

City of Menahga
Continuance of Regular City Council Minutes
Thursday, January 17, 2019

A. Call to Order

The Menahga City Council held a continuance of the regular meeting, Tuesday, January 8, 2019 on Thursday, January 17, 2019. Mayor Liimatta called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

B. Roll Call

Comprising a quorum of the council, the following members were present:

Tim Ellingson	Robyn Keranen	Art Huebner – via Skype
Larry Karjala	Joanie Liimatta	

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of consent agenda
 - a. Action Memorandum 19-001: Accept and Appropriate Donation in the amount of \$100 from Lorraine Jacob for the Memorial Campground

Main Motion: To approve the agenda, consent agenda and minutes

Moved by:	Karjala
Seconded by:	Keranen
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Ellingson, Karjala, Keranen, Liimatta
Opposed:	None

2. Approval of minutes

- a. December 10, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes

Main Motion: To approve the agenda, consent agenda and minutes

Moved by:	Ellingson
Seconded by:	Karjala
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Ellingson, Karjala, Keranen, Liimatta
Opposed:	None

- b. December 10, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes

Main Motion: To approve the agenda, consent agenda and minutes

Moved by:	Ellingson
Seconded by:	Karjala

Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Ellingson, Karjala, Keranen, Liimitta
Opposed:	None

c. December 21, 2017, Special Meeting Minutes

Main Motion: To approve the agenda, consent agenda and minutes

Moved by:	Keranen
Seconded by:	Ellingson
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Ellingson, Karjala, Keranen, Liimitta
Opposed:	None

E. Communication and Appearance Requests

F. Public Input

- Jensine Kurtti – Discussed the damage to her fence at her property located at 217 SE Aspen Ave. The damage occurred Friday, January 4, 2019 when the city pay loader piled up snow high causing it to come down on the opposite side of the pile damaging Kurtti’s fence. Kurtti also stated the snow was not only from the city beach but also from Spirit Lake Lumber from the north. Also stated that the city allowing Spirit Lake Lumber to allow their snow to be plowed takes away from public parking for events.
 - Karjala asked if someone when in to try to move snow and asked how the damage occurred
 - Ellingson asked if the City hauls snow in there
 - Kurtti said not that she knows of and she finds it unfair that one business can haul it there
 - Mayor Liimitta stated this something that would have to be addressed at a future meeting saying it we should talk to the property owners and asked for ideas from the council, also stating this kind of dangerous
 - Keranen suggested talking to the business owner
 - Ellingson stated it all needs to be hauled away everyone else does it there is no reservation under the exception.
- Carol Waaraniemi – Said this might be old business but knowing we (the city) will be hiring new Clerks and Administrators. She was at the meeting and knows there was an issue last fall (referring to the hiring of former Administrator Ellingson) with step 6 or 7 and never really hearing who okayed the step 10. She is hoping the council be really open and transparent with whatever the council decides, that’s what we go for.
 - Mayor Liimitta – we appreciate that thank you.

G. Reports by Departments

1. Greenwood Connections Administrator – Laura Ahlf
 - CCU is full, some empty beds in the long stay, remodel not done on east hallway
 - Amended the policy – Added that each step increase will be given provided the employee receives a satisfactory yearly employee evaluation.

- Employees that need to improve performance will be given the opportunity to improve over a period to 3 months and if successful, will be able to receive their raise.
- Still working on the remodeling. Have had a few holdups with the electrical due to the concrete walls. The plumbers have the holes drilled and are ready to go as soon as the electrical is done. Construction meeting tomorrow (January 9, 2019)
- Census was down to 89% for December, because we had a number we were going to be down to before we took admissions in our long stay. Budgeted was 85% so it was still within where we were at for the coming year.
- Ellingson inquired as to the aid and orderly salaries being up about \$10,000.
 - Ahlf stated they are fully staffed and with the census as it is they have asked staff to voluntarily leave early. We have been and are very fortunate to have the staff that we have. We are five star on our staffing which is good. Our staffing has been excellent, which we don't want to be a facility that doesn't have the staff. It could be that our staffing is up.
- Ellingson asked if that would be the reason for having more RNs than LPNs
 - Ahlf responded saying our LPNs are down a little bit because our TMAs are up. The TMAs can also be CNAs it's what their license is.
- Ellingson asked if the linen & bedding was new or replacement of the old.
 - Ahlf explained they have ordered a lot of bedding ordered it was new as the bed sizes were different for the new addition.
- Karjala asked if they needed to do a separate motion to accept the policy change or if it could go with the report.
 - Mayor Liimitta responded saying she thinks it could all go together.
 - Ahlf agreed stating that is normally how it is done.

