

**City of Menahga
Regular City Council Minutes
April 8, 2024**

1. Call to Order

The Menahga City Council held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday April 8, 2024.

Mayor Elizabeth Olson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

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

Mayor Elizabeth Olson Mike Netland Durwin Tomperi
Jody Bjornson Dan Warmbold

City Office Staff present: Interim City Clerk/Treasurer Jensine Kurtti

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

To approve adding 10 i. - Greenwood Connections Transfer to General Fund; 10 j. – Water & Sewer Back Billing Info.; 10 k. – City Clerk Clarification.

Main Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved by:	Netland
Seconded	Tomperi
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Olson, Tomperi, Netland, Bjornson, Warmbold
Opposed:	None

5. Communication Appearance Request

a. Menahga Bible Reading Marathon – Marla Niemela

Marla Niemela spoke to the Council about a Bible Reading Marathon that Bible reading Ministry International would like to have in the City of Menahga the week of August 11th. This group was seeking approval to hold the event, as well as making the community aware that this event was happening. By consensus the Council agreed to the request. Interim Clerk/Treasurer Kurtti agreed to inform the Menahga Police Department about the planned event.

6. Public Forum and Correspondence

a. Wayne Isaacson – Disc Golf at City Campground

Wayne Isaacson was representing the Menahga Disc Golf Club, and asked the Council if it would be possible to expand the current Disc Golf Course at the City Campground from 12 holes to 18 holes (he presented a map of where the six holes would be placed). Isaacson explained that the first step to making this a reality was to get permission from the City. The expansion would take place in a wooded area on the southwest corner of the City Campground. The group would like to have it cleared by a local logger who would keep the stumpage of the logs to offset the cost. Isaacson reported that the cost would be between \$5,000 to \$7,000 to complete and would come from donations, with \$2,000 already pledged by the Menahga Civic and Commerce Assn. Isaacson stated that nearly 3000 rounds were recorded on the U-Disc App in 2023, representing people from 13 States and 3 Countries. He stated that many users do not use U-Disc App, so those totals were not available. If approved the project would be completed by the Fall of 2024 or Spring of 2025. Isaacson reported that he had already discussed this matter with Ralph Cox, the Park Manager. The Council agreed to place it on the Agenda for the April 29th Work Session Meeting for consideration.

7. Consent Agenda

Minutes to Approve:

- a. March 11, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting Minutes**
- b. March 25, 2024 – Work Session/Special Meeting Minutes**

It was noted that on the Motion section of the Minutes for March 25, 2024, Council member Warmbold was on the vote twice and Netland was omitted. Kurtti will correct the mistake.

Main Motion: To approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2024, and the March 25, 2024 Work Session/Special Meeting Minutes, with the corrections of names on Motions.

Moved by:	Warmbold
Seconded	Bjornson
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Olson, Tomperi, Netland, Bjornson, Warmbold
Opposed:	None

8. Public Hearing – None

9. Acknowledgment of receipt of Commission Minutes - None

10. New Business

a. Proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month

The City was asked if they would consider proclaiming the month of May, 2024 as Motorcycle Awareness Month for the City of Menahga. The proclamation was read.

Main Motion: To approve the Motorcycle Awareness Month Proclamation as presented and authorize the Mayor to sign the same.

Moved by:	Bjornson
Seconded	Warmbold
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Olson, Tomperi, Netland, Bjornson, Warmbold
Opposed:	None

b. Community Outreach & Senior Advocate Website

The City received an e-mail from a Darlene Smith, Community Outreach and Senior Advocate, requesting its groups information on Comprehensive Guides to Memory Care & Assisted Living be placed on the City of Menahga’s website. After discussion the Council agreed that this information would be better placed on the Greenwood Connection website if the GWC Administrator so chose. The request was denied.

c. Resolution 2024-13 Accepting Donation for Police Dept.

Chief Lane has been seeking donations for the Menahga Police Dept. The Department has received two donations as follows: K.L.N. Enterprises for \$200 and Todd-Wadena Electric for \$100. Kurtti read Resolution #2024-13 accepting the

donations.

Main Motion: To approve Resolution #2024-13 accepting the generous donations from K.L.N. Enterprises for \$200 and Todd-Wadena Electric for \$100 for a total of \$300.

