

The January 11, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance. One or more members of the city council may attend the meeting via telephone or other electronic means, pursuant to and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021. The meeting can be attended by the public in person. Roll Call: Councilmembers Brenda Buck (present), Chip Frederickson (present), Tony Button (virtually), and Mayor Ronda Bjornson (present). Absent: Councilmember Rick Roberts attempted virtual connection twice but was unable to participate due to lack of broadband width. Clerk Karrie Roeschlein was present. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve the agenda. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REORGANIZATION: Administer Oath of Office to Councilmember Brenda Buck was conducted. Frederickson took the oath at a previous meeting and Bjornson previously in the office. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to make the following 2021 commissioner appointments and designate city representatives as recommended by the Mayor: Tony Button, Acting Mayor; Ronda Bjornson, Weed Inspector; Jacob Weinreich, Assistant Weed Inspector; Chip Frederickson Wastewater Commissioner; Tony Button, Street & Sidewalk Commissioner; Brenda Buck, Municipal Buildings Commissioner; Rick Roberts, Park Commissioner; First National Bank of Milaca, Isle Branch, and League of MN Cities 4M Fund Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund, Financial Depositories; Mille Lacs Messenger, Newspaper; Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC, Accountants; Kennedy & Graven Chartered and Mille Lacs County (MLC) Attorney's Office, Attorneys; Rinke Noonan, Special Legal Counsel; Short Elliot Hendrickson (S.E.H), Engineers; Sourcewell, Zoning Administrator; David Drown Associates Inc., Financial Advisers; and Oberfeld Insurance, Insurance Agency. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

- A) Meeting Minutes: 9/28 Special, 9/14 Council, and 8/31 Special
- B) City Hall Closed Mon. 1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- C) Planning Commission Public Hearing Re: Prohibiting Short-Term Rentals, Mon. 2/8 @ 5 pm
- D) State Representative Sondra Erickson 12/16 Memo Re: Legislative Intent & Direction for County Aid to Businesses Closed
- E) 2021 IRS Standard Mileage Rate .56 Cents from 57.5 Cents: New Wahkon Rate
- F) Charitable Gambling Report: 12/2020 Isle Lions Club Zero, 11/2020 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) Zero
- G) Treasurer's Report 2020 Year End Unaudited Cash Control Statement 1/1 - 12/31/2020
- H) Treasurer's Report 12/31/2020 Ending Balance \$692,118.71
- I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report
- J) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Tax Settlement Report \$133,901.89
- K) Disbursement Register 1/11/2021 Date Range 12/15/2020 – 1/11/2021 Total \$107,962.90

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution 2021-0111 Transportation Alternatives Project (TAP) Maintenance: Required for Greater Minnesota Transportation Alternatives Solicitation 2020/21 Full Application (see unfinished business) requesting grant funds for improvements in conjunction with DOT Main Street 2024 Project and that the City will maintain said improvements. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0111 TAP Maintenance. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Initiative Foundation \$250 Donation Request: Due to COVID-19 business closures, charitable gambling receipts are way below average. Charitable Gambling Fund now pays for fire protection, \$9375.04 made in four payments beginning April 2021, and Council wants assurance said funds are available prior to giving donations. Current fund balance is \$8769.45 with last few months receipts being zero. Clerk to draft prior years analysis of said fund for council review at February meeting, along with past donations to Initiative Foundation & MACV. Donations are tabled at this time.

MN Assistance County for Veterans (MACV) Donation Request: See above discussion. Worthwhile organization but donations are tabled at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Greater Minnesota Transportation Alternatives Solicitation 2020/21 Full Application: Grant for enhancements such as lighting system, enhanced pedestrian crossings, decorative vegetation with irrigation, enhanced concrete (color, exposed aggregate), benches, tables and planters, in conjunction with DOT Main Street 2024 Project. Funding round is for 2025 with city match requirement. MLC adopted required sponsorship resolution, as Wahkon's small population requires it. Three letters of support were included from MN Scenic Byway Commission, Mille Lacs Area Tourism Council and Isle Area Chamber of Commerce.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich wasn't available to attend tonight's meeting.

Zoning: No permits issued in December. In 2020 there were 15 land use permits for structures and 4 other certificates of compliance (patios, etc.).

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Per MCSI (IT contractor) city cloud must be rebuilt as it crashed when program system update occurred. Cloud is used by council to review large agendas. Tree in alley was removed and Pat Heinsen believed it was on her property. Jacob brought in Chris Weinreich who was fully aware tree was in alley right-of-way, and located survey stake. Pictures were taken and sent to Heinsen verifying tree was verified to be in the alley. Tree was hindering proper plowing, especially since fence was erected by neighboring owner. Stormwater Plan should be ready for review in March; Jacob joined in on the last virtual meeting. Thank you Button for constructing & installing acoustic sound panels for the hall at no cost, they are working very well. Supplies were paid for through CARES Act Fund.

Frederickson: MLC Sheriff's Dept. will be utilizing the county building in the mailing district of Wahkon, just outside city limits, as a hub for the north part of the county. Building was used for Veteran Services and SNAP program appointments, and is also where the spring hazardous waste collection is held. Will be nice to have their presence close by. Clerk will contact Sheriff Don Lorge that council would appreciate having a deputy provide a report at a future meeting as it has been a while since their last visit.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to adjourn. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The February 8, 2021 special Planning Commission (PC) meeting, comprised of full council, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:08 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers Brenda Buck, Chip Frederickson, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers; Rick Roberts was present via Cisco Webex. Councilmember Tony Button was absent and couldn't attend virtually due to internet issues. Employees: Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein were present and Wahkon's Planning & Zoning Specialist Darrin Welle attended virtually.

Minutes: 12/14/2020 Planning Commission Meeting: Usual procedure is to approve PC minutes at the next PC meeting. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve 12/14/2020 PC meeting minutes. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals: Per Welle, Current zoning rules allows vacation rentals, defined as less than 30 days, with an approved Interim Use Permit (IUP). Proposed ordinance would prohibit such rentals entirely. The one approved IUP vacation rental would be allowed to continue. Mayor Bjornson opened the public hearing at 5:13 pm.

Included in the agenda was an email from Chris & Nancy Turnbull "Please do not allow this short term-rental plague to infect our private homes and cabins, rather keep it and its related revenues in the resorts – where it has been and really belongs."

Michael Temte: Wants to see the definitions. Bed & breakfast, Airbnb, need to be defined and discussed. Owner of the property should be on the premises. Has no problem with over 30 days, does the bed & breakfast? He doesn't think bed & breakfast should be listed.

Rob Dubbs: Business owner. Would like PC to reconsider this issue. You had issues with one, but all shouldn't be banned. Small resorts have gone away and this is a way to bring tourists to spend money. We have a Noise Ordinance so call the sheriff; things can be done. Consider lodging taxes mandatory and make limits on number of persons. Slow down and reconsider please as banning it all is a bit too much.

Linda Albertson: Council did a good thing when they decided to prohibit. We called the sheriff and it takes hours. We don't have a police department. No way to enforce the rules.

Brian Lee: Most cities support small businesses and tourism. The samples previously provided of cities that banned them aren't comparative to our town. Other cities around the lake have figured how to make it work. Have regulations and if they aren't met, take approval away. His friend Regan, wanted it noted that Lee's name has been mentioned as the VRBO that doesn't have an IUP. This is defamation of character, and wasn't fact checked or researched. Neighbors can come over and talk to us anytime. Don't use his name anymore. Unfortunately, the issues that arose have been mostly his family and friends.

Butch Bollig: He is all for businesses, but don't bring business to our retirement town. We don't want it. Other residences will begin to do the same thing if allowed. Not saying we want to stop it completely but there needs to be regulations. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to close the public hearing. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing was closed at 5:28 pm

Discussion and Recommendations: Motion to Council: Bjornson asked if we have enough information to make the decision tonight? Do we want to be a town of ordinances? City of Isle and Mille Lacs County (MLC) don't regulate them. This was controversial at county level several years ago. Welle stated bed & breakfast dwellings aren't included as they're licensed by state. They aren't part of the discussion, nor are hotel/motel/resorts, as they are allowed to rent less than 30 days. Frederickson brought up the petition received months ago with 46 signatures opposing them. If you want to be in the business, buy a resort. Many are retired and don't need to worry about a bachelor party next door.

Buck is new to the area. She has used them and been respectful of the neighbors. Now she owns property and she goes back and forth on her decision. How do we enforce? Town is very small. Don't see police presence in town. She doesn't feel prepared to make a decision. Can we enforce? If we say no, are we shooting ourselves in the foot. Sad to see the town so empty. Want our town to flourish and prosper. Roberts has only heard opposition from the neighbors. We also received letters in opposition besides the petition. His opinion hasn't changed and is opposed to vacation rentals. Bjornson understands resorts are for such rentals but they can't accommodate everyone so it is nice to have options. She agrees with Buck and isn't ready to make decision at this time. Pretty sure we have people renting that don't have approved permits and aren't advertising. We can't control our neighbors and they can be loud. Don't want to be the unfriendly city nor do I want neighbors upset either. I don't know the answer and that is why we are here. Don't want to adopt an ordinance that isn't enforceable. Welle suggested MLC be contacted to see if they have had many issues with vacation rentals. *Clerk called Councilmember Tony Button at approximately 5:45 pm and he joined the conversation via speaker phone.* He suggested this wait until himself and Roberts return. Per Welle, additional published and/or posted notice isn't required as long as a date and time of the continued meeting has been set. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to continue the conversation on recommendations to council until Monday 4/12 at 5 pm. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adjourn. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The February 8, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:01 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers; Councilmembers Rick Roberts and Tony Button attended virtually via Cisco Webex. Employees Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein were present; City Engineer Dave Blommel attended virtually. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve agenda. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 1/11/2021 Council

B) City Hall Closed Mon. 2/15 Presidents' Day

C) Mille Lacs Lake Fisheries Advisory Committee (MLFAC) Openings: Proper Economic Resource Management (PERM) Email

D) Mille Lacs Equal Rights Foundation (MERF) LG220 Lawful Gambling Exempt Application for 9/15 Raffle: Acknowledged with no waiting period as usual procedure.

E) Wahkon Summary Budget Statement

F) 2021 Annual Liquor License Renewals: Midwest Investment LLC dba Mini Mart #7, South Shore Hospitality LLC dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, and Wahkon Inn Bar & Restaurant LLC

G) New Off Sale Liquor License: Aadhira LLC dba Lake Stop aka Mini Mart #7

H) Charitable Gambling Report: 12/2020 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) Zero

I) Treasurer's Report 2/2/2021 Ending Balance \$619,315.22

J) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

K) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Tax Settlement Report \$4,944.37

L) Disbursement Register 2/8/2021 Date Range 1/12 – 2/8 Total \$114,784.14

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Ordinance No. 2021-___ An Ordinance Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals: Planning Commission 2/8 meeting held at 5 pm was continued until Monday 4/12 at 5 pm.

Resolution No. _____ Resolution Approving Summary Language for Publication of Ordinance No. 2021-___: Planning Commission 2/8 meeting held at 5 pm was continued until Monday 4/12 at 5 pm.

NEW BUSINESS: League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Property & Casualty Premium Increase: Tom Oberfeld, Oberfeld Insurance Agency: City buildings & equipment were appraised last year and almost every building will see an increased premium for approximately \$600 more per year. Replacement would be 150% of the appraisal. Hard to argue with their appraisals as they are professionally done. Past dividends and premiums 2008 – 2020 information was provided. Do you want to insure your wastewater ponds? Extra premium of \$2032. Only two instances he is aware of where claims occurred; cows and drunk driver caused damages. All mechanics are covered but not the pond infrastructure itself. They have never been insured since built in late 1970s. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck not to insure the sewer ponds. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Isle Fire Department Contract for Fire Services: \$9375.04 annual cost for Wahkon coverage. Our fire department dissolved in 1997. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to enter into agreement for fire protection from Isle Fire Department. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Engineer: Dave Blommel: Memo was part of the agenda giving updates on Trunk Hwy 27, Sanitary Sewer Improvements and Storm Water Management Plan. Hwy 27 came down to three options, with the one we favored similar to Glenwood. Second option includes turn left lane, as we currently have. Demonstration project will be in the spring, without turn left lane, along with public hearing. After DOT does a final review, City would give a thumbs up one last time. Requesting funding from Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) which could cover some city cost for amenities. Plan will give room to businesses for benches, café seating, etc., parking lane would be reduced from 12' to 10' as required by DOT. North Main after 4th Street would be changed a bit creating more space around lift station #3, which could be used for parking. Curve near 1st St. E would be sloped differently so drivers aren't speeding around it, but that won't include removing the hill on the west side. This project may be pushed back again by DOT due to budget restraints. This would tie in nicely with TAP grant funding should we be awarded money to be used in 2025.

Stormwater plan is almost ready and was conducted with grant funds through Mille Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). Draft and final plans will be reviewed by council. Survey work has been completed for sanitary sewer improvement project. USDA process is slow. Army Corp of Engineers approved S.E.H environmental assessment report but they must conduct their own.

Wastewater: Weinreich: Force main break on 1/15 occurred in alley behind Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) building at 251 North Main. CenterPoint Energy contracted with Michels Construction to install new gas line and the exact location of a clean out riser buried below ground was unclear, which was damaged in late fall but went unnoticed until 1/15. Michels said they can't take responsibility as the City signed off on the Gopher State One locates. Preliminary plans have this clean out in a different location. RC Habeck Construction came out immediately to make the repair, which included removing this unused buried clean out. Absolute Septic was also involved at the nearest lift station. Proper protocols were followed and MPCA was contacted. Water well samples were required to be taken from Wahkon Inn, which came back normal. MLBO was notified but felt their well didn't need sampling due to Wahkon Inn results

Zoning: One permit for a house was approved for Ebnet.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Brian Bezanson offered to plow 7th Street and was informed the city will continue to do it. Starter was replaced in big plow truck and DOT inspection conducted.

Roeschlein: Council would like to be made aware of council representative pay but it isn't necessary to get their approval before making payment as it is in the ordinance. At beginning of each year, \$100,000 transfer is made if there are excess funds in WW Operating to pay for debt service bond payments. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to authorize transfer of \$100,000 from WW Operating Fund to WW Emergency/Debt Service Fund. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Retired WW Operator Chris Weinreich sent thank you card: "Thank you for all the support and trust you guys gave me throughout my career in Wahkon. It was the best job I ever had. I miss it terribly!"

Buck: Wish there was something we can do to bring more businesses to town. Several business fronts are empty. Currently everything is zoned residential and conditional use permits are required to operate a business. Need to have this discussion with Zoning Administrator Darrin Welle at a future meeting.

Bjornson: Attended the Mille Lacs Corporate Venture (MLCV) Tribal Economy Business Incubator (TEBI) focus group meeting with Roeschlein at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The term tribal area references their newly resurrected reservation, which City of Wahkon and MLC still oppose as it was dissolved. Goal is to have business incubators which would assist entrepreneurs, both band members and the general public. Opportunity to work together. MLBO has purchased main street businesses and resorts only to close them down. City needs a thriving main street to survive. Need city ordinance requiring owners to do something with their main street buildings.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The March 8, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers; Councilmembers Tony Button and Brenda Buck attended virtually via Cisco Webex. Buck couldn't use video due to internet issues and she appeared with the name Kim Tyson, who was previous councilmember; this was formally announced and the council laptop will be changed by next meeting. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. (B) Bjornson encouraged citizens to attend. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 12/14/2020 Council; 11/23/2020 Special Council; 11/12/2020 Rescheduled Council; 10/27/2020 & 10/20/2020 Special Council; 10/12/2020 Council

B) MN Attorney General Keith Ellison Virtual Town Hall Meeting 6 – 7:30 pm, Thurs. 3/11

C) 2021 Board of Review Schedule: Wahkon Open Book Meetings @ Mille Lacs County (MLC) Assessors Office 4/23 & 4/30

D) League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Liability Coverage Waiver Form: City does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. 466.04

E) Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) Department of Natural Resources/Trail Grants Letter of Support from Wahkon

F) Not just a birthday; Mille Lacs Messenger 3/4 Article by Ronda Bjornson

G) Savage Communications Franchise 2020 Report & Past History

H) LG510 City 10% Lawful Gambling Annual Report

I) Charitable Gambling Report: 1/2021 MLDS \$947.70; Isle Lions Club \$1024.06

J) Treasurer's Report 2/28/2021 Ending Balance \$621,317.20

K) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

L) Disbursement Register 3/8/2021 Date Range 2/9 – 3/8 Total \$120,423.17

REPORTS: MLC Sheriff's Dept: Chief Deputy Kyle Burton #5102: Council agreed to move this up on the agenda. Sheriff Don Lorge and Chief Deputy Kyle Burton were present. Lorge believes there is a lot fear mongering and suggests people take a step back. National media isn't doing us justice. The sheriff's department has had outpouring of support from our community. MLC sent deputies to Minneapolis during the riots and support was evident there as well. Police defunding, tribal litigation of 1855 treaty and lawsuit against the state. As he is named in the pending lawsuit, he can't speak of it due to legal recourse. Reservation signs were erected by MnDOT without any discussion with MLC who has repeatedly invited Governor Tim Walz to meet with the board which never occurred. People are starting to pay attention which is a good thing. Lorge suggests people attend upcoming virtual meeting with MN Attorney General Keith Ellison. MLC is a second amendment county and as such no one is coming for your guns as long as he is sheriff. Stop the rhetoric, life must go on and people can't sit and dwell on it; turn off the TV. Sheriff's department will have an outpost in a portion of MLC maintenance garage, just outside of Wahkon. Future plans include moving out of Cove building.

Burton gave report of calls; there were 56 calls between October and February. Burglary and medical comprise the most, parking complaints, domestic issue, etc. This is solely for Wahkon corporate limits. Button mentioned sheriff's presence was down last fall. Covid-19 has curtailed business outreach. Deputies should be hitting every county and city road. Request was made to please monitor the Soo Line Trail for snowmobiles and ATVs speeding in town. Lorge thanked council for all that they are doing for the community!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon Stormwater Management Plan and CWF Grant Update & Review Draft: Council agreed to move this up on the agenda. Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD): Lynn Gallice attended virtually to provide update. Plan is scheduled to be completed in April and grant expires at year-end. Outreach to community for plan support is next step. With Chris Weinreich's unexpected retirement, city owes a bit more for staff contribution, which Gallice is able to do. Roeschlein would still be involved, but would appreciate Gallice's assistance. "\$5,333 of these funds could be spent by the SWCD to do the remaining grant work in order to lessen the Wahkon staff workload." Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant would reimburse SWCD and not City. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to authorize SWCD staff to do remaining grant work owed by city staff. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. City owes \$11,268 in cash to help pay for engineering services, which will be invoiced soon. \$940 owed by City for in-kind time and materials, which will be accomplished. Gallice asked if there were any comments or questions, which there were none. She concluded that this grant has been great to work on. S.E.H and city staff has been wonderful and outreach support provided by Roeschlein was invaluable.

NEW BUSINESS: Code of Ethics for Public Officials in the City of Wahkon: City auditor strongly suggested this, which includes "Disclosure of Financial Interests by a Public Official." Policy requests at minimum this be reviewed annually by council and staff in order to be informed of potential conflicts of interest. City of Isle implemented theirs in 2018. We are already doing a good job on this, but having it on paper is a good thing as it makes us more transparent. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Accrual vs Cash Basis Accounting: USDA Email: The city referenced in the email from USDA is the City of Isle; "Another City checked with the Army Corps on the single audit requirement since they to expended more than \$750k and they said it wasn't required. Saying that, I'm not expecting any additional financial reporting requirements for Wahkon as a result of this project." Is there really a need to know the exact dollar of the city's assets and liabilities? State of MN allows small cities to be on a cash basis per statute. It would take a lot of work to compile original costs of streets, WW system, buildings, etc. Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC agreed to do 2020 audit on cash basis. They will present audit in April and will also discuss accrual accounting with council. At this time, council agreed our small town should continue on cash basis, but will be open to hear pros and cons directly from auditor next month.

Minnesota Rural Water Assoc. (MRWA) Annual Renewal & Additional Support: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to renew MRWA option B membership, along with two \$25 support donations from Charitable Gambling Fund to their Scholarship and Equipment Funds. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Paychex Payroll Services: As a means to free up office time for meeting minutes and other duties, a quote was obtained. City of Onamia has used them since end of 2017. We outsourced payroll a few years ago but stopped as the journal entries were problematic. Onamia has CTAS accounting program as does Wahkon, and that hasn't been an issue. Services include bi-weekly payroll, quarterly reports, labor posters, year-end employee forms, and most importantly they keep abreast of HR rules. Based on 2020 employee numbers, cost would be approximately \$1550 annually. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to authorize payroll services through Paychex. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Review at 2022 budget time.

City 2020 Events: Wahkon Veterans Park 100th Anniversary Re-Dedication Ceremony 5/29/2021? Button is all for it but needs to check with others, as there is still concern with Covid-19 and elderly honor guard. Council agreed this event will occur. Need to have paver orders engraved and installed. Remind everyone once details are finalized. Will the pyro company still donate booms for the 21-gun salute? Clerk will check.

July Fourth Celebration? 7/4 is Sunday with federal holiday on Monday 7/5. Council agreed to have fireworks on actual date of 7/4 with an order of \$5,000 from Community Event Fund. City will mail letters to businesses requesting donations. Nice morale booster for everyone after the year we have had!

Wahkon Days? Bjornson stated it isn't the city clerk's job to oversee this city event any longer. Last year's audit had "significant deficiency" noted "Cities have no statutory authority to hold fundraisers. We recommend that the City establish a relationship with a local non-profit organization to handle the activities of Wahkon Days. The proceeds from the event can be donated to the City once the event is complete." How do we proceed to find a group? WAVE Committee volunteers are getting older. People are calling about the event already. City took over organizing in 2010 when Wahkon Civic Assoc. dissolved in order that it continue. Tom Remer, owner of Wahkon Inn, said he had three new members but civic still disbanded. City organized it for 10 years along with volunteers; no event in 2020 due to Covid-19. Jonah and the Whales band was paid retainer for 2020 and agreed to carry it over to 8/21/2021. Get the word out we are in need of an organization to take this on. Raffle and button drawings are considered charitable gambling with strict rules. Place issue on next month's agenda.

Main Street property lot can be used by vendors and farmer markets beginning this spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mille Lacs County (MLC) Attorney Joe Walsh Letter to Governor Tim Walz, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan & Attorney General Keith Ellison Re: MnDOT 1855 Reservation Signs: Letter conveys county frustration of not being involved. "The pattern of our own State and Federal government refusing to provide us information or collaborate with us regarding something that significantly impacts Mille Lacs County residents is concerning." Upcoming virtual meeting with AG Ellison; clerk and Mayor will join in from city hall.

MN House Research: American Indians, Indian Tribes, and State Government 2/2020: This is referenced in MLC letter to the governor. "This guidebook discusses major issues involved in the relationship between Indian tribes, American Indians, and state government, including criminal and civil jurisdiction, employment, control of natural resources, gaming and liquor regulation, taxation, health and human services, child welfare, education, and civic engagement." Council can review full 159-page report as it is available in the cloud.

Proper Economic Resource Management (PERM) Email "Walz and Ellison take side in reservation boundary issue – and not with the citizens they govern": Informational.

Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Business Incubator Letter of Support Request: Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) Email: May the clerk draft a letter? Council agreed to send letter; goal is to fill empty businesses.

Charitable Gambling 10% Fund History: Clerk provided report of receipts and disbursement for 2013 – 2021. Covid-19 business closures created months without receipts. Beginning 2019, council earmarked annual fire protection fee of \$9375.04 be paid through this fund as allowed by the state. Even though we can make four installments, should we pay entire annual fee and then remaining funds can be used

for donations? Council agreed as this will make tracking available cash for donations and other allowed expenses easier. Bjornson would like these funds to be used for parks. Council will revisit use of CG funds at next budget meeting.

Initiative Foundation (IF) Contribution Request: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to donate \$250 to IF. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

MN Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) Donation Request: Button met a Brainerd veteran that received housing assistance. Motion by Button to donate \$250 to MACV. Motion amended by Button, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$500 to MACV. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Advance Resignation Notice Program: This has been on three meeting agendas. City attorney has reviewed it along with our Personnel Policy. Currently resignation only requires 14 days and retirement 30 days. Clerk memo noted how council, during personnel policy review, questioned whether department heads could be required to give additional notice. City attorney explained how that can be construed as “exempt employees” salary vs OT/bank hours and to leave as is. This program would incentivize longer leave notice in which to hire and adequately train their replacement; 90 days equals 20 hours pay; 120 days 40 hours pay and 180 days 60 hours pay. With recent unexpected retirement of Wastewater Operator Chris Weinreich, council and staff know full well the importance of adequate time. Program wouldn’t have worked in this instance, but at least it will be available and hopefully used in the future. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to approve the Advance Resignation Notice Program. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Wastewater: Weinreich: Phillip Wiedewitsch needs to replace his connection. Recent subdivision was approved; original large parcel constructed three laterals at different times which enter LS #6 as one pipe. Working with Wiedewitsch on plan of action, which may be to connect through the main sewer and not LS. Pipe has to be fixed in the LS for the other two connections, as currently it is blocked with large mineral deposit. Thule is scheduled to be here for other repairs and this could be added. City Engineer Dave Blommel offered the option that if Wiedewitsch can reach the pipe and safely remove it, no contractor would be required. Wiedewitsch is a licensed plumber and is aware he can’t go into the lift station. By allowing connections directly in LS, there is some responsible of the city to ensure maintenance. Mineral deposit could fall and damage pumps. Weinreich will work with Wiedewitsch and keep council informed.

Zoning: One fence permit was issued in February.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Wahkon projected to receive \$39,095 in economic relief aid which can be used through 12/31/2024. Quilt club will have meeting in community hall on 4/6.

Council emails are generic and were setup quickly by MCSI for their laptops, council1, council2, etc. @gmail.com. Currently clerk and public works are following same protocol as Isle using first name only, Karrie@cityofwahkon.com and Jacob@cityofwahkon.com. Council agreed to go with Mayor.Ronda@cityofwahkon.com, Rick@cityofwahkon.com, Tony@cityofwahkon.com, Brenda@cityofwahkon.com and Chip@cityofwahkon.com, which will be set up through DMDS. Savage Communications contracts with them to host city website and emails. Frederickson welcomed Roberts back from winter trip.

Need to schedule annual Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) meeting. No meeting in 2020 due to Covid-19. Council agreed City Engineer Blommel should attend to discuss upcoming WW system improvement project funded in part through USDA; fall bidding with spring 2022 construction. Will need to address that MLIR benefits from upcoming project and should pay for their portion. WW Commissioner Frederickson and Mayor Bjornson will attend; Tuesdays or Thursdays works best for them. Clerk will coordinate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The April 12, 2021 continued meeting of the Planning Commission (PC), comprised of full council, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:02 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice was posted on city bulletin board 3/29/2021 only as a reminder. New public notice isn't required as this meeting was "continued" from the 2/8/2021 special meeting of the PC. Public Hearing was concluded on 2/8/2021. Roll Call: Councilmembers Rick Roberts, Tony Button, Chip Frederickson, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers; Brenda Buck attended virtually via Cisco Webex with audio only. Employees: Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein were present and Wahkon's Planning & Zoning Specialist Darrin Welle attended virtually.

Minutes: 2/8/2021 Planning Commission Meeting: No official motion was taken on these minutes as PC went directly to unfinished business.

Unfinished Business: Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals Discussion and Recommendations: Motion to Council: Button has been discussing this issue while down south and, in some communities, properties have sold due to interest generated by vacation rental users. He discussed this with a Mille Lacs County (MLC) commissioner, which currently has no ordinance, but they are researching it along with 6 – 10% lodging tax. Katrina Chang's retreat for crafters is closed, losing 8 – 16 people, hotel is closed; Izatys and McQuoid's are only large lodging establishments in immediate area.

Bjornson explained ordinances are in place to address most concerns. If violations occur, sheriff's department can be called. MLC nor City of Isle have requirements. Want Wahkon to be welcoming. Only have two resorts. Investment opportunity and family lake cabin at same time. How do we enforce if we don't allow them and if we do, how do regulate them? Would be nice option but as a mayor I want to do what is best for the city.

For Roberts it is an enforcement issue as likely police arrive after the issue. Selling property with VRBO next door may hinder the sale. With 5-6 people in favor and 60 against, it is pretty obvious to him. Frederickson agrees with Roberts. If we had police force it would be game changer. Don't want to see neighbors trying to resolve it themselves.

