

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 26, 2018**

The Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Werner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance. Present for the meeting: Mayor John Werner; City Councilors John Goman, Greg Andrews, Suzanne Herstad and Bob Quade; Clerk-Treasurer Toni Blomdahl; and attached list of public.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Ditch 14 meeting with St. Louis County and LHB January 10, 2019. Letter from LMC regarding insurance dividends. Email from Julee Borg regarding her frustrations with the City and her property.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Minutes:

December 10, 2018 Council meeting minutes

November 27, 2018 Truth in Taxation meeting minutes

Executed Claim:

General fund checks – 13059 thru 13084

Suzanne made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with a second by Bob. All vote in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**CGMC Legislative Action Day January 30:** Toni presented Council with the flyer for CGMC Legislative Action Day and noted to let her know if they would like to attend. Suzanne asked if anyone has gone in the past. John W. stated he has.

**LMC Legislative Conference February 20-21:** Toni presented Council with the flyer for LMC Legislative Conference and noted to let her know if they would like to attend. John G. stated he and John W. have gone in the past and have setup meetings with Senator Bakk, Representative Mary Murphy, and Gary Cerkvenik, our lobbyist and have found the conference to be very good.

**LMC Newly Elected Officials Conference:** Toni presented the newly elected Councilors with a flyer for LMC Newly Elected Officials Conference. Suzanne stated she and Bob attended when they were elected, and it was very informative.

**Gambling permit for Beargrease Sled Dog Race:** Toni presented Council with a gambling permit application for a raffle for the Beargrease Sled Dog Race at Billy's Bar on February 27, 2019. Bob asked if Billy is planning on extending the alcohol service area. Toni stated she has already approved a Special Event Permit for him to serve alcohol in an event tent outside the building. Bob made a motion to approve the gambling permit with a second by Greg. All vote in favor. Motion carried.

**Street Light Replacement:** Toni presented Council with a memo from Carley, Deputy Clerk, regarding MN Power's street light replacement policy which notes there is no charge to replace street lights over 10 years old, of which we have 7, so they will be replaced soon. Carley noted the remaining 34 lights can be replaced at no charge by MN Power if they are no longer functioning and we can report these faulty fixtures online with MN Power. Toni noted the other lights are approximately 8 years old, so they can be replaced in 2 years so all street lights in Rice Lake should be converted to LED by 2021-2022.

**CGMC Annexation History Timeline:** John W. stated this is an informational handout for Council that he received at a CGMC conference in Alexandria noting the history of how CGMC has been working with legislation to make it easier for cities to annex townships. John stated he voiced his opposition to hostile annexations and noted the residents should be able to vote if they would like to be annexed at the conference. CGMC is planning on continuing to push to make it easier for cities to annex towns.

**Investment Transfer for West Calvary Bond Payment:** Toni presented Council with a request to transfer \$294,847.50 from West Calvary Investment into general checking to pay for the West Calvary bond payment due in January. Suzanne made a motion to approve the transfer with a second by Bob. All vote in favor. Motion carried.

**Fence Quotes for City Hall HVAC, Water Tower, and Park Bathrooms:** John W. presented Council with quotes from Dairyland Fence Company to install a fence around the new HVAC unit at City Hall in the amount of \$3,100 as well as to install a fence around the water tower in the amount of \$7,400 and to install a fence in the bathroom area at the park in the amount of \$3,050. Suzanne asked where the fence would be located at the park. John stated it would be by the soccer fields between the concrete bathroom and existing fence which would restrict vehicle access onto the softball field. Suzanne made a motion to approve the quotes from Dairyland Fence to install fencing at City Hall, the Water Tower, and the Park with a second by John G. All vote in favor. Motion carried. Council agreed the funds for City Hall and Park should come from the 2019 maintenance budget and the funds for the Water Tower should come from the investment account.

**Planning Commission Appointments:** Toni presented Council with a memo from Teresa Koivula, Zoning Administrator, noting the Planning Commission is recommending Council reappoint Bob Whitmyer for a 3-year term and to appoint Warren Koskiniemi for a 3-year term on the Commission. Greg made a motion to approve the appointment recommendations from the Planning Commission with a second by Bob. All vote in favor. Motion carried.

**Rezone application for Pine Forest Properties:** Toni presented Council with the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval of a rezone for Pine Forest Properties from Rural Residential 1 to Multi-Unit Residential for 2 parcels on Martin Rd. John G. stated there is a need for that type of housing in the community and he supports the rezone and Suzanne agreed with him. Suzanne made a motion to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation for the rezone with a second by John G. All vote in favor. Motion carried.

**Council Claim Sheets:** John G. presented John Werner's hourly claim sheet for December for approval. Suzanne made a motion to approve John's claim sheet in the amount of \$1,165.50 with a second by Bob. All vote in favor except for John W. who abstained. Motion carried.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**December calendar:** Toni shared a copy of the January calendar.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**


- John G. stated he has been working with AquaPower to televise the 990' sewer line on Chicago which needs to be done prior to the East Calvary Water Loop Project and to clean a sewer line

that is backed up on Howard Gnesen Rd by WJA Apartments, but due to the forecasted snowstorm, that will be delayed until next week.

- Suzanne stated she attended the Public Hearing on the 18<sup>th</sup> for the rezone, which was discussed earlier and a CUP which has been postponed until January 15<sup>th</sup>. Suzanne stated she respects both John G. and Greg for their experience and their willingness to work with her as a new Councilor and thanked them for their years of service.
- Greg thanked the Town of Rice Lake and now the City of Rice Lake for allowing him to serve on the Board and Council for almost 19 years and stated he has worked with a wonderful Council and Committees.
- Bob stated he would like to thank Greg and John G. for their service. Bob stated he attended the MIC meeting and there is still talk about the Rice Lake Rd and Martin Rd intersection so that will be discussed again in the future.
- John W. stated Council should let Toni know if they want to attend the Ditch 14 meeting. John stated St. Louis County has provided us with a cooperative agreement for the East Calvary Water Loop/Chicago Ave. project which has been forwarded to Mike Couri for review. John stated the Airport Director has extended an invitation to Council to explain the history of the runway extension project and airport zoning, Toni will make arrangements for a meeting. John stated the grader driver didn't raise his wing all the way when he was plowing the other day and damaged several mailboxes, so we have notified all residents and asked them to contact City Hall if their mailbox needs to be replaced. Toni stated we have received 5 calls and 3 of them were thanking the City for our quick action. John thanked John G. and Greg for their years of dedicated service and all they have done for the Town and City.

Having nothing further to discuss, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Bob. Mayor Werner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Werner, Mayor

1-14-19  
Date

  
Toni Blomdahl, Clerk-Treasurer

1-11-19  
Date

**Counc. Meeting**  
**Date: December 26, 2018**

	Name:	Address:	phone and/or email address:	X-speak
1	Jayme Stearn	Kingston Rd		
2	Heike Schaffer	5234 Hg Rd		
3	Daniel Johnson	5716 Rice Lake Rd		
4	Robert Jindler	Cherry Hill		
5	John Hessing	Arnold Dr		
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