

**CITY OF NISSWA  
MINUTES – SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020 – 4:00 PM  
NISSWA CITY HALL**

A Special Meeting of the Nisswa City Council was held on Friday, September 4, 2020 at 4:00 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, Tom Pearson (via phone) and the Echo Newspaper.

Audience members: 60

- A. Call to Order** – Mayor Pro Tem Gary Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.
- B. Opening Statement / City Attorney Review of MN Statutes** – Johnson stated the purpose for the meeting was to discuss an incident between Mayor Heidmann and two police officers on August 29, 2020. Johnson asked Attorney Pearson to provide information to the public on what the City’s structure allows when addressing issues involving an elected official. Pearson provided a high level review of MN Statutes.
- C. Councilmember Statements** – Johnson read a statement followed by Jacobson, Hoff and Ryan. Ryan stated that due to his candidacy for Mayor he will be abstaining from all votes.
- D. Public Comment** – Johnson invited the public to provide brief statements to the Council. The following persons addressed the Council: Susan Edwards, Paul Edwards, Pam Dorian, Gregg Voight, Matt Hall, Bonnie Johnson, Tessa Capelle, Troy Scheffler, Craig Taylor, Stacey Waidelich, Don McFarland, Joe Meyer, Brianna DuFor, Eric Klang and Maggi Wentler.
- E. Council Action** – After public comment the Council took the following action:

Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Hoff to censure Mayor Heidmann for his behavior on August 29, 2020 while interacting with two police officers based on the following:

- Heidmann’s statements directed at the Police do not reflect the City’s beliefs.
- Heidmann’s statements have tarnished the community and Nisswa does not need to lose business or sales especially during these challenging times.
- Heidmann displayed unprofessional behavior in dealing with an issue.

Motion passed 3:0 with Ryan abstaining.

Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Hoff to request Mayor Heidmann resign immediately. Motion passed 3:0 with Ryan abstaining.

Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Hoff to remove Mayor Heidmann from all Committee appointments and to place Councilmember Johnson on the Personnel Committee. Motion passed 3:0 with Ryan abstaining.

**F. Adjourn** – There being no further business, Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Hoff to adjourn the Special Council Meeting of the Nisswa City Council at 4:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Fred Heidmann, Mayor

---

Jenny Max, City Administrator