Buck personally thinks we have to allow them as city could be sued. Suggestion is to have manager nearby to enforce rules. Plenty of cities have tough regulations and owners must do more to find good renters. In her research, she found a few issues, here and there, but overall, nothing to warrant prohibiting them. Clerk asked what she meant by suing the city? She spoke with attorney and believes we could be liable. Clerk explained how before 2017, only 30 days rentals were allowed, then Interim Use Permit (IUP) rules allowed vacation rentals if approved through facts and findings. Only Rich/Monson is legally compliant with an IUP, others are doing this in violation without an IUP. Buck sees allowing them as a plus to the community. Moratorium is still in place until fall 2021. What is wrong with the IUP process? Welle explained Rich/Monson had requirements, such as posting rules, emergency contact, map of property, etc. Buck believes people are already doing it behind our backs and we should get them to pay the fees and follow regulations. Bjornson agreed. There will always be bad apples, renters and/or regular neighbors. Want to be warm and welcoming, want people to stay here and not go down the road.

Welle offered to contact city attorney to look at a code that is very restrictive in order to compare to the current code being debated that prohibits them. IUP process has end date and conditions. Currently only 12 people maximum, 2 per bedroom, and no parking on street. Could add fencing and other requirements. Fact and findings questions must all be answered in the affirmative for approval. Continual violations would require public hearing and IUP could be revoked. Roberts stated he was elected by the people and there are 10 to one against them so his vote is no. Frederickson agrees as people aren't transparent and he believes there are 20 against. Bjornson asked if some are

making their decision based on one property, as there are great properties with good managers and tenants. Buck agreed. Button doesn't believe they belong just anywhere. What about districts? That would be a much larger undertaking and per Welle it wouldn't change the outcome of this issue. What about requiring a certain lot size or square footage? Understand the issues for neighbors, but if we stop them, people will go elsewhere. Businesses could use the income; taxpayers can use the tax base. Per Frederickson, rule #1 in management contract for townhome owners is no renting. It could be win win for everybody if done right with management that can enforce rules. Possible additional requirements could be lot size or square footage, seven-day minimum, nearby management, distance between neighbors. Motion by Button, seconded by Buck to continue the discussion on recommendations to council until Tuesday 5/18 at 6 pm, after Welle can review more restrictive requirements for vacation rentals with city attorney. Ayes: Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Opposed: Roberts and Frederickson. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The April 12, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:12 pm. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Rick Roberts, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers; Councilmember Brenda Buck attended virtually via Cisco Webex with audio only. Employees: Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein were present. Approval of Agenda: Roeschlein requested her subdivision be added as 5.H. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to add Roeschlein subdivision as 5.H to the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 2/8 & 3/8 Council

B) 2021 Board of Review Schedule: Wahkon Open Book Meetings @ Mille Lacs County (MLC) Assessors Office 4/23 & 4/30

C) Notice of Public Hearing Conditional Use Permit & Variance Applications for South Shore Hospitality LLC dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs Tues. 4/27 @ 5 pm

D) MN Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) Donation Thank You

E) Initiative Foundation (IF) Donation Thank You

F) IF Community Support Background Letter

G) Glyphosate Letter of Concern: Janice Jenkins

H) Wahkon Letter of Intent NE MN 569 Environmental Assistance Program, Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project

I) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Sheriff's Report January through March 2021

J) Charitable Gambling Report: 2/2021 Isle Lions \$1237.48 & MLDS \$1639.42

K) Treasurer's Report 4/2/2021 Ending Balance \$615,651.40

L) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

M) Disbursement Register 4/12/2021 Date Range 3/9 – 4/12 Total \$44,025.82

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Ordinance No. 2021-___ An Ordinance Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals: Planning Commission 2/8 meeting held at 5 pm was continued until Monday 4/12 at 5 pm and continued again until Tuesday 5/8 at 6 pm.

Resolution No. _____ Resolution Approving Summary Language for Publication of Ordinance No. 2021-___: Planning Commission 2/8 meeting held at 5 pm was continued until Monday 4/12 at 5 pm and continued again until Tuesday 5/18 at 6 pm.

NEW BUSINESS: 2020 Financial Statements & Independent Auditor's Report, & Communications Letter: Hoffman, Philipp & Martell, PLLC: Crystelle Philip gave council the written report along with brief overview. Colleen Hoffman worked with Roeschlein and no difficulties were encountered. Karrie does a good job and her financial figures are accurate and dependable. No journal entries were required. State auditor's office strongly urges accrual accounting versus cash basis, as does our auditor. However, statute allows small cities to do cash basis. Accrual provides a more accurate financial picture but cash basis hasn't hindered the city with grants and/or loans in the past. WW Pond System was constructed in late 1970's and has fully depreciated. Keep records of value of 2022 WW project improvements. Currently wastewater bond payments are paid from WW Emergency/Debt Service Fund and beginning with 2022 budget it will be a line item within WW Operating Fund. 2020 budget was amended to reflect additional \$50,000 in street blacktop, but receipts must be amended to offset expenses for a proper amendment. In future, no need to amend as overages do occur and the budget is

only an estimate. Public safety for fire protection is zero as that cost is paid through Charitable Gambling Fund, as an allowed expense. It appears from the audit there was no fire protection. Need to fully discuss this, as clerk was informed that all receipts and expenses must flow through CG Fund and can't be a reimbursement transfer to General Fund. 2019 fundraising legal compliance issue is still noted. City is working to find a non-profit organization to organize Wahkon Days. Philip expressed that staff and council are always welcome to contact their office with questions and/or concerns as that is what they are there for! Council and Roeschlein are thankful to have found Hoffman, Philipp & Martell. Best audit presentation ever!

Wahkon Farmers & Vendor Market Expired 10/31/2020 & Christine "Pineapple" Jameson City Property Events: Vendor rules were established last year to entice vendors to use city property. Pineapple, a historical re-enactment actor, resides and owns a business next door to the North Main Street city lot property. She has two weekend re-enactments planned, if council approves, at no cost to the city. Mother's Day weekend 5/8 – 9 and 6/25 – 27, same weekend as Isle Historical Rendezvous. Turtle would pitch a teepee for tours, Adam is a blacksmith with a mobile historical forge and Pineapple would demonstrate candle making. There would be two tents and the teepee left in place over the weekend and their request is to be able to sleep in it for security reasons. Demonstrators would fall under her insurance. Details were discussed with a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe elder, who fully supports this. Other vendors are welcomed, with exception of the June event, which will be reserved for rendezvous appropriate vendors. Pineapple offered to organize vendors on those weekends.

Policy doesn't state "local vendor" as was originally discussed, but council feels at this time that isn't necessary. In the future, if we have numerous vendors, we could limit to locals. Button questioned fire rings and safety. Pineapple has done this all over the country and safety is their first concern. Property will be put back in same condition. Blacksmith takes measures to keep the public at a safe distance. Free will offering box would be on site to help offset their costs. Roberts questioned overnight camping regulations? Clerk isn't aware of any. Camping was allowed in the park, which stopped years ago. Should they have a special permit? Council agreed with the weekends as noted per Pineapple allowing three demonstrators to remain overnight on city property. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to extend Wahkon Farmers & Vendor Market policy through 2021. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Ditch Drainage Request: Gerald Marushin wasn't present but submitted his written request. "The drainage ditch on the frontage road ends at the east corner of my land which causes the water to dam up. Consequently, my parcel never has a chance to properly drain. I believe a continuation of the ditch or installation of a culvert would help alleviate the problem." Whole area at the end of Lake Shore Blvd has drainage issues and holds water. Where can the water go? City-wide stormwater drainage plan will be finished soon and will need to be reviewed for this area. Marushin's property is classified as wetland woodland per MLC. Could it be drained to the back? What is the responsibility of the city? Must follow wetland regulations, which have become more restrictive. City nor property owner can change the ecosystem of that land. Improving street ditches would help alleviate land owner issues. Not enough budget funds at this time but it will be reviewed in the future, in conjunction with the city-wide stormwater plan.

Cable Television Franchise Ordinance No. 2004-5 Renewal: Ron Savage of Savage Communications Inc. email is requesting their franchise ordinance be renewed, which expired in 2019. Council agreed someone from Savage Communications should attend a meeting to discuss their long-range plans, high speed capabilities, etc.

Family Pathways Donation Request: Thrift stores all over the area, with Princeton and Onamia being the closest, of which funds are used to help people in need. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$250 from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Sally Doran Memorial Wahkon Clean Up Day Draft Flyer: Saturday 6/5 from 8 – 11 am. Council agreed to remove “small amount of demolition material” as acceptable items, due to some taking advantage. Highlighted section that first TV and/or monitor is free, additional units will be charged actual disposal price of \$30 each. Also noted tractor tires will be charged \$75 or \$95 with rim. This is the first year we will charge for some items. We’ve always asked for donations only, but with increased disposal fees, this has become necessary. There will be no curb side pick-up service for citizens, as volunteers are getting older and it has gotten out of hand; property owner must provide their own transportation to the site.

HF1076’s Article 10 Section 21 MN Statutes 2020, Section 84.63 Changes: Mn Representative Sondra Erickson Email: “The change means Minnesota’s historic sites can be permanently transferred to Indian tribes based on an interest in the land. It also means no review or process by an Executive, Administrative Office or Legislature is required. The DNR does not have adequate expertise to protect Minnesota’s historic sites. The DNR is not designated authority over historic sites (archaeology included), this is the responsibility of the State Archaeologist in the Administrative branch.” “Allowing the Commissioner sole discretion invites loss of MN historic sites. The legislature and administrative offices must be included in any actions regarding permanent easements to sovereign nations involving historic sites as outlined in 2020 84.63. Objective review is critical to preservation of Minnesota’s historic sites for future generations.”

Subdivision: Roeschlein, Tim & Karrie: This was an approved addition to the agenda. Roeschlein property housed two homes until fire destroyed the manufactured home 4/2016. Her mother plans on moving a new manufactured home onto the property, but according to current zoning rules, only one residence per parcel. This was news to them! Subdivision of this parcel is in the works and a surveyor has been hired. Her mother is a bit nervous putting a down payment on the home and this request is for preliminary approval. The details of the split were discussed with Darrin Welle, Zoning Administrator. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to give preliminary approval for the subdivision of PID #25-017-0500 into two parcels, contingent that all requirements are met. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Buck. Abstain: Bjornson. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon Days 2021: A Turn of Events dba Go Savvy Social: Ashly Hughes was present to inform council she doesn’t want to take over the event but only be a bridge for it to carry on until a local organization can be found. In most instances once an event stops, it doesn’t start up again. Hughes was event coordinator for Milaca and she fully understands restraints cities have with such events. Since 2019, our audit has a significant deficiency due to hosting the event and their advice is to find a non-profit to take it over. Hughes has worked with the city to organize craft vendors over the years and her business specialize in events. She would be willing to contact businesses and organizations to see if they still want to participate as a sponsor. Hopefully, they will organize their part of the event. Ex: First National Bank’s coin hunt and Jump City for the bounce houses. Community volunteers would still be needed. Council agreed Roeschlein must step away from organizing the event. The City took over the reins after Wahkon Civic Assoc. dissolved in order for the event to continue and has been doing it for ten years, which is long enough. Community Event Fund began with band donation from the city, which has grown each year. July Fourth fireworks are paid

through this fund and we would like to continue, as donations haven't surpassed expenses. Would Isle Area Chamber, Onamia Lions Club, or Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) want to participate? It isn't every day that a community event is up for grabs. Buck is now COO of MLDS and will bring this up at a meeting upon her return.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Waiting on lab results of pond samples before discharging.

Zoning: One permit issued for duplex townhomes at Meshigun Point Properties.

U.S Dept of Homeland Security DHS Statement on New National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Pricing Methodology: "Critically, the modernized pricing methodology corrects the current system's unintentional inequities in which many policyholders with lower-value homes are paying more than they should and policyholders with higher-value homes are paying less than they should. As a result, nearly a quarter of the NFIP's current policyholders will set a decrease in their premiums under the new pricing structure."

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Mille Lacs Island Resort meeting is tomorrow at 9:30 and staff will meet at 8:30 am with Engineer Dave Blommel. Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures needs volunteers for broadband initiative. Clerk isn't available to help at this time. Low-Cost Vet Clinic is 4/24 at Wahkon Inn from 9 to 1. Mugg's of Mille Lacs planning commission special meeting will be 4/27 at no cost, as the scheduled PC meetings have been solely for continued discussion of vacation rentals. Can there be a special meeting that same night, in order to expediate their variance and conditional use permits? Plan is to begin construction of open-air patio in prep for Memorial Day weekend. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to waive special meeting fee for special council meeting on 4/27 following PC meeting. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

WAVE: Button: The 100th anniversary (circa) rededication of the Veterans Park is Sat. 5/29 at 11 am. Streets to be closed to traffic with be South Main, 4th & 6th Streets W, including launch beginning late Friday evening. No parking at Vets & City Parks in order to stage the military honor guards and have an area for citizens to view ceremony from. Over 200+ veterans names will be read aloud, along with 21-gun aerial salute with pyrotechnic company and a bagpiper. Pavers will be delivered for engraving and installed promptly. Invite Representative Sondra Erickson, Senator Andrew Matthews, MLC Sheriff Don Lorge, MLC Commissioner Dave Oslin, and others.

Streets: Button: Culvert was removed under 3rd St E along Hennepin Ave. and not replaced as stormwater plan wasn't finalized and lack of time to shot elevation prior to new blacktop. Water was high in the ditch, which has encroached upon private properties. Instead of replacing this culvert, plan is to install one under Hennepin just before 3rd St. E, which will occur this year to alleviate water issues. Clerk noted the unpaved portion of 3rd St. E. can remain for 2021 due to the new manufactured home coming in; plan to pave it in 2022.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The April 27, 2021 special meeting of the Wahkon Planning Commission (PC), comprised of entire council, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:00 pm. The Wahkon Council, called this PC meeting to hold a public hearing to hear from the public, consider and act to make a recommendation regarding two applications submitted by South Shore Hospitality LLC, dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, located at 200 North Main and all public notice requirements were met. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present in chambers were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson; absent was Brenda Buck. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein, along with Planning & Zoning Specialist Darrin Welle from Sourcewell.

