

MAPLE LAKE CITY COUNCIL
May 7, 2024, Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Lynn Kissock

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Mayor Lynn Kissock, Councilmembers: John Haack, Wayne Paumen, Scott Chantland and Lori Hausken

Agenda Approval: Motion made by Councilor Chantland, seconded by Councilor Hausken to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted in favor. Motion declared passed.

Open Forum Matters presented in the Open Forum are limited to 5 minutes. Any matter that requires additional time or consideration by the Council may be tabled for a future meeting.

Joyce Swingy, resident at Maple Manor. She stated that she moved here from Monticello and has lived here for 11 years. Commented on the blight that is going on within the city is like a cancer and needs to be removed.

Deb Geyen, 400 Oak Avenue, Maple Lake, MN and commented on the code enforcement and abatement that needs to be completed on 110 Birch Avenue S and 118 First St. E. It just continues to get worse every day and needs to be taken care of. She thanked Mr. John Rivers for coming to the last meeting to address this issue. It continues to grow and grow; it needs to be stopped and I know that it will cost some dollars to get this cleaned up. Please move forward and get this place cleaned up.

John Rivers, 211 4th Street W., Maple Lake, MN, stated that he owns about 4 parcels across the street from 110 Birch Avenue S. He stated that the city has a lot of support from the residents to get this property cleaned up. Stated that this item is on the agenda this evening and encouraged the council to get tough and take care of this item. A shed was moved in and continues to fill it with junk. This just continues to lower the property value. Rivers addressed the Mayor Kissock and stated that she has lots of community support for getting these properties cleaned-up and encouraged her to stay strong.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2024
2. Approval of Paid Invoice Report and Claims for month of April 2024 (To be distributed at the meeting)
3. 3.2 On Sale License for Maple Lake Amateur Baseball for 2024
4. Resolution 2024-19 Accepting Donation from Maple Lake Lion's Club given to Gearhead-Chamber -Kathi Hennen in the amount of \$1,500.
5. Resolution 2024 -20 Accepting Donation from Maple Lake Lion's Club given to Makers & Growers in the amount of \$720.00.
6. Approval of Gambling Permit for St. Timothy's Catholic Church.

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7. Accept Resignation of Aubrey Norten from Maple Lake Wine & Spirits effective April 18, 2024
8. Resolution 2024-21 – Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition #1056708 – Equipment Grant Agreement.
9. Assignment of the C-1 Hangar and Assumption of Airport Lease Agreement by Jim Aarestad to Greg Gerulis.

Motion made by Councilor Chantland, seconded by Councilor Hausken to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All present voted in favor. Motion declared passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Administrative Report – Shirley Slater-Schulte, Interim

1. Update on hiring of Cassandra Johnson, part-time, at \$23.00 per hour.
2. Update on hiring of Jill Norlander, part-time at \$23.00 per hour.
3. Update on Civic Training, Water Billing, etc.

Mayor Kissock and Councilors thanked Slater-Schulte for her support and that she is appreciated for stepping up and for sharing her experience with staff.

Mayor Kissock and Councilor thanked Kristin Hedwig for her support in working with staff on the balancing of the bank statements for 2023.

Fire Department – No Report.

Councilor Haack had requested a report on the investigation that was completed by the City Attorney on a harassment claim. Staff have provided a report to the City Council which remains confidential to the public per the City Attorney.

City Engineer’s Report – Chuck Boeser City Engineer

Resolution 2024-22 Approval of Plans 7 Specifications for the 2024 MGG Airport Taxilane Improvement Project No. 193806902.

Motion made by Mayor Kissock, seconded by Councilor Chantland to adopt Resolution 2024-22 Approval of Plans 7 Specifications for the 2024 MGG Airport Taxilane Improvement Project No. 193806902 as presented. All voting yes. Motion declared passed.

Wright County Sherriff’s Report – Deputy Baumann gave the monthly report for April 2024.

City Attorney’s Report on 110 Birch St. S. and 118 First Street E.

Mayor Kissock requested that Councilmember John Haack remove himself from this discussion. Councilor Haack joined the audience.

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Litigation Attorney Bob Alsop with Kennedy & Graven reported that the City of Maple Lake received a judgement against 118 First Street east and 110 Birch Street in 2023. The City Council has held several Closed meetings regarding these properties with the Attorney. The city will proceed with the judgement and clean up these properties both interior and exterior as there are hazardous materials that violate the city ordinances. The city only received one bid for both properties. Haack appealed these orders and then the Board of Appeals and the court had some delays. The Board of Appeals finally dismissed the appeal. Mr. Haack then filed an appeal with the Supreme Court, then the city had to file an answer with the Supreme Court. The estimate included the 90 days for storage and met with Mr. Haack to see if he would agree to the no storage and Mr. Haack would not agree to "NO Storage". The city is still waiting for updated contracts after visiting the two sites again.

John Haack stated that he had given "Notice of this Motion with the Court" to the City Council. He stated that there are so many items that are incorrect within the City's Nuisance Ordinance. He stated that he receives lots of positive comments and wants to do the right thing.

MOTION to proceed with the abatement orders for both properties listed as 110 Birch Avenue S. and 118 1st Street E to proceed with the exterior abatement and direct staff to prepare the quotes which we will consider at the next meeting to move forward

Motion made by Mayor Kissock, seconded by Councilor Hausken. All voting yes.
Motion declared passed.

Mr. John Haack returned to the City Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of Proposal from Abdo Financial and Creative Planning for Bank Reconciliation and Audit Prep Assistance.

Mayor Kissock explained that the City of Maple Lake received two proposals, one from Creative Planning in the amount of \$20,000 - \$35,000 including out-of-pocket and travel and the other from Abdo Financial in the amount of \$35,000 – 45,000.

Motion made by Mayor Kissock entered a contract with Abdo Financial for Audit Prep Assistance only not to exceed \$45,000. Seconded by Councilor Paumen. Ayes: Mayor Kissock, Councilors: Paumen, Chantland and Hausken. Nays: Councilor Haack.
Motion declared passed.

Authorize Staff to Request an Extension from the State Auditor's Office for the City of Maple Lake's Annual Audit for 2023.

Motion made by Mayor Kissock, seconded by Councilor Haack to authorize the Interim City Administrator to request an extension from the State Auditor's Office for the City of Maple Lake's 2023 Annual Audit. All voting yes. Motion declared passed.

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The State Auditor extended the City of Maple Lake audit until August 15, 2024, after receiving this request.

NEW BUSINESS

Release of Letter of Credit with Star Bank for CSP Properties in the amount of \$10,512.75

Star Bank has requested a Release of Letter of Credit with Star Bank for CSP Properties – Geneva Heights Development subject to payment of \$10,512.75 to the City of Maple Lake.

MOTION to release the Letter of Credit with Star Bank for CSP Properties – Geneva Heights Development subject to payment of \$10,512.75 to the City of Maple Lake for escrow billings.

Motion made by Councilor Hausken, seconded by Councilor Haack. All voting yes. Motion declared passed.

Release of Letter of Credit with Star Bank for CSP Properties in the amount of \$5,269.25.

Star Bank has requested a Release of Letter of Credit with Star Bank for CSP Properties – Cedar Landing Development subject to payment of \$5,269.25 to the City of Maple Lake.

MOTION to release the Letter of Credit with Star Bank for CSP Properties – Cedar Landing Development subject to payment of \$5,269.25 to the City.

Motion made by Councilor Hausken, seconded by Councilor Haack. All voting yes. Motion declared passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wright County meeting scheduled to discuss cannabis legislation – May 8, 2024 – 1 p.m.

Wright County EDA Meeting for June 12, 2024, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

St. Timothy's School 27 Annual Spring Auction and Dinner – May 11, 2024

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/DATES TO REMEMBER

***APRIL-MAY 2024 DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- *Chamber of Commerce meeting, Wednesday, June 1, 2024, at noon
- *Park Board Meeting, Monday, May 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.
- *Planning Commission Meeting, Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- *Maple Lake Library Board Meeting, May 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- *City Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- * City of Maple Lake Spring Clean-Up/Recycling Day, Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:30 a.m. to Noon. Also, includes Shred Event from 8:00 a.m.-Noon

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilor Haack, seconded by Councilor Hausken. All voting yes. Motion declared passed.

Approved: _____
Shirley Slater-Schulte, Interim City Administrator