Sauk Centre area.

Currently, there are six members on the board, plus a Council Representative and staff member. The Code states that the Board may be expanded to fifteen members at any time. The term of Evelyn Gartner expired on December 31, 2014 and the term of Sharon Tollin expires on December 31, 2016.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson and was seconded by Council Member Leach to appoint Betty Keenan to the Senior Center Board for a three year term. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Johnson, Leach, Kelly, Thomas and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- b. In 2014, the City Council entered into an Operational Plan arrangement with the Sauk River Watershed and the Big Sauk Lake Association on how Aquatic Invasive Weeds would be managed on Sauk Lake. This is an update to the former Weed Harvester Project and would utilize the maintenance funds previously collected for the operation of the Harvester to keep navigation channels open in the lake. The proposal is to treat the weeds with a chemical early in the season after the invasive plants are growing, but before the native vegetation has taken off.

Why is Curly-Leaf a Problem?

In spring, curly-leaf pondweed can form dense mats that may interfere with boating and other recreation on lakes. Curly-leaf also can cause ecological problems because it can displace native aquatic plants. In midsummer, curly-leaf plants usually die back, which results in rafts of dying plants piling up on shorelines, and often is followed by an increase in phosphorus, a nutrient, and undesirable algal blooms.

The Big Sauk Lake Association submitted a Treatment Plan and Budget to the Watershed and City in July of 2014 for review. The Plan was developed following an evaluation of the Curly Leaf Pondweed by Lake Restoration, Inc., a firm hired by the Association. The results of the evaluation found 93 acres of CLP existing on the lake which would require a treatment budget of approximately \$28,000 if all the acreage was sprayed.

A determination of how much, if any, of the weeds will be treated in 2015 is yet to be made. The initial Weed Harvester Program was to keep navigation channels open. The 93 acres identified by Lake Restoration Inc., includes both navigation channels and shoreline property. A map of the identified areas is attached.

An informational meeting was held at City Hall on Monday, February 23 where input was received from Lake Restoration Inc., the Watershed District, the Lake Association, DNR Fisheries, area fisherman and related businesses, area campgrounds, and lakeshore owners.

A wide variety of viewpoints was obtained. The sport fisherman and related businesses prefer no spraying, some residents/businesses prefer that the navigation channels be maintained, some recreational users and others would like all the CLP to be treated. It

was agreed that we need to preserve and protect the native vegetation to increase habitat yet also manage the CLP so it doesn't become a nuisance and rise to its previous proliferation as in the early 2000s.

The City Council discussed pros and cons on how much, if any, of the CLP should be treated in 2015 and took into consideration the budget, the public comments, and the eligible uses of the funds. An application for treatment of the entire 93 acres has been submitted to the DNR for approval; however, the DNR has authority to approve any part, or the entire amount. The contractor would then be hired to treat whatever amount is decided upon, with the top end limited by the DNR, pending approval.

Moving forward, this action and approval will occur early each summer for the next fiscal year according to the Operational Plan.

A copy of the identified sites, the fact sheet on Curly Leaf Pondweed, the product label for Aquathol K, and a fact sheet on the active ingredient Dipotassium Salt of Endothall was presented to the Council.

Lake Association Representative Tim Weir presented the Council with the areas recommended to be treated as a test plot. Those areas are the navigational area.

A motion was made by Council Member Leach and was seconded by Council Member Kelly for no treatment in 2015, but require the Operations Committee meet to review and discuss options, as well as meet with the Lake Association. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Leach, Kelly, Thomas, Johnson and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- c. As part of the Beltline Reconstruction Project with the County, the City has been offered payment for an easement along the south side of Beltline adjacent to the Information Center.

The request is for a temporary easement immediately adjacent to the southerly 50 foot right of way line of CSAH 72 (Beltline). The easement is necessary to match into the existing topography during construction. The offer also includes payment for the removal of trees necessary for the construction.

A copy of the request was presented to the Council. The total proposed payment is \$3,253.00.

Because the City is a cooperative partner in this project, the Council may want to consider waiver of the payment as a way to reduce the overall cost of the project.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson and was seconded by Council Member Leach to approve granting the of slope easement to Stearns County. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Johnson, Leach, Thomas, Kelly and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- d. A petition has been received requesting annexation of property on Minnette Road at the westerly boundary of the City. The property is 1.1 acre in size and is requested to be annexed for the purpose of access to the municipal water and sewer.

A motion was made by Council Member Leach and was seconded by Council Member Thomas to accept the petition for annexation. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Leach, Thomas, Kelly, Johnson and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- e. Over the years, as cell phones became more prominent, the City has discussed the City's policy as it relates to providing cells phones to employees. Currently, supervisors are provided phones for conducting City business. This can become costly.

One option that would save funds for the City is to reimburse employees for using their personal phones for business purposes rather than purchasing and providing service for a company phone. One hurdle to this was that the IRS previously viewed any reimbursement as taxable income. In recent years the IRS changed this interpretation and now allows for the reimbursement as non-taxable income. This eliminates much of the tracking and paperwork that would otherwise be required.

The City is now at a point where a cell phone will need to be provided to the Public Works Supervisor. He has proposed that he use his existing phone for business use and that the City reimburse him for the cost of the phone.

By general consent, this will be sent to the Policy Committee for their review/recommendation.

- f. With the availability of the old Ambulance Garage for Public Works storage, the Public Works Dept. has freed up two stalls at the transit garage.

The transit bus system (Tri-Cap) has requested the use of the two stalls. They currently stage five buses in Sauk Centre and have three stalls.

Tri-Cap has agreed to pay per month toward the rental of the stalls.

Information only. No action was taken.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The City received notice that the Chamber of Commerce will be terminating its Lease Agreement at the Information Center site and will be relocating downtown. The CVB Board has voted to relocate with the Chamber.

The Lease calls for a sixty day notice, which has been satisfied.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

The Council considered the following Consent Agenda items:

a.	Schedule of Claims -	Unpaid Claims	\$169,604.08
		Paid Claims	<u>\$559,779.29</u>
		Total	<u>\$729,383.37</u>

b.	February Checks	#2447E-#2478E	<u>\$1,007,743.40</u>
		#36052-36095	
		3 Payroll ACH Transfers	

c. Resolution No. 2015-17, Resolution Accepting Contributions. The contributions are as follows:

Community Connection	\$500.00	Chamber Easter Egg Hunt
Community Connection	\$1,000.00	Ambulance
Community Connection	\$1,000.00	Senior Center
David & Irma Bromenshenkel	\$25.00	Ambulance
David & Mari Thomas	\$50.00	Splash Pad
Amy Trisko	\$50.00	Splash Pad

d. The Police Department has excess vehicles to be offered for public sale through Resolution No. 2015-18 Declaring Property as Excess and Authorizing Sale, as follows:

2003 Cadillac Escalade

A motion was made by Council Member Kelly and was seconded by Council Member Leach to approve Consent Agenda items a-c as presented. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kelly, Leach, Thomas, Johnson and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

Mayor Stone thanked the above noted groups for their donations.

Consent Agenda item 10d was removed from the agenda until further discussion can be held with Police Chief Friedrichs regarding the Police Departments need for an additional vehicle.

11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Board of Equalization Meeting – May 4, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.
- b. Hazardous Waste Collection Day – June 10, 2015 – Arena Parking Lot
- c. Citywide Recycling Day – May 15-16, 2015 – Arena Parking Lot
- d. Fire Service Area Calculations
- e. Upcoming events at the Civic Arena

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Stone adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Warren Stone

City Administrator Vicki Willer