Main Motion: To approve the Greenwood Connections Board minutes & financials

Moved by:	Ellingson
Seconded by:	Keranen
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Ellingson, Karjala, Keranen, Liimitta
Opposed:	None

2. Police Department – Sheriff Mike Carr

- Sheriff Carr stated they have been asked to act as the Interim CLEO (Chief Law Enforcement Officer) and have put together the monthly numbers and turned the floor over to Chief Deputy Schoon.
- Chief Deputy Schoon gave a summary of the calls for December 2018.
- Chief Deputy Schoon stated that since he has taken over working with Keith and Derek it has been business as usual to keep the schedule going. It is hard to come by part timers to fill in, they have the same problem at the Sheriff's Office.
- Chief Deputy Schoon asked if the council had questions and asked what their plans are for the future
 - Mayor Liimitta asked if things were going well the way its running right now.

- Schoon responded saying you've got two good men that are working for this department they are keeping things going smoothly. They know how things operate. Supervising them isn't too difficult.
- Keranen asked as far as taking over, are we were planning on doing long term, or how long can you do it for.
 - Schoon replied we can do it for as long as the City Council requests.
 - Sheriff Carr responded that a lot of times in the absence of law enforcement the Sheriff is responsible for the county as well as in city jurisdiction. In something like this obviously we would like to know sooner rather than later how the council wants to move forward. Whether it be with an appointment of somebody, hiring a Chief, or a contract.
- A member of the public asked what is the Sheriff's response time for coming here if you don't have a deputy in the area because Keith and Derek can't be available 24/7
 - Sheriff Carr responded saying that can vary if a Deputy is here. Both Keith and Derek are on call and so that is there response. So nothing has changed there. Scott lived outside of the jurisdiction 15 miles. You obviously not going to be everywhere all the time but I will reassure you, our responsibility as deputies we have a good response time in the county wide.
- Karjala asked if the Minnesota Highway Patrol could be a part of the response group.
 - Carr said absolutely. We all help each other. We have a good working relationship with all Police Departments in the County.
- Karjala asked if we were to get our protection from the county do you have financial information that could be shared with the council to give us a feel or an idea.
 - Carr said yes, absolutely. What I suggest what the council do is keep your options open. Listen to your public, listen to what they want. Listen to what they want for law enforcement. If that is an option you are asked of us we can put some numbers together for you.
 - Mayor Liimatta said she would like to see that.
 - Karjala said he thinks that would be advantageous.
 - Mayor Liimatta said we would have more of an opportunity to see which one would actually make more sense financially and response time, safety wise. Asked if they (the Sheriff) could bring it to the February meeting.
 - Sheriff Carr asked if there was a Police Committee or Liaison
 - Keranen stated we haven't set that yet.
 - Mayor Liimatta said we could establish a work session.
 - Interim Clerk Pachel said it was on the agenda to appoint committees.
 - Karjala stated he was the only remaining individual from the previous administration of that committee.
 - Ellingson explained we had committees then we abandoned them because we wanted more contributions from all the members.
 - Mayor Liimatta stated if we go with work sessions instead of committees we can get more public input and the open meeting law isn't so easy to

- Carr stated his recommendation was to have 2 council members so we can have a committee meeting to discuss this stuff beforehand and get answers to questions before this comes in front of the board. His reasoning was due to the fact we didn't have a police chief or an administrator.
- Mayor Liimatta stated she wanted to be a part of that work session. She wanted a works session because she wanted it to be public. She asked if anybody else would want to be and Councilmember Keranen volunteered. Robyn and I will be on that work session.
- Mayor Liimatta with all that has happened in the last 24 hours asked Sheriff Carr to start an investigation of who said what to make these people (referring to former Administrator Ellingson and former Deputy Clerk Kytta). She stated there were obviously some untruths that have been going on and would like to who said what to make these people walk out. Epically the Administrator, the Deputy Clerk did have some personal stuff she said. I would like to investigate somehow.
- Sheriff Carr turned this over to Chief Deputy Schoon, who asked if she was looking at this as a criminal standpoint or internally.
- Mayor Liimatta replied internally probably, though it's almost criminal the way it happened because it was based on untruths.
- Schoon suggested looking at the personnel policy to see if any of that has been violated. Then discussing it with City Attorney to decide if what road to go down, if its law enforcement that should do the investigation on that or another entity should. It is kind of a gray area there if it's not criminal then law enforcement should not be involved in that.
- Sheriff Carr stated there are private companies that can assist in internal investigations.
- Chief Deputy Schoon then asked after tonight what are your wishes for us? Is it status quo that was decided on the 21st until you guys come up with another plan or final decision?
 - Mayor Liimatta stated that because of the last 24 hours she did not want to have a complete meeting she wanted to continue next Thursday at 7 pm (Thursday, January 17, 2019, 7 pm).
 - Karjala, Keranen and Liimatta agreed they should continue to provide the coverage for now.
- Carr wanted to make it real clear this county and city are very important to him. He want to make sure they are here for the council to make a good choice decision. They are not here to say they want to contract, they want to do this to make a good choice decision. As an elected official it's good to kind of get this out there with the people to see then you as elected officials can hear from the public as well.
 - Mayor Liimatta – how soon would you be able to have those numbers together if we were to meet next Thursday
 - Sheriff Carr asked to see the layout of the current Police Department budget so he can compare apples to apples. He has done some in the past for other cities.

- It was decided the final numbers for the county will be presented at the February Regular meeting.
- Karjala thanked Sheriff Carr and Chief Deputy Schoon

Main Motion: To approve the monthly numbers

Moved by:	Karjala
Seconded by:	Keranen
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Ellingson, Karjala, Keranen, Liimatta
Opposed:	None

3. Public Works Interview Committee – Tabled until the Regular Meeting Continuance scheduled for 7 pm, Thursday, January 17, 2019 due to the fact we lost a member of the interview panel (referring to former Administrator Ellingson)

H. Notices and Communications

I. Public Hearings

J. Unfinished Business

- Mayor Liimatta would like to readdress the cell tower issue. She stated she knows there was action taken at the last meeting. She wants more information before this council makes a decision, but we would table that until the January 17, 2019 meeting.
 - Ellingson asked Mayor Liimatta, what more information do you need on that? We heard things three, four, or five times.
 - Mayor Liimatta stated she has hear things five times. I am not in favor of building another tower that really does nothing for our community. If they build it, it will not employ anyone from this area. It is an unnecessary structure and I would like to wait until I get a little bit more information from some other sources.
 - Ellingson – regarding what?
 - Mayor Liimatta – regarding pretty much the necessity of another tower. And I did hear all the agreements when I was here last meeting.
 - Ellingson – Ok, so what don't you get about that? Its competition, if you want to go back on it. You can say since the complainant has two towers we should go back and force them to take down the second tower because it's not necessary.
 - Mayor Liimatta – Destruction is much different than construction.
 - Ellingson – it doesn't matter, if necessity was the main point he was driving at. That second one isn't necessary unless the first tower is filled and I don't think it is.
 - Mayor Liimatta – So we are going to put a third one up
 - Ellingson – why not? Competition
 - Mayor Liimatta – I would like to table that until next week.
 - Ellingson – go ahead
 - Mayor Liimatta – thank you

K. New Business

Item 1 – Action Memorandum 19-002: Approve Review Messenger as the 2019 Official City Newspaper.

- Ellingson – Have we ever shopped for prices on that? Park Rapids maybe
- Keranen – I think maybe Art (Huebner) talked to the Park Rapids paper. Shannon are you here? Did Art talk to you?
- Shannon (Park Rapids Enterprise) by statute there has to be an office here in Menahga, which the Enterprise doesn't have. Until we have an office here.
- Keranen – That limits that.
- Karjala – Well there you go.
- Keranen - Yep

Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 19-002

Moved by:	Keranen
Seconded by:	Karjala
Action:	Motion carried by 2 – 1 vote
In favor:	Keranen, Karjala
Opposed:	Ellingson

Item 2 – Action Memorandum 19-003: Approve Community First Bank of Menahga and Sebeka, TruStar Federal Credit Union, Ehlers Investment, and the 4-M Fund as the 2019 Official Depositories

- Keranen – Does anyone know do we have any allotted time before we approve these ones? Just curious about the Ehlers Investment one. I talked to a firm out of Fargo and have not yet received the information. Just to compare what they can do for your community and I was wondering if there a 30 day time limit before this has to be approved?
- Karjala – You know truthfully I don't know
- Mayor Liimatta – I don't know. What we should do it probably, is put it out there so next year at this time we have answers like that so we don't have to rush into something. I would suggest right now leave it as is but let's get some information, because if we are going to have money we should have it making money.
- Keranen – that's what I'm thinking.
- Ellingson – I believe we were making good money with Ehlers
- Karjala agreed and stated there was a representative here.

Main Motion: To authorize Action Memorandum 19-003

Moved by:	Ellingson
Seconded by:	Karjala
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Ellingson, Karjala, Keranen
Opposed:	None

Item 3 – Action Memorandum 19-004: Approve Pederson and Pederson PA as the City's 2019 Criminal and Civic Legal Counsel – **Tabled**

Item 4 – Action Memorandum 19-005: Appointing Vice Mayor – Tabled

Item 5 – Action Memorandum 19-006: Approve the 2019 Department Liaison Group Appointments. – Tabled

Item 6 – Adopting a Resolution No. 2019-002 – Adopting the City of Menahga Fee Schedule for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 8, 2019, and ending December 31, 2019. – Tabled

L. Consideration of Bills

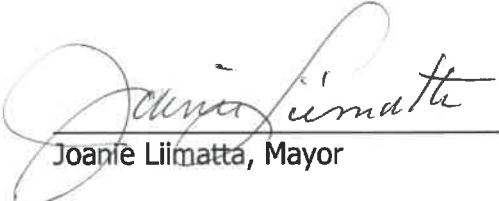
Tabled

M. Meeting Recessed

Main Motion: To recess the meeting at 6:45 pm and reconvene Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Moved by:	Karjala
Seconded by:	Keranen


Amanda Pachel, Interim City Clerk


Joanie Liimatta, Mayor