Moved by:	Tomperi
Seconded	Netland
Action:	Motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Tomperi, Netland, Olson, Warmbold, Bjornson
Opposed:	Bjornson

d. Minnesota Power Street Light

The City received a request to consider the placement of a street light at the corner of Larch Avenue and 1st St. Northwest. Public Works Director Ron Yliniemi provided the cost of installation. Minnesota Power will install the streetlight for \$220 plus a standard monthly fee for operation.

Main Motion: To approve the installation of a streetlight at the corner of Larch Avenue and 1st St. NW, at a cost of \$220, plus the standard monthly fee for operation.

Moved by:	Netland
Seconded	Tomperi
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Olson, Tomperi, Bjornson, Netland, Warmbold
Opposed:	None

e. WCTA Camera Upgrade Discussion

At the March 25, 2024 meeting Interim Clerk/Treasurer Kurtti informed the Council that the front parking lot of City Hall did not have a clear view of cars or individuals on their security camera. Kurtti contacted WCTA and was told that the current security system, which is City owned, is no longer supported and could not be upgraded. WCTA suggested that the City upgrade to a newer system which could either be purchased or leased. The existing cameras will work with the new system. The Council asked Kurtti to get more information and provide costs for consideration by the Council.

f. Process to Review Applications

The City has received several applications for the City Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy

Clerk positions. Kurtti asked how the Council would like to proceed with reviewing them. It was the consensus of the Council, that members review them individually and score them. with the top scores provided an interview. The Council agreed to come in before April 12th and review them, with interviews to be scheduled on April 19th.

g. Duties of Council Information and Discussion

Council member Jody Bjornson had asked that this item be placed on the agenda, Bjornson handed out some LMC information and had concerns that the City Hall had been closed for 20 minutes (one person came to see Chief Lane during that time). The closing occurred due to a call that Mayor Olson, Jensine Kurtti and Alvina Kytta had with Standard and Poors on the City's Bond Rating. Kurtti explained that since Diane Vry was not in the office, and Olson, Kytta and herself were on the confidential call, it was decided that it was best to lock the door and place a sign that they were in a meeting.

Bjornson also questioned why people were told that they could not attend the Special Assessment Policy group (Engineer Chris Thorson, Public Works Director Ron Yliniemi, Mayor Olson, Mike Netland and Interim City Clerk/Treasurer Kurtti) that met at City Hall. Mayor Olson explained that the group was reviewing the Special Assessment Policy that the group has been working on since last year. Mayor Olson further explained that the Council approved Netland and herself to participate in the review. Kurtti stated that it was a work session for final review and not a public meeting and no decisions were made. Bjornson felt that these examples were an Open Meeting Law violation.

h. Packet Information Discussion

Jody Bjornson expressed concern that the Council members were not given all packet information on Friday before the meeting. Jody stated that the cut-off for information is Wednesday and noon.

i. Greenwood Connections Transfer to General Fund - Tabled

j. Water & Sewer Back Billing Info.

Jensine Kurtti gave the council an overview and information on the back billing of the Water and Sewer accounts, which items were for information only and that no action was needed.

k. City Clerk Clarification

Interim City Clerk/Treasurer Jensine Kurtti asked the council for clarification on who has the final say on what is on the agenda for the meetings. By consensus it was agreed that the City Clerk/Treasurer does and, if a Council member wants something on the agenda, he/she should bring it to the Regular Meeting and ask to add it at that time, at which time the Council, as a whole, would decide whether it be placed on the agenda.

11. Unfinished Business - None

12. Consideration of Bills

The Council members were provided with the actual invoices for the following batches:

- a. Batch #032624PAY - \$20,495.00
- b. Batch #033124EFT - \$46,449.43
- c. Batch #040824PAY - \$96,677.92

Main Motion: To approve the payment of the following: Batch #032624PAY – \$20,495.00, Batch #033124EFT - \$46,449.43 and Batch #040824PAY- \$96,677.92, for a total amount of \$163,622.35

Moved by:	Warmbold
Seconded	Bjornson
Action:	Motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Tomperi, Netland, Olson, Bjornson, Warmbold
Opposed:	None.

13. Adjournment

Main Motion: To adjourn at 6:56 pm.

Moved by:	Netland
Seconded by:	Warmbold
Action:	Motion carried on a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Tomperi, Netland, Olson, Bjornson, Warmbold
Opposed:	None

Interim City Clerk/Treasurer, Jensine Kurtti

Mayor, Elizabeth Olson