Minutes: 2/8/2021 & 4/12/2021 Planning Commission Meetings: In error, 2/8 minutes were not officially approved at the 4/12 meeting. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to approve 2/8/2021 & 4/12/2021 PC meeting minutes. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: South Shore Hospitality LLC, dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs: Variance to expand commercial restaurant within required 10 feet State Hwy and City Street Right-of-Way setbacks: Bjornson opened the hearing. Rob & Steve Dubbs, co-owners, were present to request zero setback from 2nd Street E to correct old problem from 1990's and zero from Main Street for kitchen expansion. MnDOT and DNR were officially notified and no replies were received. Main Street lots were platted as 25' wide, while most are 50' outside the downtown area; wanted as many businesses as possible on Main Street. Brainerd & Little Falls historic district areas have zero setbacks. Existing businesses in old buildings, such as Spirit Lake Steak House, Wahkon Inn and Pepperberry's, likely have zero setbacks. No part of below ground foundation and/or buildings will extend into city or highway right-of-way (ROW). Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to close the variance public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Recommendations: Motion to Council: The six "findings" questions, supplied by Welle in his staff report, were fully discussed and answered by the commission. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to recommend council approval to South Shore Hospitality, dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, of both variances for zero setback to Main Street/Hwy 27 and 2nd St. E. based upon six (6) findings of fact and one (1) conditions of approval: no encroachment into the road right-of-way is allowed with any part of the structure. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: South Shore Hospitality LLC, dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs: Conditional use permit (CUP) to expand commercial restaurant. Bjornson opened the hearing. MnDOT and DNR were officially notified and no replies were received. Majority of this discussion occurred during the variance public hearing. Design includes fully landscaped garden patio with privacy fence, which will absorb sound and be less intrusive than currently. Existing outside lights will be replaced with dimmer lights. MnDOT Main Street future project doesn't include giving back footage to business owners. Mario Trudeau wasn't present but submitted an email requesting fence, which Rob Dubbs discussed with him. Fence will be 6' high, which will block Trudeau's property, due to his lower elevation. Diagonal parking on street could be increased. They will keep one row in their lot abutting the alley which Rob believes will lessen alley traffic. Garbage area on plan could be further west to fence area, adding another parking spot. Street Commissioner Button believes parking isn't an issue as we have marked spots on Main Street and have the community parking lot within 2nd St W, across the street one block.

Jenna & Jason Bauer question their access with the new fence given his large trailer and truck. They have seen increased traffic due to closing 2nd St. E last summer for Covid-19 restrictions, allowing people to eat outside. Their property and Dale Gieski, have ruts from inconsiderate drivers. Bjornson's property abuts alley near gas station and deals with similar issues. Some people park in the alley, which is against ordinance. Should city install signage? Signage will be discussed by council at their next meeting. Diagonal parking spots will have drivers come and go via the alley regardless of which way. Dubbs will be more cautious of their contractor doing snow removal. Snow pile may take up a space or two. City pays contractor to move piled highway snow to city parking lot on 2nd St. W. Mugg's would haul it away, if needed, at their expense. Jenna Bauer is all for their plan, but has concerns over alley safety. She also noted that as a business in Isle, they are required to deal with their snow. Wahkon currently plows sidewalks and all Main Street snow is hauled to storage area within 2nd Street W. Existing concrete wall will remain as nice barrier between the lots. Frederickson suggested only compact cars on 2nd St. E diagonal parking. Dubbs suggested that be addressed after they are open and if needed, they would erect signage. Community hall isn't rented very often and parking area can be used by the public. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to close the CUP public hearing. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Recommendations: Motion to Council: The eight "findings" questions, supplied by Welle in his staff report, were fully discussed and answered by the commission. Maintenance of trees and fence will be a condition. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to recommend council approval of a CUP to South Shore Hospitality, dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, to expand their commercial restaurant with two (2) findings of fact, including additional shoreland criteria, and six (6) conditions of approval. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The April 27, 2021 special meeting of the Wahkon Council was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:09 pm. Wahkon Council called for this meeting to take action on recommendations from the Planning Commission (PC) regarding South Shore Hospitality, LLC, dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, located at 200 North Main, variance and conditional use permit (CUP) applications. All public notice requirements were met. Roll Call: Councilmembers present in chambers were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson; absent was Brenda Buck. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein, along with Planning & Zoning Specialist Darrin Welle from Sourcewell.

South Shore Hospitality LLC dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs: Planning Commission Recommendations & Council Action: Variances: State Hwy Setback & City Right-of-Way Setback: PC recommends council approval of both variances. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to approve both variances for zero setback to Main Street/Hwy 27 and 2nd St. E. to South Shore Hospitality, dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, based upon six (6) findings of fact and one (1) conditions of approval: no encroachment into the road right-of-way is allowed with any part of the structure. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Conditional Use Permit: PC recommends council approve CUP. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to approve a CUP to South Shore Hospitality, dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, to expand their commercial restaurant with two (2) findings of fact, including additional shoreland criteria, and six (6) conditions of approval. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The May 10, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: None

B) Wahkon Veterans Park 100th Anniversary Re-Dedication Ceremony 11 am Saturday 5/29

C) Sally Doran Memorial Wahkon Clean Up Day 8 – 11 am Saturday 6/5

D) Mille Lacs County 2021 Assessment Letter: Daryl Moeller, County Assessor

E) Charitable Gambling Report: 3/2021 Isle Lions Club \$14.54

F) Treasurer's Report Dated 5/4 Ending Balance \$603,320.07

G) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

H) Disbursement Register 5/10 Date Range 4/13 – 5/10 Total \$39,221.27

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2021-0510 Adopting Findings of Fact and Reasons for Approval for Minor Subdivision Application of Tim & Karrie Roeschlein: All paperwork was reviewed and meets requirements. This resolution was drafted by Darrin Welle of Sourcewell. Due to the fact this is personally for Clerk Roeschlein, Acting Mayor Button will attest with his signature. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Button, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0510. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-0510A Ending the Local Emergency Declaration: Clerk noticed other cities were ending the emergency and provided City Attorney David Anderson with sample. He added a bit more history of what transpired and why. Originally it was thought a city needed to declare an emergency in order to obtain Covid-19 funds. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0510A. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. “The city remains bound by the state-wide declaration and the Governor’s emergency orders regardless of whether a local declaration remains in place.” “It is no longer necessary to continue to respond to the pandemic without having to rely on local emergency plans or emergency powers.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Savage Communications Cable Franchise Ordinance No. 2004-5 Renewal: Ron & Scott Savage were present. Council had requested their attendance and agreed to move this up on the agenda. They have been in business in Minnesota for 36 years, with Scott doing it for 16 years. Council discussed IT issues during pandemic. When there were three attending meetings via Cisco Webex the third person seemed to be unable to connect. Unsure if it is broadband width here or councilmember’s location. Ron suggested they send out a technician to conduct a wireless survey to ascertain our speeds in the office and community hall. When demand is high, Savage doesn’t over subscribe as other companies do, so that shouldn’t be an issue. Savage has increased their speed to 1G and realize they must stay competitive as there is now 5G. They want to be the best provider they can be. Frontier Communications is in bankruptcy and may be reconfiguring their system. Some cities collect no fee so as not to burden their citizens, most are at 3% and a few collect 5%. Council agreed to proceed with renewal of additional 15 years through an upcoming public hearing. Franchise fee of 3% would remain the same. Call for a wireless survey.

NEW BUSINESS: Old School Apartments Safety Issues & Mold: Josh Walters was in attendance and no longer lives there but is concerned for the tenants. Black mold can cause disease and is a major health issue. No fire exits on 3rd floor. Some porches are very weak and move easily. In January it was 43 degrees in their apartment. During winter it is common to have no water or heat; clerk has been informed of this over the years. Last time it was 9 days without water. Approximately 30 days in all without water and heat at different times, but tenants must still pay full month's utility fees. Tenants don't know their rights. Wahkon doesn't have a rental ordinance.

Isle Fire Department Chief David Miller: 2013 furnace problems were fixed. Board across the door was seen by Miller. Roger was informed and will remove that board. He is working on the deck. There needs to be a walk-through with Isle FD so new members know layout. State Fire Marshall will assist Isle FD to conduct safety inspection. Can't inspect apartments without owner or tenant signature. Fire escapes need to meet code. Miller is coordinating with State for inspection and he will keep us posted.

Mold is another matter and not jurisdiction of FD. City doesn't have rental ordinance to require such inspections. Tenants can conduct their own test using kits or hire contractor. Mold can cause many health issues. Mold is evident all over per Walters, closets, around AC units, etc. Walls aren't insulated properly and condensation creates mold. Council agreed a letter should be sent asking the owner to comply with safety requirements per pending inspection. Usual process is to give owner 30 days.

Signage in Alleys Behind Lake Stop & Mugg's? This issue was brought up during South Shore Hospitality variance and conditional use permit public hearing. Alley is used heavily by their patrons, people getting gas and for deliveries. Need "no parking in alley" signage for two blocks and "public parking" sign at gravel lot within 2nd St. W. Stripping of community hall parking spots will be researched as to quantity, and when not in use, can be used by the public. Weinreich will get information and work with Street Commissioner Button on placement.

Poplar Trees Removal Within Undeveloped 5th Street E Request: Sandy Weber: Poplar tree tops came down during a high wind. She is concerned for her power line. Doesn't ECE remove trees affecting their lines? Maybe limbs but not the tree, especially within street right of way. City has cut a few trees in this area before upon Weber's safety request. This is an undeveloped street and there are as many as seven trees. Approximate cost of \$700 to remove debris without stump grinding. Council doesn't want everyone to make such requests. This has to do with safety of a power line. Trees in question are marked. What is the city's responsibility regarding undeveloped streets and trees? Clerk to research this. Weber was denied a street vacation. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to remove unsafe trees if after homeowner contacts ECE and is informed they won't do it themselves. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway Donation Request: Donation request of \$700 to do second map publication. East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) has been involved since inception and as non-profit, donations will go to them. Bare Ass Beach is duly noted and named within the document. Council feels it is a lot of money and questions who gets them and where. People love them. Is everything up to date? Byway was dedicated 11/1/2018. Maps are provided to businesses for area visitors. Tina Chapman was involved in making these maps, along with Lakeland Printers in Isle. No advertising at this time to off set cost. Great economic development tool. Motion made by Button for full amount, but not seconded as Frederickson believes \$300 would be more appropriate due to our small population. All cities are being asked for same donation. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Buck to donate \$400 from Charitable Gambling Fund to ECRDC for publication of Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway maps. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

ISD #473 Weight Room Donation Request: Travis Turgeon Email: Button stated MLDS also gave donation. Buck questioned how much have they raised thus far. Not a lot per Button. Weight room is used by all sport teams and is good for their health. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to donate \$250 to ISD #473 for weight room expenses from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon Days 2021 Discussion Re: New Organization(s) & Financial Donation for Band: Buck will ask MLDS to take on Wahkon Days at their 5/20 meeting. Tina Chapman believes it may be a bit much this year with new staff. May not have a 501C3 organization this first year. Invite vendors and they keep all proceeds, which would allow us to have it and not lose it. If MLDS says yes, the following year we could build the event up and make a better fundraising effort. Keep it simple this year as we are behind in organizing it already. Cities are limited in what they can do with taxpayer funds and gambling rules are very strict. Isle Area Chamber may be another organization to ask. Per auditor, City should find non-profit to take over the event. Have music and beer wagons on Friday and Saturday. See which liquor establishment wants which days, following year, it could be flipped. Find car club to do car cruise. Businesses could add their own events. Get a farmers' market as well. Proceed with Brenda Buck and Ashly Hughes organizing the event, with some assistance from Roeschlein. Down payment was made for Jonah & the Whales band for 2020, but due to Covid-19, contract was made for 2021. WAVE hosts Sunday in the Park which can continue as a community picnic and a youth fishing contest.

Mille Lacs Island Resort Annual Meeting: City Engineer & City Attorney Involvement: WW Commissioner Frederickson: Meeting has been cancelled twice, due to snow and health issue. Engineer Blommel conveyed to clerk he would appreciate legal representative at meeting to ensure nothing is construed out of context, as he isn't versed in legal matters. Council agreed that having our City Attorney David Anderson present at the meeting will get him up to speed on all the issues.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Thul Specialty Contracting work was approved last year but due to Covid, work was just completed. Lift station #6 was added due to leaks and work out at the ponds. Ponds now have capability to move 6" of water and discharge will be soon.

Certificate of Commendation Wahkon Wastewater Treatment Facility 2020 Operational Award: Congratulations on this award! Weinreich is doing a great job! Six-month employee review is next month.

Zoning: Approved shed for Giddings, permit modification for Ebnet and minor subdivision for Roeschlein (see Resolution No. 2021-0510 above).

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Small launch dock and fishing pier are out. Bill Schmiede will pick up piles from cleaning our beach.

Roeschlein: Island View Resort owner Tim Pater hopes kids' fishing contest, H2H (head-to-head) could be held here in June and requested use of pier. Council agreed. WAVE will pay one month's rent of a portable restroom at Veterans Park for upcoming rededication ceremony, \$100 per month. Should we have it there through Labor Day? Café is now closed and Lapinski is asked all the time. Children and the elderly must walk over a block to City Park restroom. Location would take in consideration Weirs' property view. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to rent a portable restroom for Veterans Park through Labor Day with \$100 from Veterans Park Fund and the remainder from WAVE Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Button: Two American Legions will be involved in Veterans Park rededication. Need ten volunteers to read all veterans names. Request to hire bag piper and pyrotechnic company to do 21-gun salute. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to authorize \$725 to pay for outside services such a bag piper and pyrotechnic company, with \$400 coming from Veterans Park Fund and remainder from WAVE Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Abstain: Button. Motion carried.

WAVE will do park clean-up on 5/13. Keller Williams realty professionals do community service annually and will help. Weinreich has done a great job at the park.

Buck questioned how to place items on the agenda. They can be requested during this time or best-case scenario is to contact clerk to have them added by agenda deadline. Items not formally on agenda may require review at an upcoming meeting.

Bjornson requested curve near church at 1st St. E and Meshigun be blacktopped a bit more. Gravel from Soo Line Trail becomes thick and a child or bicyclist could fall; keep it broomed off as well.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The May 18, 2021 continued meeting of the Planning Commission (PC), comprised of full council, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Public notice wasn't required as this meeting was originally "continued" from the 2/8/2021 PC meeting, which was continued to 4/12, and continued again for tonight. Public Hearing originated and was concluded on 2/8 of which public notice was required and satisfied. Roll Call: Councilmembers Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers. Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein and Wahkon's Planning & Zoning Specialist Darrin Welle from Sourcewell were present.

Minutes: None

Unfinished Business: Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals Discussion and Recommendations: Motion to Council: Note: Public Hearing was held and concluded on 2/8: Additional emailed comments have been provided to PC within continued meeting agendas. Bjornson wants to do what is best for the city. Do we need this ordinance? How do we enforce it? What is the cost of enforcement? This debate has been ongoing for several months and has already cost the city in attorney and zoning professional fees. Whatever is decided, it must be enforceable. Welle provided memo outlining additional restrictions, which would require another public hearing. Prior public hearing was to prohibit them, which this meeting is a continuation of. Bed & Breakfast establishments are allowed per our zoning ordinance and are licensed by the State. Button has been on the fence about this and has done research. In some areas, where the age groups are similar, vacation rentals can work. Wahkon has many retirees that want peace and quiet and a rental next door, partying every night doesn't work. Some property owners don't carry enough insurance or even inform their company they are doing vacation rentals. How do we enforce if owners don't abide by the rules? Family and friends of your neighbor can also be noisy. Yes, but usually it is a holiday weekend, not five days a week with different renters all summer long. We can only regulate property and not people. With an ordinance prohibiting them, stop & desist letters would be mailed. If still non-complaint, legal process would begin. Roberts agrees with Button. We don't have staff or police to enforce rules. If we don't allow it and something happens, we shouldn't have any liability. Currently there is only one approved vacation rental, which expires when their ownership ends, but would be allowed to continue if city prohibits them. Buck noted we need to prohibit them or have regulations, one or the other; can't ignore them. If the area changes in the future, maybe the citizens will be for them. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to recommend to council to move forward with proposed Ordinance "Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Buck. Opposed: Bjornson. Motion carried.

Citizen Michael Temte believes our zoning ordinance needs definition of a bed & breakfast otherwise we may deal with the same types of issues. State statute defines them with a very formal laid out process, thus local ordinances don't require their own definition. They must be licensed by the state similar to a hotel, as well as, restaurant if they provide meals. City requires a conditional use permit (CUP) and if approved it would be contingent that all state rules and requirements are met.

Adjournment: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The June 14, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson and began with the Pledge of Allegiance @ 6:00 pm. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were: Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein. Professional Staff present: City Engineer Rachel Pichelmann from S.E.H and Lynn Gallice Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District (MLSWCD). Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 4/27 Special Council & 4/12 Council

B) East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) Notice of Public Hearing

C) Cable Franchise Ordinance No. 2004-5 Renewal for Additional 15 Years Public Hearing Mon. 7/12 @ 6 pm

D) Charitable Gambling Report: 4/2021 Isle Lions Club \$14.54; Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) 3/2021 Zero & 4/2021 \$1,453.96

E) Treasurer's Report Dated 6/4/21 Ending Balance \$576,500.50

F) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

G) Disbursement Register 6/14 Date Range 5/11 – 6/14 Total \$50,760.46

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Ordinance No. 2021-1 Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2021 PROHIBITING SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Buck. Opposed: Bjornson. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2021-0614 Approving Summary Language for Publication of Ordinance No. 2021-1: Summary requires 4/5 vote. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0614. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Buck. Opposed: Bjornson. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon Stormwater Management Plan: Moved up on the agenda. Rachel Pickelman from S.E.H & Lynn Gallice of MLSWCD were present. Began over a year ago with data collection through a 75% Legacy Clean Water Grant, which ends at year end. Plan is almost complete with some outreach to do through post card mailing asking for information and explaining why such a plan is good for the city. Open house will be conducted Saturday 8/28 or 9/11 to review plan and to inform citizens of small ways they can help with rain barrels and gardens. Plan identifies current management areas, possible future areas, Native American Indian burial sites and their buffers. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe was part of the conversation. Stormwater modeling calculates how much stormwater is generated per quantity of rain, along with pollutant loads, such as phosphorus. Best management practices (BMPs) were prioritized using criteria such as amount of stormwater reduction, public education, etc. with a point system, along with cost estimates of top three. A fourth project will be implemented by MnDOT during the 2025 Main Street Project. This will be a viable document to use at budget time and should be referenced for projects. Items will be completed and added over the years. One Watershed One Plan is beginning a state wide effort and funding should be available soon for projects. MLSWCD will also have future funds to help owners with smaller projects. Buck gave example of how here prior lake home utilized county grant funds to do shoreland work. Her 20% cost was in kind work she did herself. MLSWCD doesn't have funds at this time but they usually pay 60 –

75% of the project and recently worked with resident Donna Schindele on her backyard. Button commented this is a valuable amount of data and knowledge. Gallice said it was a joy to work on this project with city staff. Best one she has ever done!

NEW BUSINESS: Schiltz & Gervais Shared Driveway & Elevation Discussion: This was moved up on the agenda as it pertains to stormwater. Schiltz and Gervais were present and live at end of Bennett Street. They have a shared driveway which has water standing due to being area's lowest point. Not much water this year due to drought, but usually not usable a few days annually. Improvements and development have caused these issues and they want to improve it. If Schiltz improves it for them, he worries he'll make it worse for others. Impervious must not exceed 25% and Gervais is at the limit. City Engineer Blommel provided two options based on elevation, which are noted in agenda memo. Construct a rain garden? Gallice explained how grass roots are very short, while rain garden plant roots are much longer, which help alleviate standing water. At the lake you have high groundwater and fluctuating lake levels create issues. Pickelman is familiar with this very flat area and had discussion with Blommel. Is there room for a swell to capture and filter stormwater? Gallice can take a look at it. This was the exact scenario Buck had at a previous home and they constructed a huge swell, along with a structure, to prevent leaves from entering. That was the cheapest solution for her. There are no cost share funds at this time per Gallice.

City was granted easement from Chip Frederickson of current blacktop Bennett Street which ends just beyond manhole. Land is part of Meshigun Point Townhome development, of which two outlots may still be developed. This would create more impervious to deal with. Entire point was owned by one or two owners who then subdivided them into lots. Gervais property is very small and Bennett Street is high point. Beau Dupre owns property next door to Gervais and he called clerk stating part of his lot is wet now, more than ever. Dupre recalled Wendell Frederickson intentionally blacktopped more on north side than south side, where he had the mobile home park. Gervais and Schiltz will meet with Gallice onsite soon to see what can be done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Old School Apartments Fire Safety Inspection: Isle FD Chief David Miller: Moved up on the agenda. Per Miller owner doesn't want him on the property, even though technically he has every right to be. State Fire Marshal conducted three-hour inspection noting fourteen (14) lifesaving issues. 2018 was the last inspection and council questioned why some of the issues seem the same. Miller is also confused as some of issues were resolved in 2018 but appear to have been changed back after inspection. Owner must resolve all issues and a final inspection will occur in 60 days. Some items will likely take longer to resolve. Board was immediately removed from fire exit. City doesn't have rental ordinance. Now that we have been made aware of this what is our responsibility? What if something serious occurs? After final inspection, city attorney must become involved if council wants compliance, as State won't go further. Buck believes we need an ordinance as tenants deserve to live somewhere safe. Clerk to send letter asking for prompt response and mention there are grants for owners to make improvements. This issue will be part of the monthly agenda until resolved.

Speed Bump Request in Alley behind Mugg's: Approximate cost of \$750 for blacktop and it will cause plowing issues. Fixed potholes 3-4 years ago and now that it was paved, drivers are going too fast. They'll drive on the side of the speed bumps causing ruts. No practical placement for speed bump due to driveways. Weinreich has no parking signs, which will be installed soon. What about erecting "not a through street" sign? That would be twice as many signs. Clerk read League of MN Cities alley definition. Statute doesn't define but they are generally considered streets. Some have stated alleys are

only for rear property access. These two alleys are used by business customers as well as residents. Speed signs? Vehicles or ATVs? At this time no children live in the area. Bjornson stated people moved in next to a bar. She lives next to a gas station and a trail. You have to deal with it for the most part. City is trying to do what they can. Mugg's has made attempts to accommodate. There was a complaint about Mugg's outside patio speaker, which was adjusted to have less bass.

Copier Lease: MCSI lease has expired; copier is viable but parts will become difficult to obtain. Off-lease copier is available for \$6.59 more than current monthly lease of \$51.80, which has capability to do legal and ledger. Two other options are \$61.46 or \$77.79. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to lease Toshiba e-Studio 3508A Off-Lease copier from MCSI for \$58.39 per month. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon Days 2021 City Parade? Buck was informed by both bar owners, some patrons and neighbors, they were indifferent to having a parade, as it doesn't bring in much business to the bars. Bjornson feels it is important to have one for families and everyone she has asked agrees. Parades require insurance coverage. MLDS declined organizing the event at this time. Ashly Hughes is dealing with arts & crafters, as well as, kid vendors under her waiver. Hopefully car cruise parade will be a car show in the future; none this year. Bingo at Wahkon Inn on Friday and band. Mugg's will do Saturday night with meat raffle and horse races. He may get another band besides Jonah & the Whales for street dance. Deposit of \$800 would be lost to the city. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts authorizing city to host Wahkon Days Saturday parade. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mille Lacs Island Resort Annual Meeting 7/6 @ 10 am? This Tuesday doesn't work. Clerk will find another date that works for all parties.

Community Hall Parking Lot Stripping Quote: CJ Paving quoted \$250. Cost to paint Main Street curbs, indicating no parking at the intersections, is approximately \$56. Council agreed to proceed and to keep basketball area open. Parking spots on city right of ways are paid for by the City.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Finished discharging west secondary pond. East secondary didn't pass fecal due to geese. Discharge window ends this month. Not a big deal if it doesn't pass as we have plenty of storage. Bid to grade pond road is \$800 and council agreed it should be done.

Zoning: Three land use permits issued, Mugg's, Ebnet and Thompson.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Mushy area near boat launch repair quote is \$900 to remove material and adding fabric. Alley across from WPC is only access for one property owner and her vehicle become stuck. Bid of \$2,000 for fabric and to dig out stumps. Pat Heinsen survey pins are known and give alley's edge. Bid of \$3700 for all three jobs with a \$100 discount off of each. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to hire Great Northern Lawn and Landscaping to do all three jobs, WW pond road, park launch area soft spot, and alley improvement for \$3400, which includes \$100 off of each project. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Blacktopping: Weinreich received two out of three requested quotes. Rocon Paving had lowest price over Anderson Brothers. MN paving never gave quote. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to hire Rocon Paving to do city blacktopping within parameters of budget. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Jake will get the most done he can within budget restraints.

Roeschlein: Clean-up Day was less busy than years prior. Donations received were \$840. Fireworks will be held at dusk on 7/4. We need a guide boat and driver to help position fireworks pontoon. Paychex did only one city payroll. Clerk went with recommendation of auditor that clerk continue using CTAS and doing payroll in house. Paychex understood and agreement was terminated.

Button: City purchased piece of land behind bathroom that we haven't done anything with. Pickleball court? Frisbee golf par 3? Land is near secret path between 3rd and 4th Streets. WAVE volunteers are getting older and projects need younger volunteers.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brian Lee expressed his disappointment with council prohibiting vacation rentals. 99% of other cities have them with regulations. You are banning tourism from your town. People will be driving through Wahkon and going to Isle. How do you expect your businesses to survive? Zoning Administrator Welle had great ideas, such as seven-day minimum with quiet hours. Noise alert systems are an option. It was easier to ban it than find ways to regulate it which is irresponsible. Neighbors at other vacation rentals enjoy hearing stories of where renters are from. Buck is still on the fence and has personally utilized two recently on her vacation. Lack of local enforcement is the reason. Lee stated that in one year the issue can be brought up again. Bjornson, as realtor, must inform clients not to look in Wahkon if they want to have vacation rental. Many owners are doing this to supplement income for tax purposes.

EMPLOYEE REVIEW: Jacob Weinreich: Closed per employee request: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to close the meeting. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting closed to public at 7:50 pm and review was conducted. Mayor opened meeting to the public again. Weinreich hourly rate was increased from \$21 to \$22, which was agreed upon when he was hired. Jake is doing a great job!

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The July 12, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: None

B) League of MN Cities (LMC) 4% Preliminary Membership Dues Increase

C) Family Pathways Donation Thank You

D) Sacred Heart Church Bazaar Sunday 8/8/21 On-Sale 3.2 Liquor License

E) Wahkon Inn Outside Entertainment 8 pm - Midnight Request: 7/3 (Mayor Approved) & 9/4

F) Charitable Gambling Report: 5/2021 Isle Lions Club \$467.81; Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$2595.19; Fireworks Donations: \$400 & \$250 respectively

G) Treasurer's Report Dated 7/2/21 Ending Balance \$558,250.07

H) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Tax Settlement Report \$140,282.85

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

J) Disbursement Register 7/12 Date Range 6/15 – 7/12 Total \$36,390.97

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Mayoral Statement and Determination Regarding Conducting Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means: Bjornson read statement drafted by City Attorney David Anderson. "In March of 2020, I, as Mayor, determined that it was appropriate to allow remote public meetings in the City under Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.021 because holding meetings in-person was not prudent or practical." Her previous statement and determination are now rescinded as of July 12 and all meetings must be conducted in-person. State Statute rules for posting notice are back in force relative to councilmember virtual attendance. Posted notification must include address of a public location where anyone can attend.

NEW BUSINESS: Wahkon Days 2021 Memo: Motion to close down streets & waive noise ordinance. Buck gave update. No coin hunt due to coin shortage. Flyer will be posted with time of activities. Lucky Lure treasure hunt begins Wednesday 8/18 with main events held Friday 8/20 – Sunday 8/22. Clerk will implement Bjornson suggestion to include map of line up and detour as part of the parade form when sending to participants from 2019 that gave email addresses. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button, to close 2nd St. E from Hwy to Meshigun Ave., entire alley in Block 10, north half of alley in Block 9, post temporary no parking on parade detour route, line up area, and waive noise ordinance for Wahkon Days 8/20-8/22/2021. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Isle Lions Club LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling: Requesting permission to set up pull tab booth during Wahkon Days. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Button, to approve Isle Lions Club's LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling Isle Lions during Wahkon Days, August 20 – 21, 2021. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Old School Apartments Fire Safety Inspection Update: Chief David Miller wasn't present. Follow up inspection is scheduled for this week, as owner has done some repairs. He will keep council updated and this will remain on the agenda until resolved. City will send letter to

keep communication open with owner, which will also include the issue of two persons doing appliance recycling in the garages, possibly with freon. Twice clerk has dealt with it, and after the second time, MPCA was contacted. MPCA called back and stated it was turned over to EPA due to freon regulations. People must be certified to do this type of work and this can't occur upon residential or city street right of way.

Rental Ordinance Sample & Information: Clerk did some research. City of Isle doesn't have such an ordinance. City of Stockton decided not to adopt one due to administration and inspection costs. Old School Apartments' owner isn't taking safety seriously with his repairs. It appears some items on current list are old issues from years ago, which were to be repaired. City should have some responsibility to protect tenants/citizens especially when they have been brought to council attention. Roberts was informed on average apartments are without heat for 30 days per winter. If we have an ordinance, can we enforce it? Must look at the big picture. Letters sent from a city attorney go much further than from the clerk. Await report from State Fire Marshal and this will be on the agenda monthly until resolved

MnDOT TH 27/Main Street Layout & Information: City Engineer Dave Blommel wasn't present but gave detailed memo. Demonstration project was installed to be used before actual construction plans are approved. This was a good thing as now we know what we don't want. There is much opposition and sentiments are we can't have parking spots abutting 11-foot drive lanes. People and vehicle doors could be hit. Group of engineering students were here and wrote report relative to pedestrian and bicycle use, particularly due to Soo Line Trail. Several plans were reviewed and the one selected was similar to City of Glenwood. Have heard that DOT likely won't allow bike lane to be removed, even though it is only two blocks long. Button recalled this conversation began in 2016 at a cost of 1.1 million and 2025 project has much higher cost. All state street aid funds have been invested for this project. Councilmembers are getting harassed over this. Buck hasn't heard one good thing. She personally has driven her RV and it was very scary. She has walked and biked it as well and believes it is unsafe. Roberts heard from someone that just missed a semi by inches with their RV. With the bump-outs, you can't see oncoming traffic. Now Frederickson doesn't drive Main St. but uses the alleys instead. Main Street lights are on electric poles located on private property. Want to make Main Street look nice to entice businesses. Currently our sidewalk doesn't have curb and gutters and, in some areas, highway blacktop is level with the sidewalk. Need to incorporate stormwater by using our new city-wide stormwater plan. Mayor conveyed the need to remain positive and give citizens direction on where to send comments. DOT will host an open house likely in September.

Savage Communications Cable Franchise Ordinance No. 2004-5 Renewal: 3% versus 5% Fee: Clerk spoke with city attorney and 5% is the going rate. Council discussed this with Savage at a recent council meeting and a motion was carried to collect 3% but 5% can be required as an ordinance hasn't been adopted. Also found out no public hearing is required. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to collect 5% cable franchise fee for upcoming renewal and no public hearing will be held as it isn't required. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Pond discharge is finished. Mille Lacs Island Resort annual meeting is next month. USDA WW Project Agreement: To be signed by month end: Acting Mayor Button will sign agreement if Mayor Bjornson is unavailable.

Zoning: Four land use permits for June, one for a new house, two for storage sheds and one for roof solar panels.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Blacktop will hopefully be completed by month end including one repaired sewer connection on Lake Shore Blvd. Owner will reimburse for blacktop and additional gravel that was brought in at city expense. Pier and tie up dock estimate of \$1500 from Beau Dupre, work to be completed this summer.

Roeschlein: On 7/12 Scott's Tree Service was knocking on doors as they were doing a job on Lake Shore Blvd. Clerk received call from citizen that believed solicitors are prohibited unless given city permission. Clerk informed Scott's of this and they stopped. Upon further review, it appears services aren't covered under Transient Merchant Ordinance 2010-2. Definition is "a person who temporarily sets up business out of a vehicle, boxcar, tent, other portable shelter, or empty store front for the purpose of exposing or displaying for sale, selling or attempting to sell, and delivering, goods, wares, products, merchandise or other personal property and who does not remain or intend to remain in any one location for more than 14 consecutive days." Council agreed the definition doesn't list "services" which Scott's were offering thus they weren't in violation. Clerk will inform Scott's and suggest they don't knock on the door of said citizen, which they were fully aware of his displeasure.

July 4th Celebration: Button thanked everyone for helping with the fireworks. Roberts used his pontoon and other boats were much too close. City pontoon for fireworks doesn't have lights. Bjornson had her grandkids in the park as spectators and someone was shutting off fireworks and one went into the crowd. Tom Jackson was present and stated that some people don't enjoy fireworks, including pet owners, "some of us hate it!" For 2022, council will need to discuss safety factors in light of what occurred this year.

Mayor Sandy Reichel's Celebration of Life will be held at Wahkon Inn 1 – 3 pm this Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The August 9, 2021 Wahkon Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, & Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein, as well as City Engineer Dave Blommel. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: None

B) Isle Sportsman's Club LG220 Application for Exempt Gambling Permit: 9/10 @ Wahkon Inn: Approved by clerk w/o waiting period as standard policy

C) Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) City Staff Teams Call Meeting, Thurs. 8/12 @ 2 pm

D) Wahkon Days Fri. 8/20 – Sun. 22 Event Timeline (Treasure Hunt begins Wed. 8/18)

E) MnDOT Wahkon Demonstration Project Open House 4:30 – 6 pm, Wed. 8/25 @ City Lots (corner of 2nd St. E & Main St/Hwy 27)

F) MLIR Annual Meeting, 10 am Tues. 8/31 @ Wahkon Comm. Hall

G) Wahkon Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Open House with Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), 10 am – Noon, Sat. 9/11 @ Wahkon Comm. Hall

H) Charitable Gambling Report: 6/2021 Isle Lions Club \$485.81; Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) \$Zero

I) Treasurer's Report Dated 8/2/21 Ending Balance \$702,615.92

J) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

K) Disbursement Register 8/9 Date Range 7/13 – 8/9 Total \$25,297.10

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2021-0809 Accepting 2021 July Fourth Celebration Donations: Total of \$3023.70 in donations were received from Beachside Resort \$150, Donation Bucket \$133.70, ECE \$50, Frederickson Marina \$200, Island View Resort \$200, Isle Lions Club \$400, Isle Sportsman's Club \$250, Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal \$200, Keller Williams Realty \$100, MLDS \$250, Pineapple's Place Trading \$40, Sacred Heart Church \$200, SCI Broadband \$200, Teals Market \$100, Wahkon Inn \$200, Wahkon Presbyterian Church \$150, and Wayne's Sanitation \$200. Pontoon boat volunteers were Dale Bjornson, Tony Button, Tim Pater, and Rick Roberts. Thank you everyone! Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0809. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-0809A Accepting 2021 Clean Up Day Donations: Donations from First National Bank of Milaca of \$200 and \$640 from citizens for total of \$840. Thank you! Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0809A. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: WW Project Agreement & MnDOT Main Street Demonstration Project Discussion: Engineer Dave Blommel: This was moved up on the agenda to accommodate professional staff. DOT 8/25 open house 4:30 – 6 pm on Main Street city lots at corner of 1st St. E. DOT will take care of advertising. Council will be asked for input but DOT has ultimate authority on final design. Drive lane on plan was to be 12' but on site it is 11'; narrow drive lane is to slow traffic. Many citizens feel this is much too narrow, especially with 10' parking lane wherein someone's door could be taken off by a vehicle. One possible change would be to have parking, bike lane and then drive lane. DOT has multi-modal aspects to this project by including pedestrians, vehicles and bicycles; removing bike

lane may not be an option. Curve and hill near 1st Street will be addressed to slow down traffic and get better visibility. Also, North Main near 4th Street will be reconfigured for better intersection alignment. Packer's driveway may be affected and lift station will still need access. Additional boat parking could be discussed with DOT. Bump outs on corners create issues for plowing, which will require one lane to be closed. Currently city removes all snow on Main Street for businesses, with new plan they could be required to shovel it themselves and citizens getting mail would need to walk further. Blommel and city staff will attend the open house and gather input.

WW Project Agreement: City staff and professionals were on standby to sign agreement Friday 7/30 but by late afternoon we were informed it wasn't ready. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) agreement is taking longer than expected as this is our representatives first project. Very fortunate Wahkon is receiving such a substantial award of grant funds. USACE must conduct their own environmental study. There may be archeology aspects to deal with relative to federal designation as a reservation, which the city and county believe was disestablished. Project bidding will likely be spring 2022 with completion that same year. Clerk noted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds provided to Wahkon can include expenses relative to infrastructure projects and equipment; email information to Blommel to review.

NEW BUSINESS: Wahkon Days 2021 Memo: With recent public health issues and new organizers, city will rent three portables and one hand washing station for use by vendors, citizens and families on Saturday for \$410 out of Community Event Fund. WAVE Committee decided out of an abundance of caution due to Covid delta variant not to have the Sunday picnic but kids fishing contest will still be held. Should city staff be used to bring and return city picnic tables to the event? Bjornson is fine with event using them but not staff doing the heavy lifting. City staff will already be used for city parade. This first year with new organizers, staff will be available to ensure event goes well. Buck offered MLDS fold up tables with attached chairs and would be willing to delivery them as well if approved. That would be great!

Set 2022 Budget Special Meeting: Tax Levy Deadline 9/30: Meeting will be Wednesday 9/29 at 8 am.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Old School Apartments Fire Safety Inspection Update: Work progress inspection by Fire Marshal scheduled week of 7/12 per Chief David Miller: City Letter: Chief Miller couldn't attend but is available by phone if needed. Council agreed to keep this issue on monthly agendas until resolved. Owner has completed four out of fourteen items noted on the inspection report. City letter was mailed 7/21 regarding inspection and appliance recycling taking place by tenants.

Request Masks to Enter City Hall? Clerk asked if a sign could be erected when/if she feels need to do so. It wouldn't be a requirement to enter city hall or to attend council meetings, but a means to feel safe for her and her mother. Council agreed staff should do what makes them comfortable.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: This Thursday city staff will have a Teams conference call to prepare for annual Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) meeting. Pier and dirt work at City Park should be done soon. Blacktop schedule is end of this week to prep with blacktopping next week. Additional no parking in alley signs were ordered and will be installed before Wahkon Days. Inventory was depleted in order to have double sided signs behind city hall and convenience store. Two more double sided signs will be erected behind Mugg's and down the block to alleviate neighbor's complaints.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Lynn Gallice of MLSWCD wrote article for quarterly county newsletter regarding Wahkon's city wide storm water plan and open house on Saturday 9/11; she'd appreciate comments. Gallice is meeting 8/10 with Tom & Kathy Jackson to discuss their drainage concerns from city, county and state. Officially Jackson's didn't submit comments when city was asking for public input on the storm water plan but clerk and Gallice recall discussing their issues during staff meetings. Button can't attend but Clerk will. Bjornson requested she be updated after this onsite meeting as she has heard from Jackson's over the years as well.

Council wasn't paid for meetings held on 4/27; clerk apologized for error and will correct it with next payroll. With her mother moving up to Wahkon, she may not be around much for Wahkon Days. Milaca Mayor Pete Pedersen is organizing a meeting with county board member and wants other mayors to attend in order to convey the need to keep taxes down. "They are going to run people out of the county with such high taxes!" Clerk will pass along details when known.

Button: John Berczyk repainted the big chair that Button repaired. It is located on Main Street city lots and people are already stopping to take pictures. Chair is securely anchored and won't blow over again. Thank you!

Buck: Questioned who is in charge of torn up area on Lake Shore Blvd and Hwy 27? DOT recently replaced their culverts and would be coming back to clean up the areas. Monson sewer connection on Lake Shore Blvd requires new blacktop, which they'll pay for. Button asked Weinreich to check on culvert under Beulah Railroad Spur. This could be brought up during DOT open house.

Bjornson: MN Mayor's Association (MMA) annual conference 9/17 – 9/18 would be great networking opportunity. Cost is \$99 for conference and \$129 for hotel plus mileage. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve Mayor's attendance at MMA conference not to exceed \$300. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, and Buck. Abstain: Bjornson. Motion carried.

Zoning: Per report no land use permits were issued in July.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Brian Lee addressed council requesting they revisit decision to prohibit short term rentals. It is his understanding the ordinance allows the issue to be addressed in one year from adoption or earlier if council chooses to do so. He understands why council felt need to prohibit when citizens come out to protest but emotions should be set aside. Rules could be made to regulate them. Other cities have them even without a police force. Buck and Bjornson lean toward revisiting the issue as they weren't totally against them. Button believes one year is needed to calm the waters. Council discussed further and decided to table this issue for now.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The September 13, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to approve agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: None

B) Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Presents Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo @ McQuoid's Inn, 9 – Noon Sat. 9/18

C) 2022 Budget Special Meeting, 8 am Wed. 9/20

D) Charitable Gambling Report: 7/2021 Isle Lions Club \$1,138.66; Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$1,628.12

E) Treasurer's Report Dated 9/8/2021 Ending Balance \$700,200.93 & Receipts Register

F) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

G) Disbursement Register 9/13 Date Range 8/10 – 9/13 Total \$70,304.26. Error: Checks #25974-26003 voided as info was printed on reverse side; couldn't reuse them.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2021-0913 "Accepting Donations Toward 2021 Wahkon Days Festivities Specifically for W.A.V.E Sunday in the Park" Bjornson thanked those who donated: Bob Peterson \$100, First National Bank of Milaca \$200 and Isle Sportsman's Club \$250. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0913. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-0913A "A Resolution to Accept the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act" Deadline is 10/4 to receive up to \$23,172.39 in ARPA funds. Money can be used for infrastructure, such as our 2022 Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project through year-end 2024. League of MN Cities (LMC) letter with further details was part of the agenda. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0913A. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Parks, Trails & Recreation Donation & Memorial Application: Bjorn Bjornson wasn't present but wishes to plant a tree in memory of Mayor Sandy Reichel. Location is near Tom Johnson property where a tree was removed recently. Park Commissioner Roberts questioned the size of the Inferno Tall Sugar Maple, height 60' and spread of 30'. Ronda said her brother wasn't able to get that tree but another type of Maple. Bjorn is a horticulturist that has a landscaping business. Clerk noted on average trees increase home values by 10%. Motion by Button, seconded by Buck to authorize a Maple tree be planted in the City Park in memory of Mayor Sandy Reichel at a location agreed upon by Park Commissioner Roberts and Public Works Supervisor Weinreich. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

City Picnic Table Use for Community Get Together: Tammy Johnston Email Request: Council agreed Johnston can use picnic tables by signing city equipment use form; all must be returned in good condition. Weinreich will inform Johnston which tables she can use.

East Central Development Regional Commission (ECRDC) Meeting Tues. 9/14 @ 9 am, Wahkon City Hall: No councilmembers can attend so clerk will update them as to what is happening in Wahkon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Old School Apartments Fire Safety Inspection Update: Fire Chief David Miller informed clerk final State Fire Marshal inspection will be conducted this week. Miller believes property owner has completed a few items but not all of them. After final inspection, state turns it over to the city on how to proceed. Council agreed to immediately forward final inspection report to city attorney in order that he may draft a memo for their 10/11 meeting.

Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) Meeting Update: S.E.H. Engineer Dave Blommel Memo: Bjornson and WW Commissioner Frederickson attended the 8/31 annual meeting along with City Attorney Dave Anderson, City Engineer Dave Blommel, Public Works Supervisor Weinreich, Clerk Roeschlein and retired WW Operator Chris Weinreich. Representing MLIR were Joyce Bzoskie and Jodi Kanera. Bjornson thought it was one of the best meetings we ever had. Both parties agreed a new contract would be beneficial as it is over 35 years old. Installing a control structure to measure exclusively the wastewater from the resort is part of the upcoming Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project. MLIR has concerns they would also be charged for inflow & infiltration (I&I). Every system has I&I. Wahkon citizens would pay for their gallons and the fee would take into account I&I, as the utility must collect enough to pay for all the gallons being treated at the ponds. At the meeting, Blommel concluded one year of data from the meters would be useful prior to setting fees.

Several people in the audience were from Mille Lacs Coop and they are charged by MLIR for water and sewer. Our contract is with MLIR and what they charge the Coop and the other section of Mi-Nis Terrace is up to them. Coop members requested they be informed of the city fee, which is public information. Clerk explained how an inventory hasn't been conducted in years as to how many tenants are seasonal and full time. Current full-time fee is \$37.82 per month. MLIR is charged for 19 full and 399 seasonal (half) usage fees, \$8,263.67 per month. Coop members attended a recent board meeting and were informed due to city rates increasing, their fees would increase 1/1/2022. Per current ordinance, usage fees are increased 3% annually effective the first of the year. As noted above, the whole usage fee system will be revamped, likely after one year of data has been collected from meters placed on property owner wells, and then everyone will pay by the gallon. Today a family of six pays the same as someone who lives alone. City will not be installing meters on all the individual tenants in MLIR, Coop or Mi-Nis Terrace. Meters are part of the project for Wahkon citizens and a means to measure and charge by the gallon.

Clerk noted that at the beginning of obtaining grants and loans for this upcoming project, it was stated that an outside entity such as MLIR benefiting from the improvements made to the WW system should contribute financially for the portion that benefits them. The grants obtained are for the citizens of Wahkon as city taxpayers. In the end this wasn't an outright requirement to obtain the grant, but it should be discussed and possibly noted in the new MLIR agreement with the city. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to authorize City Attorney Dave Anderson to begin drafting a new MLIR contract. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Goal is to have a follow up meeting in December.

Agreement Between the Department of the Army and the City of Wahkon for Design and Construction Assistance for the Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project 8/30/2021: Button calculated \$230k increase to project over last estimate. We have been working on this for a couple years now and costs have increased. Prior to signing, Bjornson spoke with city attorney to ensure there were no hidden issues that would adversely affect our budget down the road. Spring 2022 bids will be requested with fall completion. "Whereas, as of the effective date of this Agreement, the total amount of Federal funds available for the Federal share of project costs under this Agreement is \$1,738,000." This project will replace aging force main, lift station upgrades and meters; see MLIR meeting information above relative to said project.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Jacob Weinreich: Discharging ponds soon, not much water out there. He noted there isn't an air tight sewer system, even a new one has I&I.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Little free libraries were damaged when someone backed into them. They left their name and phone numbers on site and called city hall. Check was received to cover damages. Chris Weinreich and Pete Olson donated their time to help fix them and they are back in place. Many people missed the libraries over the week it was gone.

Roeschlein: When tonight's checks were being generated, clerk inadvertently put them in copier wrong and everything printed on back side. They couldn't be re-used so 30 checks, #25974 - #26003 were voided and noted on the disbursement register. Also noted above under Consent Agenda item G.

WW Connection Costs: Frederickson: As WW Commissioner he questioned the high-cost Bill Thompson has to pay for his new connection which required crossing Bennett Street to reach the main. Rocon Paving estimated \$5,500 to repair blacktop (usual price of \$6,000), which the city has always required the property owner to pay. Habeck Construction charged Thompson \$6700, blew two hydraulic hoses and had Bennett closed to traffic for quite a while. Frederickson questioned the fairness that the person across from Thompson pays the same connection fee but much less in overall construction costs as the WW main line is on that side of the street. In some cities mains are in the middle of the street, accessible to both sides of the street at the same distance. Such high costs are a burden to someone on a fixed income. MN Paving was here last Wednesday to replace driveway across the street of which Thompson paid 1/3 or \$1000 as it was ripped up for his connection. Clerk spoke with Thompson and explained how MN Paving could do the street work as well if he thought the price would be less but he didn't go that route. Rocon Paving is the only company giving the city quotes lately. MN Paving mobilized for several jobs and won't come back to do the street now. There was some confusion, as Thompson didn't realize main line was across the street. Contractor dug 13' to reach the main and trench must be wide to ensure worker safety. A new ordinance will likely be needed due to upcoming project and at that time council can discuss with engineer how to fairly charge property owners for connections. It is a benefit to the city to have connections to pay for utility system and increase of tax base.

Bjornson: MN Mayors Association conference was cancelled. Thank you everyone for repairing the little free libraries.

Zoning: Bjorn Bjornson is now in compliance. Thirteen permits thus far for 2021.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The September 29, 2021 special meeting of the Wahkon Council was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 8:01 am. Councilmembers present were Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein. Meeting was called by the mayor with proper notice posted and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW GENERAL & WASTEWATER 2022 BUDGETS: Approximately \$217,210 in reserves or 65.7% of 2016-2020 average expenses; auditor recommendation is 50-75%. Employee health insurance is estimated to increase 7%, could be more and has yet to be determined. Current monthly payment is \$830.12, budget includes 7% or \$888.23 per month per employee. Fire protection fee to Isle FD of \$9375 can be paid with Charitable Gambling Fund. Check must be written direct from CG Fund per state rules, thus there isn't a budget line item but there is a note of explanation. Council went line by line through both and agreed with proposed budgets. Blacktop figure was left blank and council agreed it should be \$50,000.

Per auditor suggestion, all money will be deposited into WW Operating Fund. Since clerk began, assessments were deposited into Emergency Improvement Fund, which is also used to pay bonds. Now 2022 budget has bond principal and interest payments within. Wastewater Improvement Project will begin spring 2022 with completion the same year. This budget includes professional engineering fees that will be covered through grants and loan. Difficult to calculate what those project expenses and reimbursements will be. This budget has a proposed deficit at this time, but until project is completed and separated out from operating, budget will be a bit confusing. We will be working with financial professionals to determine what user rates need to be in order to pay operating expenses and bond payments. Utilities can't make a profit, but must have funds available for repairs and future improvements.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0929 "APPROVING FINAL 2021 TAX LEVY COLLECTIBLE IN 2022" Council held levy the same as last year at \$247,020, which has remained the same for five consecutive years. Clerk noted that citizens may see a difference from year to year based upon valuations and classification even when levy is held the same. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0929 with a tax levy of \$247,020. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

2022 General Fund Budget with receipts of \$280,391 and disbursements of \$277,435 leaving a surplus of \$2956. Council agreed 3% annual increase will be imposed as required by Sewer Ordinance, additional \$1.13 per month per usage fee. 2022 Sewer Budget with receipts of \$239,500 and disbursements of \$427,295, leaving a deficit of \$187,795.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:41 am.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The October 11, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: Council Meetings 9/13, 8/9, 7/12 & 5/10

B) 2022 Annual Liquor License Renewals: Aadhira LLC dba Lake Stop aka Mini Mart #7, South Shore Hospitality LLC dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, and Wahkon Inn Bar & Restaurant LLC

C) Charitable Gambling Report: 8/2021 Isle Lions Club \$1,738.45; Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$1,554.00

D) Treasurer's Report Dated 10/1/2021 Ending Balance \$649,033.45 & Receipts Register

E) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

F) Disbursement Register 10/11 Date Range 9/14 –10/11 Total \$21,392.21

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Old School Apartments Fire Safety Inspection Report 10/4/2021: Isle Fire Department Co-Chief David Miller was present and Council agreed to move this item to the top of agenda. Inspection isn't going well, as owner isn't returning calls or showing up. State Fire Marshal did walk around inspection on 10/4; some items are in beginning stages of repair but not complete or to code. Couldn't get in to do interior inspection. Next inspection is scheduled for Wednesday 10/20 but owner still hasn't confirmed. Suggestion is to proceed with city attorney as deadlines have passed and 10/20 will be final state inspection. Owner hasn't fully complied in the past. Attorney fees were budgeted, but will it be enough? Per conversation between clerk and attorney, hazardous building statute would be used. Hardship on tenants if building were condemned but it poses an immediate safety danger. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to immediately contact city attorney to begin legal proceedings regarding non-compliance of state fire marshal inspection. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Winter Council Meeting Attendance: Memo notes rules have changed since public health emergency and future virtual attendance must be posted giving public location.

Councilmembers out of town will abide by the rules and hopefully broadband width at their location will work. A member must be seen and heard, if either audio or video is lost, member must leave the meeting, which could create an issue if there isn't a quorum.

Onamia Depot Library Donation Request: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to donate \$200 to Onamia Depot Library from Charitable Gambling Fund. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Highway 27 Wahkon Comment Compilation (S.P. 4804-23): 17 comments through 8/25 open house, 543 online survey monkey and 13 letters/emails/phone calls. Comments were categorized under Safety/Liability Concerns, Parking Concerns, Green Space, Suggestions, Business Concerns, Snow/Ice Concerns, Project Not Needed, and Appreciation. Major concerns are 11' drive lane abuts 10' parking lanes making it difficult to get out of the car safely and

citizens needing to travel twice the distance to store fronts. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) deadline is soon. Engineer Dave Blommel submitted application for Wahkon last year but it was denied. Per Blommel, best not to apply again as city hasn't finalized plans and many citizens believe improvements aren't needed. Street Commissioner Button, Weinreich, Blommel and Roeschlein will meet with DOT to discuss how to proceed.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Applied alum on ponds and taking samples for discharge. LS #2 power pole support wires are letting go pulling emergency disconnect wires. Thursday night ran to St. Cloud for electric parts ordered through Becker Electric. ECE was informed. LS now has flexible pipe, which should prevent this from occurring again.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Fishing Pier will be removed soon.

Roeschlein: America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) first half payment was received \$11,586.97. Cable Franchise Ordinance will be ready for adoption at 11/8 meeting; 15 years with 5% fee and Savage Communication agreed to reimburse city for attorney and publishing costs. WAVE highway clean up was completed 10/5 by Chris Weinreich, Glen Schutte, Allen Feltmann, Jim Maciazka, Mike Trunnel, Tony Button, Rick Roberts and Melvin Laisy. Barb Stone made refreshments. Thank you! Clerk is researching two companies for credit/debit card utility payments. More citizens are making this request. Will keep council informed.

Button: Also thanked WAVE volunteers for cleaning the highway which had less litter than last spring. Neighbor is having well issues requiring hours of flushing.

Bjornson: Asked clerk to review point of sale (POS) inspections, of which she has several city samples as a means to ensure sewer laterals aren't leaking. Could also inspect for sump pumps, roof drains etc. Any ordinance requirements would also include Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR). Discuss further in relation to upcoming sewer improvement project, which may require new ordinance language.

Zoning: One accessory shed permit approved for Beverly Jost property which was a reapply of an approved permit over a year ago.

Fence Regulation Discussion: Rick Roberts: Brian Lee obtained a fence permit but it is more like a wall and not aesthetically pleasing. Framing is seen sticking up behind it and it isn't level. Fence appears to be compliant according to our ordinance. Definition of fence "any artificially constructed barrier of wood, masonry, stone, wire, metal or any other material or combination of materials erected to enclose, partition, beautify, mark or scree areas of land." Roberts discussed stronger criteria with Zoning Administrator Darrin Welle, who just emailed sample ordinance to clerk. Roberts noted MN Statute 561.02 Maliciously Maintained Structure: any fence, or any structure, maliciously erected or maintained for the purpose of annoying the owners or occupants of adjoining property shall be deemed a private nuisance. Would be difficult to prove this is a "spite" fence. Lee informed clerk material he used is sold as fencing. Roberts researched this, which includes using end caps, sheet metal edging, etc., which Lee did not. Picture indicates mildew on neighbor's side of fence. If posts are over 8' tall that would be a violation. Fence maintenance was required of Mugg's for their patio. Council briefly discussed Dupre split rail fence that Frederickson removed as it was falling down upon his easement. Bjornson mentioned city shouldn't be involved in civil neighbor battles.

Open Forum: 3-minute limit. Council likely to place issue on future agenda for full review: Linda Albertson has the Lee fence next to them and will be erecting their own fence. Lee fence is 4.5” from the survey line and they plan on having 6” setback. She questioned whether Zoning Administrator comes out after construction to prove conditions were met? Even when city handled permits, they are approved without a second inspection, unless there is evidence of a problem. Permit fees would need to double if that were the case. City hasn’t adopted the building code so we have only land use permits to verify setbacks are met. Buck and Roberts believe there should be follow up inspections to ensure permits are done right. Society is different today and we are feeling growing pains. Council agreed to have a planning commission meeting at 5 pm before the 11/8 council meeting to review possible new fencing requirements.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The November 8, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson; Rick Roberts was absent. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to approve the agenda. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to approve the agenda. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 10/11 Council; 9/29 Special Council & 6/14 Council

B) Winter Parking Regulations Begin 11/1; No overnight parking (1 am - 7 am) Nov. 1st to April 1st

C) Onamia Depot Library Donation Thank You

D) Minnesota State Demographic Center & 2020 Census Count: Wahkon Population 235

E) Isle & Wahkon Mutual Aid Agreements: League of MN Cities Article

F) Mugg's of Mille Lacs Snow Fest 12/11: Closure of 2nd St E to alley & City Main Street Lot Use

G) Charitable Gambling Report: 9/2021 Isle Lions Club \$1,877.94; Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$Zero

H) Treasurer's Report Dated 11/2/2021 Ending Balance \$673,615.89 & Receipts Register

I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

J) Disbursement Register 11/8 Date Range 10/12 –11/8 Total \$41,543.64

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: *City Atty David Anderson Virtual Attendance:*

Ordinance No. 2021-2 Granting a Renewed Franchise to Savage Communications, Inc. to Construct and Maintain a Cable Television System in The City of Wahkon; Setting Forth Conditions

Accompanying The Grant of The Franchise; Providing For Regulation and Use of The System; and

Prescribing Penalties For The Violation of Its Provisions: Attorney Robert Vose of Kennedy & Graven

drafted this agreement and Savage Communications reviewed it. Savage will reimburse city for

attorney and publishing fees. Franchise fee went from 3% to 5% and this agreement is valid for fifteen

years as before. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2021-2

CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-1108 Approving Summary Publication of a Cable Franchise, Ordinance No.

2021-2: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to adopt Resolution No. 2021-1108. Ayes:

Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-1108A Ordering The Abatement of Hazardous Conditions at 350 State Hwy 27 in

The City of Wahkon: Attorney Anderson explained how statute allows cities to deal with hazardous

buildings through a repair/abatement order. Owner and all tenants must be served. This order allows

additional 30 days for repairs. State Fire Marshal's first inspection was 5/18/2021 with thirteen repairs

noted and nine remain. City can enter into agreement with owner for said repairs rather than initiating

lawsuit. Once served, he has twenty days to answer. If we go to court for default judgement, courts are

backed up due to Covid. If owner hires an attorney, that could take additional time and expense. Filing,

court and attorney fees could be recouped if court agrees. Council could allow more than 30 days, but

he has had several extensions already from State Fire Marshal. If owner enters into restoration

agreement and deadline is missed, agreement authorizes city to do remaining repairs. City could hire

contractor to do repairs and charge owner accordingly. Assessment process would be applicable if

unpaid. Question was discussed whether necessary repair costs are warranted due to age of building.

At this time, that is difficult to ascertain, but there are 18 apartments with numerous tenants. If owner

walked away, forfeiture would be applicable after taxes remain unpaid for so many years; unsure of

exact number of years per county regulations. Assessments on property would be owed even via forfeiture. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2021-1108A. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. “The city attorney, along with city staff, is further authorized to take all necessary legal steps in order to secure compliance with the abatement order and may effectuate the abatement of the Apartment Complex’s hazardous conditions by either agreement or by court order and, pursuant to all authority in state law, subsequently assess the costs thereof against the Property.”

Recycling AC Units: Clerk wanted to discuss issue of tenants recycling AC units at the Old School apartment’s garage which abut Duluth Ave. with very small setback. Right-of-way is likely affected by spills of oil and freon. Street Commissioner Button has heard complaints regarding this as well. Clerk has taken several pictures over the last few months and contacted MPCA, who turned it over to EPA, and they haven’t contacted us yet. It is a zoning violation as apartments are residential and no home occupation and/or commercial work can be conducted. Would need a court injunction requiring them to stop such activity. Discuss with prosecuting attorney on how to proceed. Comment was made that owner Roger Jorgenson has asked them to stop, but they continue.

Resolution No. 2021-1108B Adopting 2022 Special Assessments For 2021 Delinquent Utility Fees: Deadline for payments was 1 pm today otherwise past due customers are noted on the list provided to council. There are several that appear to have forgotten as they are only past due for third quarter. Ordinance states all past due accounts must be listed this time of year for the assessment process and letter sent explains this. For accounts where this isn’t usual practice to be past due, a note is attached stating this is unusual for you but the process must be followed per ordinance. Late fees will be added after 11/15 deadline. List will be forwarded to Mille Lacs County tomorrow as required and owners have until year end to make payments. Thereafter, updated list is provided to MLC and past due assessments will be collected with 2022 taxes. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to adopt Resolution No. 2021-1108B. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Employee Health Insurance: David Oberfeld of Oberfeld Insurance was present. MN PEIP premiums weren’t known when 2022 budget was adopted with estimated increase of 7%. Actual increase is 9.06% for Advantage Health Plan, monthly premium went from \$830.12 to \$905.34, which is current policy. Value Option premium is \$815.82. PEIP is state plan for counties, schools and cities. Oberfeld looked at open market and premiums were higher with age banding; \$1100-\$1400 for Roeschlein and Weinreich and less for Jacob. We are a small group of three employees; retiree Chris Weinreich has COBRA, wherein PEIP bills him directly. COBRA is allowed per state rules no matter which plan city provides Oberfeld doesn’t think there is good reason to move at this time. Weinreich will be eligible for Medicare in 2023. PEIP requires two-year commitment and councilmembers are allowed to participate at their own cost. Employee policy states city will offer 100% single coverage. According to clerk’s worksheet, premium average annual increase of 6.6% over 11 years. Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to continue with MN PEIP Advantage Plan for 2023 and 2024. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. City will pay 100% of single coverage for employees Karrie Roeschlein and Jacob Weinreich. Retiree Chris Weinreich will continue to pay his own premium via COBRA.

Sewer Usage Determination Form: Steve Rud: This account is charged for residence and a cabin. Per Rud email “My cabin has a shallow well, the sand point is shot causing the pump to suck up sand and ruin it. There has not been a drop of water in the sewer line in 2 years. I am willing to cap off the sewer line permanently before May 1st 2022. I don’t want to have to pay a \$20.00 inspection fee to get it

taken off this fall.” Previously he would disconnect water, pay \$20 fee for winter disconnect inspection in order to receive six months credit. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to decrease usage fees for account #163, Steve Rud, from two (2) to one (1) effective 11/1/2021 contingent the cabin lateral is permanently capped by 5/1/2022 and confirmed through an inspection. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Isle Fire & Rescue Dept. Fire Protection Contracts: 10% Rate Increase Begins 2023: Last increase was in 2012 and ever since annual rate has been \$9375.04. Clerk attended 10/18 fire department meeting with townships and city representatives to discuss budget and equipment needs. Last increase used tax capacity formula, and duplicating it caused huge increases. City of Isle and FD agreed to flat 10% increase for all contracts; \$10,312.54 for Wahkon beginning with 3/2023 annual contract.

Isle Fire & Rescue Dept. Donation Request for New SCBA Air Pack: \$4700 for one air pack including extra tank. FD has applied unsuccessfully for grants but will keep trying. Used tanks are functioning but are old. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to donate \$2500 from Charitable Gambling Fund to Isle Fire Dept toward new air packs. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Pond discharge has been completed and he is prepared for snow.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Pier was removed. Lake levels are low.

Roeschlein: Main Street MnDOT revised plans are forthcoming and will be discussed at 12/13 meeting. Three electronic payment vendors were researched, All Paid, AP Solutions and MuniPay. More citizens have asked if they can make payments via credit or debit cards. All Paid and MuniPay seem the best fit and have similar fees. Isle uses MuniPay, and we have mutual aid agreement with them so having the same system would be beneficial to both clerks. Council agreed to go with MuniPay. Electronic payment options should be available in 2023.

Button: WAVE Committee needs new members and is willing to change meeting dates and times to accommodate the majority. With COVID still ongoing, it is unclear whether chili cook off will occur in 2022. In conjunction, WAVE hosts a community meeting to hear input on what projects are important.

Buck: Requested Wahkon Days be on January agenda in order to find organization to run it. MLDS isn't interested at this time.

Zoning: October report included two permits for Hodne & Albertson, garage and fence, respectively.

Fence Regulations: Set Planning Commission Meeting: Mon. 12/6 @ 6 pm? Council agreed to this date and time. Check to see if there are any other zoning issues to be discussed and add to the agenda if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to adjourn. Ayes: Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The December 6, 2021 special meeting of the Wahkon Planning Commission (PC), comprised of entire council, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm. The Wahkon Council, called this PC meeting and public notice was duly posted. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees present were Public Works Supervisor Jake Weinreich, Clerk/Treasurer Karrie Roeschlein, along with Planning & Zoning Specialist Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell.

Meeting Minutes: 4/27/2021 Special PC & 5/18/2021 PC Continued: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve 4/27 and 5/18 PC meeting minutes. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business: Introduction of New Sourcewell Professional Jake Huebsch: Huebsch replaced Darrin Welle as our zoning specialist and has been with Sourcewell over three years. He has worked with Onamia in the past as well.

Fencing Regulations: 7/7/2017 Memo, Current, Proposed & Permit Samples: Huebsch provided a memo on current fencing standards, samples from other cities, and proposed regulations, which are from Little Falls. Clerk included picture of fence erected recently that has neighbors upset, but there is nothing that can be done as current regulations are vague. How often do cities amend zoning ordinances? Once or twice a year is average. Cities are usually reacting to one or two property owners that find the loop hole. Installation of a fence shouldn't require trespassing. Pallets have been used for fencing in other communities and that is what we don't want. PC discussed with Huebsch what standards they see as necessary and he will draft amendment for upcoming 1/10/22 PC meeting at 5 pm before council meeting at 6 pm. Goal is to have public hearing in early spring on new regulations.

Hoop Sheds/Temporary Storage: Clerk has seen where other cities have stopped allowing them as they seem to get dismantled easily by high winds and sun damage. Several citizens currently have them. Huebsch will provide information on how other cities regulate them.

Permit Approval Process & Additional Site Visits: Fence permit is nominal and cost for additional visit wouldn't be covered. For larger projects, preplan and follow up visits may be required. If construction differs from approved permit than site visit would be required. Weinreich could measure setbacks and report them to Huebsch. Button agreed, but only if city employees aren't burdened.

Adjournment: Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The December 13, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers present were: Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, Tony Button, Brenda Buck, and Ronda Bjornson. Employees Jake Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein were present, as was City Engineer Dave Blommel. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Minutes: 11/8 Council

B) Winter Parking Regulations Begin 11/1; No overnight parking (1 am - 7 am) Nov. 1st to April 1st

C) Increased Rate for Legal Fees Effective 2/1/2022: Kennedy & Graven Chartered

D) League of MN Cities Annual Membership Dues \$420

E) Charitable Gambling Report: 10/2021 Isle Lions Club \$931.31; Mille Lacs Drift Skippers \$628.98

F) Treasurer's Report Dated 12/1 Ending Balance \$653,048.28 & Receipts Register

G) Mille Lacs County Tax Settlement Report \$127,960.75

H) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

I) Disbursement Register 12/13 Date Range 11/9 –12/13 Total \$29,139.42

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution No. 2021-1213 Annual Designation of Election Polling Places: Location has been the same for decades, however annual designation is still required. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution. No. 2021-1213 designating Wahkon election polling place at 151 2nd Street E, Wahkon Community Hall. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-1213A To Accept the Redistribution of Unrequested Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): After deadline, unallocated funds were redistributed between cities that originally requested funds. Motion by Button, seconded by Roberts to adopt Resolution No. 2021-1213A accepting \$758.88 in additional ARPA funds. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-1213B Approving the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the State of Minnesota and Local Governments and Authorizing Participation in National Opioid Settlements: Unknown at this time what type of grants may become available, but in order to accept funds we must be on the list per city attorney. Process was just completed and deadline is 1/2/2022, which is reason why this item was added to the agenda at the last minute. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Resolution No. 2021-1213B. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Purchasing Policy: Revised: It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain three quotes as a small city. Clerk revised current policy based upon state statute requirement, which in most instances only require two quotes. Objectives, as outlined in the policy, remain the same, to get the best value for the taxpayer, but without limiting city's ability to get projects and purchases made in a timely fashion. Per council, have city attorney review and then bring back for council approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: MnDOT Updated Main Street Discussion: City Engineer Dave Blommel brought full size copies of the new plan, which includes two drive lanes with bike path between drive lane and parking. Prior plan had parking next to drive lane which was major safety concern for people getting out of their vehicles. No final acceptance date, but DOT wants it sooner rather than later. Do we want to do it? If not, we patch sidewalks as needed. This is our opportunity if we want to change downtown. Either this plan or keep middle left turn lane. DOT provided landscape concept with city preliminary cost estimate of \$587,440.00. State and city split base cost of regular street lights or 10-20% of aesthetically pleasing ones. Additional boat parking area was reviewed, but area only accommodates three. DOT offered to widen the curve shoulder for such parking, at our cost. Per Blommel, this is unusual, but indicates they are working to accommodate our needs. Bump outs must stay per DOT. How does a city pay for their share? Bonds, franchise agreement with utility companies. East Central Energy may have grants for lighting as underground lines have less maintenance cost. We can make it as grand or as plain as we want. Our sidewalks need improvement. This plan would provide stormwater drainage by adding real curb and gutters. Pavers at \$506k are highest cost of landscape concept and maintenance is a pain. This discussion began years ago and costs are increasing substantially. Stormwater would be owned and maintained by DOT. Project covers everything from business door to across the street to the other business door. Council agreed plan should include turn left lane, no pavers and only a couple trees and benches. Blommel will calculate city costs, including price to widen shoulder for boat parking and get City of Kimball recent street light improvement cost.

Sewer Project Update: City Engineer Blommel, Jake and Chris Weinreich met with pump vendor to discuss specifics. Project must go out for bids, but this was a nice introduction of what they offer. Historical survey is required per U.S. Army Corp. before excavation due to reservation status, which will be conducted in the spring. City and county position is still that the reservation was disestablished. Thereafter, we can bid the project. Button asked about development of properties along the force main being able to connect in the future? Yes, by expanding the force main size the current pumps will work better and there will be room to connect. Current size is 6" and we are likely to go 8" high density seamless poly, which will do better in rocking soil. In spirit of cooperation, we have reached out to MLBO informing them of this project.

MLIR New Agreement Discussion: City Engineer Blommel: Attorney redrafted agreement after staff review; send draft to Bjornson and Frederickson for their review. Need a decent map of their system. After our review is accomplished, we can send to MLIR and set up follow up meeting.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Fund \$24k Purchases: Weinreich has wish list to purchase WW line locator, metal detector and camera. Can funds be used to replace furnace that is over 25 years old? Better air quality for public and staff safety relative to Covid. We can confirm with the state if this is allowed per Blommel. Anything relative to utilities is allowed. Council will decide what to use funds for after further review is conducted.

Old School Apartments Update: City Attorney Memo & 11/16 State Inspection Report: Confusion between City Attorney David Anderson and State Fire Marshal Kevin Sedivy occurred. Adopted resolution authorized service of abatement order allowing additional 30 days for repair before city began legal court action. Sedivy met with owner on 11/16 providing him with code clarification and additional 60 days. Per Anderson "I felt it would be prudent to wait to serve the abatement order until on or around December 16, which would avoid any argument by the owner that the City was being inconsistent or confusing with respect to its enforcement efforts." Mayor agreed via conference call. Sedivy has been instrumental in helping with this issue and is fully informed on city timeline.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich: Pond samples and that is about it.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich is waiting on snow. Button noted that WAVE Beef Chili Cook Off will be moved from January to March or April as winter fishing keeps businesses busy until then. Event was initiated as an event to help businesses during slow time. Date of event and whether it will be held in 2022 still to be determined based upon current Covid cases. Furnace was down for a day and the ignitor was replaced.

Zoning: Buck questioned report which brought to light an error; Albertson is noted as building an addition but it should read Bertelson.

EMPLOYEE REVIEWS: Closed Per Employees' Request: State Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3: Jacob Weinreich, Public Works Supervisor and Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer. Meeting was closed to the public @ 6:50 pm. Reviews began @ 6:53 am and were conducted together. Meeting opened to the public at 7:11 pm. Council agreed each employee will receive 3% hourly raise effective 1/1/2022; Roeschlein \$28.35 and Weinreich \$22.66.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer