

**CITY OF NISSWA  
MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020  
7:00 P.M. – NISSWA CITY HALL**

The regular meeting of the Nisswa City Council was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. The meeting was also available on YouTube Live.

Members present: Hoff, Jacobson, Johnson, Ryan

Members absent: Heidmann

Also, present: City staff - Jenny Max, Jon Stainbrook, Matthew Hill, Dustin Spohn, Tom Blomer, City Engineer Mark Hallan, City Attorney Tom Pearson, the Echo Newspaper.

Audience members: 5

**A. Call to Order**

Acting Mayor Gary Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**B. Consent Calendar –**

1. Fire Department Report – May 2020
2. Parks and Recreation Department Report – May 2020
3. Planning & Zoning Department Report – June 2020
4. Police Department Report – June 2020
5. Pickle Department Report – May 2020
6. Public Works Department Report – June 2020
7. Spirits of Nisswa Report –April/May 2020
8. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2020
9. Presentation of Claims – Check register #46255 – 46379 totaling \$327,086.33

Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Hoff to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. OPEN FORUM**

1. **Public Comment** – None.
2. **Crow Wing County Land Services – Recycling Update** – Gary Griffin and Ryan Simonson from Crow Wing County presented information regarding the recycling dumpster program in Nisswa. Griffin stated that there have been some stiff increases in recycling in the past few years and there is no longer a market for recycling. It is costing more to recycle items than to put them into a land fill. As a result, the County will need to make a decision regarding what recycling options will be offered to cities in the future.
3. **Matthew Hill – Parks & Recreation Department Update** – Matthew Hill, parks and Recreation Director presented a review of the yearly activities the Parks & Recreation Department provides, as well as future goals and activities for 2021. The biggest issue currently facing the Parks & Recreation Department has been the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **D. REPORTS**

- 1. City Administrator** – Jenny Max gave an update regarding the Ye Old Pickle Factory’s reopening during the pandemic and stated that the renovations and remodel were completed to meet the Department of Health’s requirements. Max explained that budget season was starting and the City will be spending the next few months holding budget committee meetings. The primary and general elections are quickly approaching and staff has been working on a training plan and on what the training will look like for election judges.
- 2. City Attorney** – Tom Pearson stated that he has been working on the extension of the American tower lease and has been working on preparing the redlines for the July meeting.
- 3. City Engineer** – Mark Hallan stated that the bridge project that was awarded is being scheduled and that will be available tomorrow. Hallan is working on the contracts for Knife River and dropped them off for a signature regarding the road projects. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency emailed the modifications for the waste water treatment plant. There were no issues, unless the State has an issue there should be no problems and everything is on track.

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request from Biff Ulm to Mayor Heidmann re: Public Facebook Comments** – Biff Ulm, local business owner of Zaiser’s requested clarification from Mayor Fred Heidmann regarding public comments he made on Facebook. Ulm stated that the comments made by the Mayor were concerning and he would like the Mayor to clarify his comments. The Mayor was unable to attend this City Council meeting and Ulm expressed his disappointment that the Mayor was absent from the meeting. Ulm read questions that he would like the Mayor to answer regarding his views on racism, religion, and schools in our community. Ulm wanted to make it clear that he is not acting as a representation of businesses in the community but as a concerned citizen. The City Council expressed their disappointment that the Mayor was not present to answer these questions in person.
- 2. Request from Alan Jenkins re: Council Meeting Schedule** – Alan Jenkins of 23530 Smiley Road, Nisswa, requested that the City Council move the Regular City Council meetings from Wednesday night to another night of the week as Wednesday nights are traditionally Church nights. The council discussed the possibility of changing the night and suggested creating a petition or possibly gathering a survey of how many people would like to have the meeting changed. The City Council requested Max to create a survey asking residents to respond with what nights they would potentially like the City Council meetings to be moved.
- 3. Resolution Supporting Application for Department of Natural Resources Parks & Trails Legacy Grant Application** – Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Hoff to approve the Resolution Supporting Application for Department of Natural Resources Parks & Trails Legacy Grant Application. Motion carried Unanimously.

4. **Request from The Recess Factory to Conduct the Nisswa Firecracker Run and Approval of Temporary Beer License Agreement on July 4-5, 2020** – Motion by Ryan, seconded by Hoff to approve the Recess Factory To Conduct the Nisswa Firecracker Run and Approval of Temporary Beer License Agreement on July 4-5, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.
  
5. **Recommendation from Public Works Committee re: Road Maintenance Quotes** – Public Works Director Tom Blomer explained the road maintenance quotes regarding crack sealing and paver patches. In both instances Anderson Brother’s had the lowest bid of \$61,346.68 for crack sealing, and \$18,480 for paver patches. Both quotes are within the budget that was set last year. Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Ryan to accept the quotes from Anderson Brother’s in the amount of \$61,346.68 for crack sealing and \$18,480 for paver patches. Motion carried unanimously.
  
6. **Authorization to Bid the Wastewater Treatment Facility Project** – City Engineer Mark Hallan stated that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency granted the permit and the city has the application in place for the funding. Hallan explained that the city has reached the time to go out for bids for the expansion which will increase the Waste Water Treatment Facilities capacity to process water. Motion by Hoff, seconded by Ryan to approve the Authorization to Bid the Wastewater Treatment Facility Project. Motion carried unanimously.
  
7. **Authorization to Bid for Lift Station 3** – Mark Hallan explained that the city received eight bids for Lift Station #3 in May. These bids were in a wide range with the lowest being 20% higher than what the estimation from the City Engineer. The recommendation is to hold the bids until the city receives bids for the Waste Water Treatment Facility. Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Hoff to table awarding any bid for Lift Station #3 the bids until the July meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
  
8. **Spirits of Nisswa Request re: Pay Adjustment for Nancy Schroeder** – Max explained the staffing changes at the Municipal Liquor Store Spirits of Nisswa and stated that Nancy has been promoted to a shift leader. This pay adjustment will reflect her new duties as a shift leader. Motion by Hoff, seconded by Ryan to approve the Spirits of Nisswa Request re: Pay Adjustment for Nancy Schroeder from Grade 3 Step 5 at \$12.88 an hour to Grade 5 Step 8 at \$14.07 an hour. Motion carried unanimously.
  
9. **Summer Pay Adjustment Request for Spirits of Nisswa Employees** – Max explained that the Spirits of Nisswa manager Brian Farrell has been working on recruiting new employees. This recruitment has been difficult as a limited amount of people are applying for the position as the pay is lower than average in the area. Max stated that a \$1.00 temporary summer increase in pay to part time employees would be beneficial in recruiting more employee applicants. Motion by Hoff, seconded by Ryan to approve a Summer Pay Adjustment Request for Spirits of Nisswa Employees from June 8, 2020 until September 13, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. Personnel Updates** – Motion by Hoff, seconded by Jacobson so accept the personnel changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**F. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**G. COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Mayor** – none.

**Council Members** –none.

**H. ADJOURN** – Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Hoff to adjourn the regular City Council meeting at 9:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Fred Heidmann, Mayor

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Jenny Max, City Administrator