

**City of Menahga
Regular City Council Minutes
June 10, 2024**

1. Call to Order

The Menahga City Council held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday June 10, 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 Dan Warmbold
Jody Bjornson Durwin Tomperi

City Office Staff present: City Clerk/Treasurer Brett Gagnonpalick
Administrative Assistant Jensine Kurtti

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

To approve adding 10 d. WCTA – Lease Agreement for Wi-fi equipment at the Campground/Park and Beach.

To approve adding 10 e. Juneteenth Holiday Discussion.

To approve adding 11c. Water-Back billing informal informational community Meeting.

Main Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

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

5. Communication Appearance Request - None.

6. Public Forum and Correspondence

Grant Skoog

- Requests striking language from the May 13th Meeting Minutes.
- Water Bills - He explained that he had dropped a letter off at City Hall and then proceeded to distribute a copy to all Council Members stating he had not received a response. He indicated that he represented Jeff Schindeldecker on Marsh Creek and Pleasant Pine Acres and had an offer on the table to pay one (1) year back and not the six (6) years being charged.

7. Consent Agenda

Minutes to Approve:

Removed the May 13th, 2024 Meeting Minutes to be voted on separately:

b. May 13, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Main Motion: To strike on page 2 of the May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes under i. "[Made some very strange claims about the City]."

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

a. May 10, 2024 Budget/Finance Meeting

c. May 28, 2024 Special Meeting/Work Session Minutes

Main Motion: To accept the May 10, 2024, Budget/Evaluation meeting and the May 28, 2024 Special Meeting/Work Session Minutes as written.

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. Sewer Adjustment – Monroe

Francis Monroe, who lives at 420 SE 1st Street, had her outside water spigot left on by mistake. This resulted in the billed usage of 16,200 gallons for the month, her average usage being 295 gallons a month. Ron Yliniemi and Diane Vry felt that since the water did not go down the City sewer, that she should be charged only for the water portion of the bill, and not the sewer portion. This would result in an adjustment to her bill of \$62.34. This type of adjustment has been done in the past in these type of situations.

Main Motion: To approve the adjustment to Francis Monroe’s account (01-00004640-001) for \$62.34 for the sewer charge on her account.

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

b. State Demographer Information

The City of Menahga’s population was reported as 1,375 as of April 1st 2023.

c. Special Assessment Policy

Resolution No. 2024-21 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Menahga, Minnesota, Special Assessment Policy. The complete Resolution can be found in the City of Menahga Resolutions Book.

Main Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2024-21 Special Assessment Policy as written.

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

d. WCTA Wi-fi - Beach and Campground

The City Beach and Campground have been experiencing very poor and sometimes no Wi-Fi service at both locations. When WCTA was contacted, the City was told that the equipment at both locations was very old. Brett asked WCTA about the option of upgrading equipment that would be leased, rather than purchased. To upgrade both locations with new equipment would have zero cost for installation but would require a 3-year lease commitment. One location would have a monthly cost of \$4.50 and the other of \$15.95, for a total monthly cost of \$20.45.

Main Motion: To approve the 3-year Lease Agreement with WCTA for the City Beach and Campground at a total monthly cost of \$20.45.

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

d. Juneteenth Holiday

In 2023 the State of Minnesota moved up the effective date of Juneteenth becoming a Federal and State holiday from 2024 to 2023. The City of Menahga voted to acknowledge Juneteenth in 2023 as an unpaid Holiday for 2023 only. Juneteenth in 2024 is an official Federal and State holiday with no business being transacted on that date. The question presented was whether it would be a paid or unpaid holiday for the City employees as all other Federal and State holidays.

Gagnonpalick reported that we would be one of the few cities in the region to not allow a paid holiday. Tomperi suggested giving the employees the day off but taking away a different holiday. This is due to some groups of employees being a part of a union contract. Netland inquired why we do not just leave it like it is. A day off, but employees are required to take their PTO. Gagnonpalick suggested it could be discrimination to make it an unpaid holiday, as it would punish someone who observed it, drawing a comparison between Juneteenth and other Federal/State Holidays. Netland motioned to keep it as it is. (A summary of the discussion).

Main Motion: To retain Juneteenth as an unpaid holiday for the City of Menahga employees.

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

11. Unfinished Business

a. Sale of Railroad Right-a-way.

Gagnonpalick asked the Council for a decision as to if they want to sell the parcel. If there was a positive consensus, Gagnonpalick would bring a price from the County Assessor for the Council to discuss to get the process moving. Netland stated that if there are other costs incurred in this process, those costs would be assessed to the buyer and not the City. Olson suggested adding this to the Work Session Agenda and close that portion to discuss price. Gagnonpalick informed Olson that he had gathered numbers and was ready to discuss them with the Council.

b. Employee Evaluation Form - Tabled, except for the Developmental Counseling Form what was attached.

Gagnonpalick reported on the merits of using his proposed form. He briefly outlined the rollout process for the form. Netland compared the two forms, new and old, and he would like to see the best parts of both forms placed into one. Olson requested that be placed on the Work Session Agenda. Gagnonpalick stated he would appreciate the Council looking over the form and giving feedback to him. Gagnonpalick asked the Council for a Motion to pass the City of Menahga Developmental Counseling Form at this time.

Main Motion: To approve the City of Menahga Developmental Counseling Form.

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

c. Host a public informational meeting to address the water back billing.

Gagnonpalick states he would like to hold a public meeting with Diane Vry to explain the sequence of events that lead to September 2023, when errors were found. Gagnonpalick added he would like to add context. He went on to elaborate that we have nothing to hide and have data to back it up and a process to address it. Gagnonpalick requested the Council's guidance on how they want Gagnonpalick and Vry to proceed. will it be a full quorum of the Council with Gagnonpalick and Vry presenting, or, would it just be Gagnonpalick and Vry hosting? Olson asked the status of individuals/businesses who have already paid the back bills. Gagnonpalick reported he didn't have the exact data and didn't wish to speculate. Netland stated he would like the Council Members to attend. Bjornson asks who the audience would be. Netland asked if letters to the affected individuals would be sent. Gagnonpalick says there will be letters, but it will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. Olson requested to receive in advance, the information that will be used during the presentation. Gagnonpalick informed the Mayor and Council that they will have the script in advance of the meeting. The Council and Mayor reached a consensus of having Gagnonpalick and Vry host the informational forum with Council Members attending if they wished to do so. Gagnonpalick thanked the Council.

12. Consideration of Bills

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

- a. Batch #053024truck - \$29,562.63
- b. Batch #052824EFT - \$49,324.33
- c. Batch #061024checks - \$160,530.99
- d.

Main Motion: To approve the payment of the following: Batch #053024truck - \$29,562.63, Batch #052824EFT - \$49,324.33, Batch #061024checks - \$160,530.99, for a total of \$239,417.95.

Moved by:	Warmbold
Seconded	Netland
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 6:34 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

City Clerk/Treasurer, Brett Gagnonpalick

Mayor, Elizabeth Olson