

CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 9, 2025

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 7:00 p.m. at City Hall

- Mayor Lawrence called the Clearwater City Council to order Monday, June 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present were Mayor Lawrence, Council Members Schwinghammer, Crandall, Senn, and Everett. Also present were members of the public, staff, and guests.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Staff requested the addition of five claims items totaling \$18,665.75 and Resolution 2025-30 for a donation from the Lions Club to the Consent Agenda, along with consideration of Park Commission applications as item 7(i).
- **MOTION** by Crandall to approve Agenda with the addition of the three items noted, seconded by Schwinghammer, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Wright County Sheriff's Report

- Deputy Marschel gave the sheriff's report. He noted the following items:
 - Neighborhood dispute over a parking place that resulted in a DUI arrest;
 - DUI arrest from a vehicle that left the west side Holiday Station;
 - A vehicle stopped carrying over 2 pounds of marijuana; and
 - Some warnings issued to people during after-hours patrols of parks.
- Members did not have any questions.

4. Public Forum

- None.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. **Claims/Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$ 228,602.34 + \$18,665.74 = \$247,268.08**
- b. **Approval of Minutes from 05-12-2025 Regular City Council Meeting**
- c. **Res 2025-25 – Declining Waiver of Statutory Tort Limits – LMCIT**
- d. **Res 2025-27 – Approving Officer Addition for Fire Department**
- e. **Res 2025-28 – Certifying Lien for Unpaid Charges**
- f. **Authorizing Letter of Support for I94 Coalition Corridors of Commerce**
- g. **Res 2025-30 – Accepting Donation for Fire Department**
- **MOTION** by Crandall to approve Consent Agenda with the addition of claims totaling \$18,665.75 (corrected to \$18,665.74) and Resolution 2025-30, seconded by Senn, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Old Business

a. Discuss Sheriff Contract Hours

- Administrator Smythe stated that she wanted to provide additional information related to the workshop discussion of the proposed increase to sheriff's hours. The information provided in that agenda was intended to illustrate for the City Council the financial effect so the city can plan ahead. Members seemed to be under the impression that the city has a choice whether to increase service hours. The more recent contract renewals have changed this so that the sheriff, using various

factors, can determine the number of service hours needed so long as 18 months' notice is provided to the city.

- Members stated that the increase is significant, raising the city's levy about 10%, which Members do not favor. They would like this increase deferred as long as possible.
- Members also discussed that a large number of local calls for service are medical, which may be better handled by a local ambulance service rather than the sheriff. Deputy Marschel and Fire Chief Keller noted that both the sheriff and fire entities are still paged out in the event of an emergency. If there was a local ambulance, perhaps they would be able to get there first and release the sheriff from responding, but it would not eliminate their calls.

7. New Business

a. Res 2025-26 - Approving Final Plat – JCubed Addition

- Smythe summarized the Planning Commission recommendation for approval with conditions. Developer Jeff Johnson asked for clarification on the fire hydrant costs. Smythe and Kannas confirmed that the hydrant will be part of the city's costs of the watermain extension.
- **MOTION** by Crandall to approve Resolution 2025-26, seconded by Everett, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. Res 2025-29 – Approving Development Agreement – JCubed Addition

- Smythe explained that the development agreement included conditions covering the watermain extension and hydrant addition requested by the city and allows for a temporary cul-de-sac at the end of the new roadway which will connect to T.H. 24 in the future. She also noted that the developer has not yet reviewed the agreement, so could have minor changes.
- **MOTION** by Crandall to approve Resolution 2025-29, seconded by Schwinghammer, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

c. Amending Joint Powers Agreement – Clear Lake/Clearwater Sewer Authority

- **MOTION** by Lawrence to approve the amended joint powers agreement, seconded by Schwinghammer, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

d. Select Winner of Name a Park Contest

- Member Senn gave an overview of the discussion by the Park Commission regarding the contest entries. After discussion, they recommended naming the new park Scott Park in honor of Vern Scott, Planning Commissioner, former City Council Member, former member of several city Boards and Commissions. While Park Commissioners appreciated those that submitted entries and votes, they felt strongly that the park name should recognize Mr. Scott, whose public service in Clearwater has been significant and noteworthy.
- Mayor Lawrence offered her opinion that the City Council should follow the majority vote from the public, which is for "Depot Park". She agreed that recognizing Mr. Scott was also appropriate and suggested dedicating a park bench at the new park to Mr. Scott.
- **MOTION** by Crandall to name the new park "Depot Park", seconded by Everett.
- **DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION** – Member Senn stated that she does not agree with this course of action and feels very strongly that the city should recognize Vern Scott with a park name.
- **VOTE ON THE MOTION** – Voting aye – Lawrence, Crandall, Schwinghammer, and Everett. Voting nay – Senn. **MOTION CARRIED 4-1.**
- **MOTION** by Crandall to authorize staff to place a park bench and plaque at the new park honoring Vern Scott, seconded by Lawrence. Voting aye – Lawrence, Crandall, Schwinghammer, and Everett. Voting nay – Senn. **MOTION CARRIED 4-1.**

e. Consider Fencing Repair Quotes

- **MOTION** by Lawrence accepting fencing quote from Bemboom Fencing to repair fence at Riverside Park, seconded by Crandall, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

f. Accept Resignation of Sarah Johnson

- **MOTION** by Lawrence accepting resignation of Sarah Johnson, seconded by Schwinghammer, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Smythe asked if Members would be interested in an internal hire to fill this position. Members' consensus was yes. Smythe will bring a proposal to the next meeting.

g. Consider Fencing Appeal

- Members considered the fencing appeal from a resident that had requested a permit for split rail fencing with attached galvanized welded wire. Staff's interpretation of City Code was that wire fencing was not permitted but asked the City Council to clarify the difference between galvanized welded wire as stated in the permit and "woven wire" which the ordinance prohibits.
- Member Everett noted that woven wire is a specific type of wire that is commonly used in farming and is woven together like a basket. She stated that it is different from welded wire.
- Members' consensus was that welded wire is allowed by City Code and authorized staff to issue the permit.

h. Authorizing Purchase of Truck for Fire Department

- Fire Chief Keller explained the fire truck proposed purchase and quote.
- **MOTION** by Lawrence to approve the truck purchase for Fire Department using donated funds, seconded by Senn, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

i. Consider Park Commission Applications

- Smythe explained that Park Commission applications had been received from Tom Plaggerman and Nancy Senn for the current vacancy.
- Members discussed the fact that Senn would only be eligible for this new appointment after her resignation from the City Council, which is effective June 30, 2025. Senn stated that she would like to remain on the Park Commission and needed to leave the City Council for personal reasons.
- Business Owner Tom Plaggerman stated that he had heard about the vacancy and just wanted to help out. Mayor Lawrence noted that there is also an opening on the Sewer Authority, for which a business owner would be eligible. Mr. Plaggerman stated that he is happy to serve wherever needed.
- **MOTION** by Crandall to appoint Nancy Senn to Park Commission effective July 1, 2025, seconded by Schwinghammer. Voting aye – Lawrence, Crandall, Schwinghammer, and Everett. Abstaining – Senn. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0 with one ABSTAINED.**
- **MOTION** by Crandall to recommend appointment of Tom Plaggerman to the Sewer Authority Board for the At-Large position, seconded by Senn, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Committee Reports

a. Mayor and Council

- Mayor Lawrence reminded Members that the next Wright County Mayors' Association (WCMA) meeting will be June 18, 2025 and asked if anyone would like to attend with her. Member Schwinghammer stated that he could attend.

b. Boards

- Sewer Authority – Met May 22 at wastewater facility. Heard annual audit report. Meeting was followed by tours of the plant.
- EDA – Next meeting will be July. Members believed meeting date would be July 22 (corrected to July 15).
- Planning Commission – Met May 19 to review JCubed final plat.
- Fire Commission/Fire Relief Boards – Did not meet.
- Park Commission – Met and discussed the following:
 - Reviewed and further discussed the proposed rugby pavilion

- Considered and made a recommendation for the Name a Park contest to name the new park Scott Park in honor of the contributions of Mr. Vern Scott, Planning Commissioner, former Council Member, and former Board Member of various city boards and commissions.
- Heard an update on the splash pad – equipment is on order and installation public bids are being worked on by staff.
- Discussed the possibility of a new referendum for the Local Option Sales Tax, which is set to expire in 2028.

c. Staff

- Kannas asked for City Council feedback on a few items related to the T.H. 24 Project:
 - Asked City Council to clarify that they wanted the acorn-style double lamps matching Cedar South for the bridge lighting with color to match city logo. Members agreed.
 - Clarified that the bridge railings would be the same style as the Mississippi River bridge and would be black. Members agreed.
 - Explained that the city name on the bridge would be black lettering. MnDOT will get a font that is as similar to the city logo as they are able, as the actual font is not available. Members agreed.
 - Verified that the lighting style outside of the bridge would be MnDOT standard style lights with places for banner arms, outlets, and hangers for holiday lighting, noting that the city will be responsible for the costs of the upgrades, but the lights would be same cost-share as others. Members confirmed they would like lights similar to those in Monticello, with banner arms, outlets, and hangers for holiday lights, and painted the city logo color.
 - Kannas noted that due to the customizations being made, the city would be responsible for repairs/replacement if the poles are damaged or destroyed. Members agreed.
- Smythe asked the City Council to clarify the policy for filling swimming pools. Staff understood that the fire department used to do this in the past and there was some misunderstanding of the current policy. Fire Chief Keller stated that the department does not have resources to do this. Members noted that because of water shortages and recent drought years, along with city capacity issues, it no longer makes sense to allow this. Staff were directed to no longer allow the filling of pools using fire department resources. Members noted that there is a new water filling station at Public Works, and that members of the public can bring a truck and obtain metered water for pool filling, if desired.

9. Other Business

a. Next Regular Meeting – July 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

- Next meeting date confirmed.

10. Adjournment

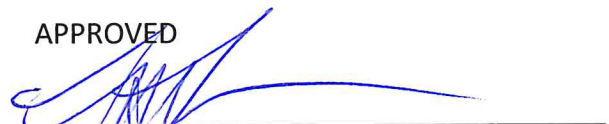
- **MOTION** to adjourn by Senn, seconded by Schwinghammer, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

ATTEST



Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator

APPROVED



Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor