

**City of Gem Lake  
City Council Meeting – February 18, 2020  
Meeting Minutes**

Acting Mayor Uzpen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers Artig-Swomley, Kuny and Lindner were present. Councilmember Cacioppo was absent, excused. Other presents: City Attorney Patrick Kelly, Residents/Guests/Students: Rick Bosak, Lauren Carlson, Sam Deyo, Brian Kinder, Jack Menk, Lynzy Tran and Aaron Walby.

**February 18, 2020, Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to approve the agenda with the addition of the Luther Plat and change of Ordinance 124B to 124C. Voice vote taken, all voted yes, motion passes. Agenda approved.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilmember Artig-Swomley, seconded by Councilmember Lindner to approve the January 21, 2020, City Council minutes. Voice vote taken, all voted yes, Motion passes, minutes approved.

**Committee Reports – Planning Commission**

No meeting in February.

**Newsletter**

Published after February, 2020, City Council meeting. Water Gremlin restart written by Councilmember Cacioppo, Rush Line Update written Councilmember Lindner, snow etiquette, charitable donation, Snowman article, Driver Diversion Program, sewer and water fee increase, Gem Lake Scholarship.

**New Business**

**Resolution 2020-005 2020 Sewer and Water Rates**

Noted that sewer rates have not increased in 10 years. A motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to approve Resolution 2020-005, voice vote taken, all voted yes. Motion passes, Resolution 2020-005 approved.

**Driver Diversion Program**

Council briefly discussed the Driver Diversion Program which was recently approved by the State. The DDP program helps people who are stuck in the habitual cycle of having a revoked license. To be accepted into the program, participants have to pay an enrollment fee and agree to a payment schedule for all outstanding traffic fines owed to the State. Upon acceptance they immediately get their license reinstated, subject to successful completion of the program. The program has been supported by the City Attorney and the Chief of Police and has been used successfully in a number of other municipalities. A motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to adopt the Driver Diversion program for violators ticketed within the City of Gem Lake.

**Proposal from White Bear Township for Charging Gem Lake for Work**

Noted that the latest proposal from White Bear Township for fees for services was \$95.00 for all services, no matter who performed the service. Councilmember Artig-Swomley asked Attorney Kelly if it

was true that a government organization can't make a profit off another. Attorney Kelly, yes, that is true.

#### **Brian Kinder, potential finance person**

Mayor Uzpen introduced Brian Kinder as a potential finance person to perform financial services for Gem Lake. Mr. Kinder is a retired Accountant IV from St. Paul schools with over 37 years in government accounting experience. He has his Master's in Business Administration from University of St. Thomas and Bachelors in Business Accounting from the University of Minnesota. Attorney Kelly stated that a potential position to perform financials services would be structured as an independent contractor with a clear understanding of job duties.

#### **Sidewalk Discussion**

Mayor Uzpen stated that the city has spent over \$22,000 year to date on phase I of the sidewalk project. If we cancel the project we will lose \$22,000. Council discussed the project at length, Mayor Uzpen asked for a vote to postpone the Phase I and II until Ramsey County proposes to widen County Road E, voice vote taken, Mayor Uzpen voted against, Artig-Swomley, Kuny and Lindner voted yes. Passes, project postponed.

#### **124C Hunting Ordinance**

Council discussed hunting ordinance changes, 124C would refer back to the original ordinance. After a brief discussion Council tabled further action until the April, 2020, City Council meeting. Members would bring ideas for changes to the ordinance to the April, 2020, City Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Linder, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to support the tabling of the ordinance change. Voice vote taken, all councilmembers voted yes. 124C tabled until April, 2020, City Council meeting.

#### **Claims**

A motion was made by Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley to approve the claims for February, 2020. Motion passes, claims approved.

#### **Presentations from the Public**

Resident – hope we continue to have deer hunts and wants a sidewalk.

#### **Open Items from the Council Members to Bring Up**

Councilmember Artig-Swomley brought up using charitable gambling funds to offer free CPR classes to citizens and to consider other charities for donations. Discussed and agreed to make a \$1,500 donation to the White Bear Lake Food Shelf summer back pack program used to feed children in the summer time.

#### **Next Meetings/Workshop**

City Council, Tuesday, March 17, Workshop, March 9, 2020, is cancelled.

#### **Adjournment**

Being there no further business, following a motion from Councilmember Lindner, seconded by Councilmember Artig-Swomley, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Gloria Tessier.*