

**City of Menahga
Special Meeting/Work Session City Council Minutes
Monday, September 30th, 2024**

a. 5:30 CLOSED SESSION 13D.05, Subd. 1(d) – Attorney Client Privilege

- **Call to Order**

Mayor Elizabeth Olson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

- **Roll Call**

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

Mayor Elizabeth Olson Dan Warmbold Mike Netland

Jody Bjornson Durwin Tomperi

Administrative staff: Clerk/Treasurer Brett Gagnonpalick
Attorney: Jason J. Kuboushek – Iverson Reuvers Law Office
League of Minnesota Cities Representative – Robert Bernier, Claims Adj.

Main Motion: To close the meeting at 5:32 p.m., per 13D.05 Subd (1d). Attorney-Client Privilege, to discuss the Pleasant Pine Acres, LLC and Marsh Creek, LLC lawsuit vs. City of Menahga.

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

- Adjourn the Closed Session and open the regular session:
The close meeting concluded at 5:54 p.m.

Main Motion: To open the meeting for the regular session.

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

A summary statement was provided after closing the Closed Meeting and opening the regular meeting as follows:

Summary Statement from the Closed Session: The Mayor, City Council and staff spoke with legal counsel regarding the new Pleasant Pine Acres and Marsh Creek litigation and, the timeframe regarding litigation.

b. 6:00 p.m. Regular Special/Work Session Meeting

c. Call to Order – Regular Special/Work Session Meeting

Mayor Olson called the Special/Work Session Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

d. Roll Call

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

Mayor Elizabeth Olson Dan Warmbold Mike Netland

Jody Bjornson Durwin Tomperi

Administrative staff: Clerk/Treasurer Brett Gagnonpalick

e. Pledge of Allegiance

f. Department Reports:

• **Acting Park/Beach/Mowing/Building Maintenance – Brian Soukup.**

1. Monthly Report - Soukup was not present at the meeting, however he provided a typewritten copy of his report to the Council.

• **Police Department, Chief Amy Lane –**

1. Monthly Report - Chief Lane reported the crime and violation statistics noting 193 calls from 22 August – 25 September. Lane stated all the vehicles were fully mission capable.

Lane told the Council that she recommended that one of her officers should receive an increase in the hourly wage, based on years as a law enforcement officer. The Council asked that the Personnel Representatives meet with the Clerk/Treasurer to review the Union Contract and the wage scale and report back to the Council.

Lane reported she had five (5) older tasers that were no longer in use and that a company/individual had offered her \$1,000.00 for all five (5) of them.

Main Motion: To approve the sale by the Police Chief, of five (5) Tasers for \$1,000.00 to a responsible party.

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

- **Fire Department – Dave Kicker**

1. **Monthly Report** - The fire department had 5 calls for the month. Kicker was reassured that a door had been installed in the server room to allow access to the Fire Department for its Pancake Feed on October 13th. Kicker reported that the Fire Department had received the Sourcewell Grant of \$51,000 plus, with the City responsible for 25% or approximately \$10,000.

2. **Samantha Carlson -**

- **Main Motion: To approve and hire Samantha Carlson as the Fire Department Chaplain, contingent upon a successful background check and City in-processing.**

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

3. **Anthony Eiler –**

- **Main Motion: To approve and hire Anthony Eiler as a Fire Department volunteer, contingent upon a successful background check and City in-processing.**

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

- **Liquor Store Manager, Heather Shepersky –**

1. Monthly Report - Shepersky stated that business has been decent enough. She reported that beer prices will increase soon.

• **Public Works – Ron Yliniemi –**

1. Monthly Report - Yliniemi reported they are flushing the fire hydrants and would complete them when the wind died down.
Johnson Jetline jetted and root cut sewer main areas.

The topic of Fluorosilicic (H₂SiF₆) acid was brought up and its links to brain development in children. Note: The water in Menahga comes out of the ground with natural fluoride in it at a rate that is higher than what is required, however Yliniemi reported the State mandates that an additive be fed into the water.

• **Greenwood Connection, Administrator Laura Ahlf –**

1. Monthly Report and Financials

Ahlf reported they had a good month for August. The census was at 89%. The nursing home only has one employee that falls under the exempt wages increase. January 1st, the set amount to be on a salary has increased to around 58k.

Ahlf would like to pay the 30k owed to the City by Resolution in the form of Payment in Lieu of Taxes. Netland stated the City, being the owner, can transfer funding out of and of its departments. Ahlf stated that the nursing home is not an enterprise department of the City.

Tomperi asks what the plan is for the \$100,000 plus interest generated on their investments. Ahlf stated that is it for improvements and savings.

There was discussion about the GWC board receiving \$75.00 per meeting. It was made aware that there would be potential back pay. Gagnonpalick suggests it be an actual action memorandum. It is tabled until the next Council meeting.

Main Motion: To approve the monthly report and financials, as presented by GWC Administrator Laura Ahlf.

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

- **City Administration, City Clerk/Treasurer, Brett Gagnonpalick**

- 1. Monthly Report – August Budget YTD Rev-Exp, check reconciliation, Cash and investments – FYI.**
- 2. Ordinance Discussion Chapter 30 and Chapter 31 – FYI**

City Clerk/Treasurer brought forward Resolution #2024-31 to correct the mathematical total error on the prior one adopted on September 27, 2024:

Main Motion: To re-adopt Resolution 2024-31 Preliminary 2025 Tax Levy noting the following: General Fund - \$443,461.00 and Debt Funds – 2013B G.O. Improvement Bonds - \$22,100; 2015B G. O. Imp. Refunding Bonds - \$60,016.25; 2020A G. O. Imp. Refunding Bonds - \$154,082.50 and MPFA DWRF-L-023-FY 23 - \$ 36,778.24 for a total of \$716,437.99.

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

Netland brought up collecting payment from the School in the form of Payment in Lieu of Taxes. Olson explained that the funding the School receives doesn't leave any room for a payment to the City that she is aware of.

g. New Business

- 1. Menahga Public Schools Polling Place Discussion.**

The consensus of the City Council was that City Hall not be the School's polling place and recommended the Community/Senior Center to used due to it being a larger facility to accommodate the number of School District voters.

h. Consideration of Bills

1. Batch #093024checks - \$85,286.90

The Council was provided with the actual invoices for Batch #093024checks - \$85,286.90

Main Motion: To approve Batch #093024checks in the total amount of \$85,286.90

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

i. Meeting Adjournment

Main Motion: To adjourn at 7.12 pm

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

Clerk/Treasurer Brett Gagnopalick

Mayor Elizabeth Olson