

**City of Menahga**  
**Special Meeting/Work Session City Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

**a. Call to Order**

The Menahga City Council held a Special Meeting/Work Session Meeting Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

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

**b. Roll Call**

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

Mayor Elizabeth Olson

Dan Warmbold

Mike Netland

Jody Bjornson

via electronic means - Durwin Tomperi

Administrative staff: Jensine Kurtti – Brett Gagnonpalick - Absent

**c. Pledge of Allegiance**

**d. Police – Amy Lane**

1. Monthly Report

Chief Lane reported that the department had 226 calls between April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several speeding tickets [administrative] and one 5<sup>th</sup> degree assault.

New Squad update: Still waiting for the equipment to be put into it. There are 6 squads ahead of it. Otherwise, nothing significant to report on.

Olson asked Lane about the two accidents occurring at the intersections of State Hwy 87 and U.S. Hwy 71 in Menahga. Lane commented that that intersection is horrible. Apparently, someone must die in order to get a stop light [quoting]. Lane stated there is some confusion with drivers regarding the temporary crosswalk sign which is placed in that area. She will discuss this matter with PW Director Yliniemi.

• **Public Works/Streets - Ronald Yliniemi**

1. Monthly Report

Ron Yliniemi started his monologue with an update about the boat landing on Spirit Lake with regards to removing rocks. They got the payloader out there to move it. They are moving the dock to account for water levels.

Yliniemi stated that they have a lot of tires and asked the Council what to do. [Gagnonpalick, listening to the recording, will address this travesty].

Yliniemi mentioned that he has had the scrap steel being removed as well from the workshop area. He invited the Council to do a walkthrough.

Yliniemi stated that roads had been graded and chloride applied, but that the weather has created a lot of potholes. Additional grading will be required. Olson inquired about a road being repaired as you are exiting the alleyway by the Lutheran Church onto State Hwy. #87. Yliniemi stated he would check it out.

Hydrant flushing has been completed today, May 28, 2024.

Catch basins, store sewer, and lift stations were cleaned. There was quite a bit of sand that had been washed down into the ponds. Yliniemi stated that sweeping the roads as soon as the snow has melted helps.

Pond discharge is still in progress. They are working on crosswalks being painted. He is looking into stencils to add and maintain crosswalks.

Update on the speed bumps – putting them out there along the lake.

Fishing pier, there is an addition to it, but they need to do maintenance on the main part of the pier first.

Gagnonpalick [notes read by Kurtti] had remarks that stated he wants a solution to the shop roof.

Yliniemi is talking about water meters, Neptune 360, and Banyon. Netland asked if the meters are tested prior to installation. Yliniemi said they come calibrated. Bjornson was confused. Yliniemi said that Neptune 360 went to 8 digits on the readers vs. the previous system that had 7. This results in some decimal points being moved.

Tomperi inquired of Yliniemi if he is inspecting the new meters when they are installed and if it is documented. Yliniemi states that Administrative Assistant Vry is informed and maintains the information. He is pleased with the new meters because they can pull a data log and give good information for total usage.

Netland inquires about the swimming raft not being out there [City Beach]. Yliniemi states that with no life guards to keep the horseplay at a minimum, they have not placed it back in the water. Kurtti says it's a liability issue. Netland says it could weighted down on all sides to prevent it from lifting up and flipping over. [No real solution found].

Yliniemi had some documentation for future plans.

- **Liquor Store – Heather Shepersky**

1. Monthly Report – Heather Shepersky reported that she doesn't have a whole lot [for the council], business as usual, and had a decent previous weekend. Still on track with last year. She likes the new sidewalk.

Warmbold mentioned that there is a hole in the tar and inquired as to who is going to fix that before someone steps on it.

Yliniemi chimed in and stated he has a patch for it.

Bjornson asked if Shepersky is ready for the Midsummer festivities. Shepersky stated she is ready. Off- sale is consistent.

- **Greenwood Connections – Laura Ahlf**

1. Monthly Report – Laura led off her conversation with a good census for the month of April, and May at 87%. She didn't have the numbers for today. She talked about some requirements coming in the future for salaries. She mentioned that Registered Nurses may be required to be on staff 24/7. This won't affect Greenwood for a few years.

GWC had a Federal Survey which surveyors came from Chicago and their purpose was to make sure the State surveyors were doing their job. They found 7 minor deficiencies but left with good remarks about the facility. The case mix auditor said they also do very good. Ahlf says that the organization has had several inspection in the last month.

Ahlf inquired about the joint board [GWC board of directors and Menahga City Council] and its location. Netland said it should be held in City Hall, citing more room here. Kurtti and Ahlf discussed dates.

Ahlf talked about getting a bus and informed the Council about her thoughts on it. She has funding for it. Netland asked if she received competitive bids. Ahlf says she did which were from Northern Bus and United Bus. Netland asked about a wheelchair lift. The bus would not have one. GWC would use the van for these cases.

Ahlf stated that GWC is looking to use a new evaluation form.

Ahlf stated that they had a lot of discharges.

Netland asks about the year- to-date from the same time period last year. Ahlf directed the Council to the last census in which April and May were about the same as last year. Netland asked if they can show the profit differences from the prior to the current year on the reports. Ahlf says she will look into providing this type of reporting.

Netland inquired about the possibility of an addition to the nursing home for assisted living residents. Ahlf says it's been looked into in the past, but nothing has been done to-date.

**Main Motion: To approve the Monthly Report and Financials, as presented by GWC Administrator Laura Ahlf.**

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

The evaluation of Laura Ahlf was discussed. All completed evaluation forms are to be submitted to Mayor Olson by June 10th, 2024, to complete a summary, with the Evaluation to be completed by the City Council at the Special Meeting/Work Session on June 24th, 2024. (Evaluations may be dropped off at City Hall or handed in at the June 10th, 2024 Meeting).

- **Park/Beach/Mowing/Bldg Maintenance - Ralph Cox – Absent**

- **Fire – Dave Kicker**

1. Monthly Report – Kicker reported two grass fires, two City car crashes, mutual aid in Park Rapids and Wolf Lake which consisted of structure fires.

Kicker acknowledges he needs to fix his formula for the year-to-date numbers.

Kicker reports nothing significant to report.

Kicker commented on the Hooked-on-Fishing event. It was successful. He mentioned he is always looking for more boats and volunteers to help.

- **Administration – Jensine Kurtti for Brett Gagnonpalick**

1. **Monthly Report** – April Budget YTD Rev-Exp, Check Reconciliation, Cash Investments was provided to the Council.

Kurtti provided the monthly financials to the Council.

Bjornson commented that 50% of the legal budget had been expended.

2. **Sale of Railroad Right-of-Way discussion**

More information on assessed value, etc., is required to move on. Gagnonpalick is working on this and will have data for the June 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

3. **MN Pump Works Agreement**

**Main Motion: To approve the Annual Pump Maintenance Agreement with Minnesota Pump Works for \$1,485.00 to inspect the 17 pumps in the City.**

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

#### 4. LMCIT Municipal Liability Insurance

**Main Motion: To approve the quote from First National Insurance Agency for the 2024/2025 Policy year in the amount of \$75,693.**

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

**5. Revised Performance Evaluation -** Tabled pending further explanation.

#### 6. Land Use Ordinance 151 Discussion/Setback Decision

**Main Motion: To approve the rear yard setback in the R-1 and R-2 Districts to 10 feet until the new Land Use Chapter 151 Ordinance is finalized.**

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

#### e. New Business

##### 1. Resolution 2024-19 Hooked on Fishing

**Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 2024-19, accepting generous Donations from: VFW Post 6206 - \$2,000.00; APQ Engineering - \$400.00; Pinoniemi Chiropractic - \$100.00; TruStar Federal Credit Union - \$50.00; and Gateway Lions - \$500.00, for a Total amount of \$3,050.00 for the Hooked on Fishing Program.**

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

## 2. CCY 2025 Sponsorship

**Main Motion: To approve the request from Todd County Community Concern for Youth (CCY) for sponsorship from the City of Menahga in the amount of \$1,729.00 for 2025.**

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

## 3. Resolution 2024-20 Sounds of Spirit Lake

**Main Motion: To approve Resolution No. 2024-20, accepting generous donations from: Pinoniemi Chiropractic - \$200.00; Shell Sport & Bait - \$ 400.00; Spirit Lake WQA - \$200.00; VFW Post 6206 - \$1,500.00; and Gateway Lions - \$1,000.00, for a total amount of \$3,300.00 for the Sounds of Spirit Lake Program.**

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

## 4. Twin lake Property Group Address Change

**Main Motion: To approve the request for Twin Lakes Property Group to identify their two buildings as Building A and Building B.**

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

### **g. Consideration of Bills**

The Council was provided with the actual invoices for Batch #052024PAY and Batch #052824PAY. No questions were asked.

**Main Motion: To approve Batch #052024PAY - \$170,20 and Batch #052824PAY - \$52,961.69 for a total of \$53,131.89.**

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

### **h. Adjournment**

**Main Motion: To adjourn at 7:15 pm**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk/Treasurer Brett Gagnonpalick

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Elizabeth Olson