

**CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 13, 2022**

**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 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Members present were Mayor Lawrence, Council Members Crandall, Kruchten, and Lenz. Council Member Luhmann was absent. Also present were members of the staff, public, and other guests.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- **MOTION** by Crandall to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**3. Wright County Sheriff's Report**

- Deputy Neubert gave a summary of the sheriff's report. Members did not have any questions.

**4. Public Forum**

- Resident (Deputy) Josh Neubert stated that the light poles in the Cedar South development need repainting.
- Resident James Schwinghammer stated that the center island area of Kelsey Ave needs weeds removed as the weeds are crowding out the plants.

**5. Consent Agenda**

- a. **Claims/Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$ 407,157.50**
- b. **Approval of Minutes from 05-09-2022 Regular City Council Meeting**
- c. **Res 2022-37 – Appointing Election Judges for 2022 Elections**
- d. **Res 2022-38 – Approving Election Equipment Lease Agreement**
- e. **Res 2022-39 – Approving Temporary Liquor License – Lions Club**
- f. **Res 2022-40 – Approving Temporary Liquor License – Rejoice Lutheran Church**
- g. **Res 2022-41 – Approving Special Event Permit – Heritage Days**
- h. **Res 2022-42 – Approving Special Event Permit – American Legion Riders**
- i. **Res 2022-43 – Approving Special Event Permit – Rejoice Lutheran Church**
- j. **Res 2022-44 – Renewing Master Partnership Contract with MnDOT**
- **MOTION** by Crandall to approve Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Kruchten, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**6. Old Business**

**a. Revisit Mosquito Spraying**

- An agenda item request was submitted by residents for the Council to reconsider their earlier vote to stop mosquito spraying for 2022.
- Administrator Smythe outlined the previous actions taken by the City Council during consideration of this topic, including reviewing numerous materials and studies about both the Permethrin product used in the past and an organic product called Merus, conducting a Facebook survey of residents, and discussing the costs and benefits of the program. The vote to not renew the

mosquito spraying contract failed on a 2-2 split vote because the City Council was short a member following the resignation of Council Member Petty.

- Multiple residents spoke to the Council urging them to reconsider spraying this year. The majority noted that this year is the first time in many years that they are unable to enjoy the outdoors due to mosquitoes. They also brought a Facebook petition signed by 252 people in support of spraying.
- There were also residents opposed to the spraying. Their concerns included the fact that there didn't seem to be much evidence that it worked, there were concerns about the toxicity of the chemicals used (Permethrin), concerns about liability for the city, as other area cities generally do not spray, a question about why mosquito control is the responsibility of the city, and budget concerns.
- Mayor Lawrence noted that the costs are billed to residents, so had a minimal impact on budget and noted the cost difference between Permethrin and Merus. Smythe noted that based on the last estimate, Merus costs about 2.5 times the Permethrin, so past utility charges of about \$4/month would likely increase to about \$10/month during the months billed for mosquitoes.
- Mayor Lawrence also noted that because the Council had already voted on this, a Member who was opposed or new would need to bring it back for reconsideration. Member Lenz noted that he was not yet on the Council and would like to reconsider. Member Kruchten stated that he was opposed to the Permethrin product but would reconsider the organic Merus.
- Smythe noted that because the spraying season had already started, the vendor would need to work us back in to their schedule and they couldn't guarantee a particular day/time. The Homeowner's Association in Clearwater Estates has their own contract for spraying due to the city stopping, so they asked not to be included or double-billed if the city reconsidered. Smythe also noted that because of ordinance adoption statutes, the city would not be able to adjust billing for the more expensive product until after the July meeting.
- **MOTION** by Lawrence to re-start spraying of the organic Merus product, and to either merge Clearwater Estates into our contract, if possible, or allow them to opt-out, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

## 7. New Business

### a. Approve Pay Voucher #4 and Change Order #1 – I94 Water Main Loop

- **MOTION** to approve pay voucher and change order was made by Crandall, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

### b. Chip Seal Project

- Smythe explained that the sole quote received came in well over budget, requiring the project to be scaled back by removing Main Street. Even without Main Street, the project is \$20,000 over budget. Staff are still expecting additional quotes but are requesting authorization to proceed with the low quote.
- **MOTION** by Lenz to proceed with the chip seal project based on the low quote received, seconded by Kruchten, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

### c. Parking Lot Projects

- Smythe noted that paving the parking lot at El Dorado Park was in the budget for this year. Staff are also requesting authorization to overlay the parking lot near the Lions Park building off of County Road 75 due to its poor condition. Staff have received one quote for each project so far and expect more. The city also intends to ask T.O. Plastics to share the cost of the Lions Park parking lot, as their trucks currently use this area.

- **MOTION** by Crandall to authorize both projects per the low quote received, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**d. Concrete Quotes – Lions Park**

- Smythe explained that staff have received one quote so far to complete the concrete on the inside of the new hockey rink, as was planned as part of the new rink construction project.
- **MOTION** by Lawrence to authorize the project per the low quote received, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**e. Committee Appointments**

- Mayor Lawrence stated that new Member Lenz had requested either EDA or Planning Commission for committee assignments. Both Board currently have two City Council members, although Planning Commission only requires one. As a result, a current member would need to step down for Member Lenz to go on those Boards. It was suggested that Member Luhmann might be interested in stepping down from Planning Commission, as she is also on Parks Commission. Members agreed that this should be tabled until Member Luhmann could weigh in.
- Smythe informed the Council that Member Vasecka had resigned from the Park Commission, leaving a vacancy. The city has received an application from William Schindele to serve on the Park Commission.
- **MOTION** by Lawrence to appoint William Schindele to Park Commission and **TABLE** the decision on appointments for Member Lenz, seconded by Kruchten, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**f. Consider Hire of Intern**

- Smythe outlined that the EDA has been considering options for hiring either a staff or consultant position. One option that was suggested was to hire a summer intern to see if a staff position would meet the needs better than a consultant. City Hall also has several projects that require assistance, as the current workload doesn't allow existing staff time to complete them. In addition, the city is looking at options to replace retiring staff in the future. Staff are requesting to hire a college student, preferably in a masters-degree program, as a summer intern to work on a part-time basis. The position would assist city hall, but possible EDA if the EDA so chooses.
- **MOTION** by Crandall to hire a part-time intern for 20 hours a week at \$18 per hour and no benefits, for a position that lasts 8-10 weeks, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**
- Member Crandall suggested checking into the Handshake App to help locate candidates from local colleges.

**g. Consider Adding Tuition Reimbursement to Personnel Policy**

- Smythe explained that this item was requested by a staff member interested in pursuing their education, but that it is also a recruitment tool in the current job market where there is a shortage of workers. The staff borrowed an example from another city and made modifications. There are several conditions attached to eligibility.
- **MOTION** to approve by Kruchten, seconded by Crandall, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**8. Committee Reports**

**a. Mayor and Council**

- Mayor Lawrence reported that she and other Members have been fielding a lot of calls about mosquito spraying.
- Member Kruchten noted that the Building Permit report does not include addresses. Smythe agreed, noting that staff do not currently have a report that includes that information. Members determined that they could check with staff if there was a question on a specific address.

**b. Boards**

- EDA – Member Crandall noted that the EDA is very busy. They are still looking at welcome sign options and also working on frontage road concerns. There were questions about the Kettle building. Smythe noted that a building permit was submitted for a remodel but that staff didn't have any information beyond that.
- Sewer Authority Board – Many items from the last meeting were tabled and will be considered at the meeting on June 16, 2022.

**c. Staff**

- Smythe asked what the Council's policy is on proclamations. Members stated they are usually handled on a case-by-case basis. Smythe explained that there has been a request for one. Members directed Smythe to bring the request to the next meeting, along with an example policy.
- Smythe explained the concerns from the Park Commission about the mural that was recently painted in Spring Street Park and showed a photo to the Council. It was painted by a student from St. Cloud State University. The Park Commission stated that changes they had requested to the proposal were not made in the final product and asked the student to re-paint a portion. Smythe reached out to the student, who explained that she did not understand that the proposed changes were agreed to by the whole Board. She also noted that she is out of supplies and used the supplies provided by the city. She stated she would re-paint if desired but that there would be an additional cost.
- Members discussed the mural. Members concurred that the student had artistic license to paint her own vision and that the city should have been clearer in its direction if that is not what was desired. Members and residents present agreed that the mural should not be changed.
- **MOTION** by Lawrence to leave the mural as-is at Spring Street Park, seconded by Kruchten, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**9. Other Business**


**a. Next Regular Meeting – July 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

- Next regular meeting will be July 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Smythe noted that she will be out of town and that Deputy Clerk Petty will attend the meeting for staff.
- Member Crandall asked the status of the Pesola code enforcement. Smythe stated that the attorney would like us to take photos and make a list of the items to be removed so that the court order will be clear. We may need assistance from the sheriff to complete this step.
- Member Lenz asked the status of the cameras and security lights. Smythe stated that staff have not completed this yet but will soon.

**10. Adjournment**

- **MOTION** to adjourn by Crandall, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

ATTEST

  
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Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator

APPROVED

  
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Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor