

**CITY OF MAPLE LAKE**  
**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

The City of Maple Lake City Council Workshop was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Todd Borell.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Todd Borell, Deb Geyen, Brian Fondurulia, John Haack, and Kristin Logas

**Absent:** None.

**Also present:** Sabrina Hille, City Administrator; Dave Anderson, City Attorney; Phil Gravel and Chuck Boser, City Engineers; Jerry Sawatzke, Public Works Director;

**LEAF PICK UP**

City Council is looking for options to help leaf clean up in the city, due to the new restriction of leaf burning. The new compost site was opened last fall of 2020, and it is free to all Maple Lake residents, they just need to pick up their access card at City Hall. City Council looked at adding a fall clean up service with the Randy's contract that was just renewed, but it would cost \$0.70 a month each resident for that service. City Council asked Public Works Director Jerry Sawatzke to find some dates for the Public Works crew to do a city pick up. Jerry is thinking of having a few pick ups in the Spring and in the Fall, this would vary each year due to weather. The discussion came up on the use of bags for the leaves. Mayor Borell wanted to avoid Public Works spending time removing leaves from bags. Ideally residents would use compostable bags which can be found at most convenience stores.

**4-CHANNEL ALARM DIALER REPLACEMENT**

Jerry spoke about the need for a new alarm dialer, as the current one is the original one. The cost of this equipment is just over \$4,000 which is over Jerry's spending limit. This alarm is need so public works can be notified if there is an issue at the Water Treatment Plant, specifically in emergency situations where it would be a concern of public health. Council directed Jerry to make the purchase.

**JERRY SAWATZKE SICK TIME**

Jerry Sawatzke has served the City of Maple Lake 40 years, this October it will be 41 years. He is planning to retire this November. He was hoping to possibly get paid out more of his sick time. Currently, he will be paid out 960 hours in 3 equal payments to a Health Savings Retirement Account, this would be at his current wage. He is requesting since his total amount of sick leave is 1,920 , and he would lose half of it when he retires. Council talked about the change in policy, and if it would set a precedent for future employees. They are hoping to get more information from other cities before a decision is made. Sabrina will reach out to City of Hutchinson on their sick leave benefits, as Jerry stated they pay 100% of sick leave.

**BEACH ENTRANCE**

Councilmember Geyen was wondering if there would be a possibility of changing the beach entrance to the road after the cemetery since there is a middle turn lane, instead of the current one that goes right into the parking lot. She said ideally they would just have a sign up that would state the entrance. Jerry Sawatzke will talk to someone at the state about putting a sign up, and where the responsibility of cost would be.

**RENTAL ORDINANCE**

Administrator Hille brought up the information that there was discussion on implementing the Rental Ordinance to make sure tenants are given proper rental space, and to ensure landlords are keeping up the property. City Council will need to decide the extent of the ordinance, such as licensing or annual inspections. Attorney Dave Anderson will come back with examples for the council to review. The concern from council was protecting tenants and also landlords. If Maple Lake goes with MNSpect as the building official, they are able to service the inspections.

**SIDEWALK ORDINANCE**

Administrator Hille stated she had a misunderstanding of this agenda item, and the issue was resolved. Councilmember Haack stated it was from Geyen and his flea market. Administrator Hille clarified to Haack that his flea market can only extend 3 feet into the sidewalk, as the ordinance was recently updated.

**NUISANCE PROPERTIES**

Mayor Borell brought up to the council that they need to make a decision on councilmember Haack's properties in town. He stated that Wright County sent a letter and the city stating what

Haack would need to complete to be considered in compliance, that date will be in May. Borell stated that the property is not in compliance and that more items have since been brought to it. Borell wants council to think about how they would like to move forward on this, whether to pursue legal action or if they choose to continue to just have the current actions taken. The discussion led to what MNSpect would do if they did nuisance enforcement for Maple Lake. Council had conversations on what each of them viewed as their role and work. They will need to discuss if how much they want MNSpect to be involved in situations and include that in the contract if they move forward. Mayor Borell wants council to think on this, and hope that at the next meeting they can move forward on something. Most councilmembers are in favor of pursuing legal action on the properties.

### **PARADE FLOAT**

Councilmember Logas brought up that the Chamber of Commerce has donated their Float to the Queen's and they are hoping to be able to continue to store the float in the city shed. Jerry had no issue with it, and city council is okay with it.

### **MNSPECT**

Administrator Hille brought her comparison of the current contract with Metro West and the proposal from MNSpect. The main difference brought up was that MNSpect would collect 75% of the fees, but currently Metro West collects 50%. Council is hoping to have a lower %, and directed Administrator Hille to request a lower percentage as that is large difference. The city will later decide what level service they would like to contract for.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilmember Fondurulia asked when the Community Park Bathroom and Port-a-potty's will be placed out. Jerry Sawatzke stated that they will be out on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Geyen wanted to state that she wants the city to put more pressure on MNDOT to improve the intersection Highway 55 and Spruce Ave, specifically if a development goes up north of town.

Jerry Sawatzke wanted to know what council would like to see with Lady Bug Park, as there is just a picnic table there, and flowers are no longer planted. City Council would like to think over and see if anyone would be interested in planting there again.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion, m/s/p. Logas/Geyen, to adjourn the City Council Workshop at 7:55 pm. Motion passed.*

Attest,

City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer