

# EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 24, 2025

The East Bethel City Council met on February 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for the regular City Council meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:           Ardie Anderson           Suzanne Erkel           Brian Mundle  
  Tim Miller                 Jim Smith

ALSO PRESENT:               Matt Look, City Administrator  
  Christina Benson, City Attorney  
  Rodney Sanow, Fire Chief

## 1.0 Call to Order

The February 24, 2025, City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson at 7:00 p.m.

## 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## 3.0 Adopt Agenda

**Mundle stated I'll make a motion to adopt tonight's agenda with the addition of Item 6.0 F, 'Planning Commission Resignation'. Erkel stated I'll second.** Anderson asked any discussion? To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

## 4.0 Presentations and Public Hearings

### 4.0 A Anoka County Sheriff's Report

Lieutenant Derek Peters presented the January 2025, Sheriff's Report, stating the Sheriff's Department had 368 calls for service in January, 4 thefts, 3 assaults, 23 different traffic crashes, 43 arrests, 177 traffic stops, and 26 traffic citations. Lieutenant Peters noted that their dispatch calls were slightly lower than what they had seen in the past, but their self-initiated field activity was up in January.

Lieutenant Peters stated that their Marine Unit is working with the East Bethel Fire Department to solidify a date in early March to conduct ice rescue training out on Coon Lake.

Mundle asked if most of the 23 crashes they responded to were due to weather. Lieutenant Peters stated that time of day also impacts the numbers, they usually see accidents in the early morning and later evening hours when the light conditions are not what people are used to.

**Informational; no action required.**

### 4.0 B Fire Department Monthly Report

Fire Chief Sanow presented the January 2025 report and noted that they responded to 85 calls, of which 64 were medical, 3 crashes, 5 alarms, 3 fires, and 3 mutual aid calls. Fire Chief Sanow stated they responded to 150 total calls this year, compared to 138 at this time last year.

Fire Chief Sanow reminded residents that a burning permit is needed for anything bigger than a 3 X 3 X 3 fire. Fire Chief Sanow also reminded us that daylight saving starts on March 9, which is a good time to change batteries in smoke detectors and CO detectors.

Sanow cautioned that with spring coming and the price of eggs, people are starting to get chickens. As mentioned earlier, we did have a chicken coop fire. People are using heat lamps to keep the chicks warm; as the chicks all huddle around that heat lamp, they knock it over once in a while. That can cause the bedding to start on fire, which then will spread to the chicken coop. If you have them in the house, it will spread to the house. So, make sure that heat lamp is secured, so that it doesn't tip over easily.

Fire Chief Sanow updated that he believes the ice rescue training at Coon Lake should occur on March 24, 2025.

**Informational; no action required.**

## 5.0 Public Forum

Tammy Gimpl, stated that she sent a complaint email to the City Administrator and she got a response which she then forwarded to everyone on the Council and did not receive any responses. Ms. Gimpl asked how they work with that, if it is a legitimate complaint, and what comes next if going to City staff does not work.

Look stated that the response to the sign issue complaint she had was that these people have the freedom of speech and the sign is in their yard not in the right-of-way, and signs not in the right-of-way are not covered in the Ordinance. Look suggested following up with an attorney to see if she had any basis for what was written on the signs. Look stated that there is no recourse the City can do at this point.

Ms. Gimpl stated that the signs are in the right-of-way and the sign ordinance states what they can and cannot have and the fact that they are in the right-of-way is a violation. Look asked if Ms. Gimpl knows how far the right-of-way is off the center of the street. Ms. Gimpl stated that it is 33 feet. Look asked if she measured that. Ms. Gimpl stated that they are located in the right-of-way.

Look stated that they can ask the residents to move the signs back however far into their property, but they cannot force them to remove the signs.

Dino Perfetti asked if staff and Council have a gameplan in retaining Carrie Frost as an employee of the City.

Look stated that all personnel matters are private, but they are looking at various wage scales and have met with the personnel committee, and they are undertaking the study at the moment. Look stated that there is a workforce issue everywhere.

## 6.0 Consent Agenda

~~Item A: Approve Bill List~~

Item B: Approve Meeting Minutes January 27, 2025 City Council Meeting – Requested Edits

Item C: Approve Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2025 City Council Work Meeting

Item D: Approve Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2025 City Council Meeting

~~Item E: Approve 2024 MN Lawful Gambling LG510 Report~~

Item F: Planning Commission Resignation

Erkel requested to pull Item A. Smith requested to pull Item E.

**Mundle stated I'll make a motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended. Erkel stated I'll second.**

Anderson asked any discussion? To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

### 6.0 A Approve Bill List

Erkel asked what the refund of closing overpay for the water utilities means. Look stated that he assumes it has to do with when you are setting up a residential or commercial area you pay a certain amount of escrow down for hooking up water and if you pay more than that it is refunded.

Erkel stated that under conference meetings the same name is listed 3 times and asked if that was a mistake or if the same person attended 3 different classes. Look stated that the charges are for three different people who went to the same conference, but the charges all went to one person's credit card so they are reimbursing him.

Erkel stated that she was under the understanding that an employee does all the maintenance of vehicles and asked why are they paying Ford and PTL for vehicle services. Look stated that the work that was paid for exceeds what their mechanics are able to do in terms of size and scope.

**Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Item A of the Consent Agenda. Smith stated I'll second.** Anderson asked any discussion? To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

#### **6.0 E Approve 2024 MN Lawful Gambling LG510 Report**

Smith expressed his thanks to the gambling organizations that contributed 10% of their earnings to the City. Smith asked where the \$57,239.20 goes. Look stated that it goes directly in the Law Enforcement account for paying the contract.

Smith stated that a lot of their residents are contributing also, so if there is a way they can do something with this money to help benefit the residents as well that would be nice. Look stated that this offsets, in the budget, what the residents would be paying in taxes for the contract.

**Smith stated I'll make a motion to approve Item E of the Consent Agenda. Erkel stated I'll second.** Anderson asked any discussion? To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

#### **7.0 New Business. Commission, Association, and Task Force Reports**

No reports given

#### **8.0 Department Reports**

##### **8.0 A Community Development**

None.

##### **8.0 B Engineer Report**

None.

##### **8.0 C City Attorney**

None.

##### **8.0 D Finance**

None.

##### **8.0 E Public Works**

None.

##### **8.0 F Fire Department**

None.

##### **8.0 G City Administrator Report**

##### **8.0 G.1 Facility Safety Policy Adoption**

Look stated that the prior Council had indicated an interest in evaluating and implementing a secure facility policy for East Bethel. Look stated after reviewing Andover's Facility Access Policy, changes were made to tailor the policy to East Bethel.

**Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve the Facility Safety Policy. Miller stated I'll second.**

Anderson asked any discussion?

Erkel stated that in regard to the app that people are not supposed to have access to after retiring or are no longer an employee, how are they going to make sure the app is not accessible to them. Look stated that in order to add somebody to the app, the telephone number and type of phone have to be submitted to the app administrator and suggested that the Fire Chief would be responsible for removing people and working with the new policy.

Look stated that there are other apps that can be downloaded by anyone, but that they do not give as much information as is given on Active911.

Mundle stated that with Active 911, the Fire Chief can go in and remove people so there is control in who has access. Erkel asked who has access to that list of people. Look stated that the Fire Chief would have access to that list.

Look stated that Pulse Point is the app that anyone can download.

To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

## **9.0 – Other Items**

### **9.0 A Staff Report**

Look stated that Elevage has been hooked up and tested and will be fully functioning as of tomorrow.

Look stated that they approved accepting a resignation to the Planning Commission and they have two vacancies currently that can be filled. Look stated that the next Planning Commission will be very busy, Lindahl has been working and processing through a number of cases.

Look updated that they will have a new planner starting at the beginning of March.

Look stated that the security system that was approved will be installed on March 6, 2025. Mundle asked if it will be installed in all buildings on March 6, 2025, or if that will just be the start of the installation. Look stated that he is not sure, it may take longer for some buildings rather than others but it should be wrapped up pretty quickly.

Miller asked for a breakdown of how the Ice Arena business is running since the City has taken over. Look stated that they can get the financials on that, but he knows that they are starting to make profit and offsetting some of those negatives.

### **9.0 B Council Reports**

Mundle stated that there was a Highway 65 Coalition meeting, and East Bethel was chosen to be the treasurer for that organization again; in exchange for them being the treasurer, they will not charge any member fees.

Mundle stated that they had a Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization meeting, and they approved a budget for next year, which will come before the cities at a future time; the new budget total is \$50,643 compared to \$47,189 from last year. Mundle also noted that in 2 years, they will have to do their 10-year plan, and there was discussion on how to fund that.

Erkel asked what the estimated cost of a 10-year plan is. Mundle stated that it would probably be around \$50,000.

Erkel stated that she attended the Chamber meeting representing the City and they were at Nace. Erkel updated that they serve thousands of people each month and they have a new punch card system to ensure people only come once a month. Erkel also noted that they are in need of diapers.

Erkel asked if the City pays for the Council to be members of the Chambers or if they are automatically members. Look stated that he does not recall seeing that on the budget, but they can look into it. Mundle thinks that the Council has always just been invited, but are not necessarily members.

Erkel also noted that she attended the Anoka County Blaine Airport Meeting, and they are demolishing buildings on 105<sup>th</sup> and Madison/Lexington area and plan on putting in a huge multi-use sports center and a new baseball team that will play there. Erkel also stated that the airport is also getting a new above ground fuel tank. Erkel noted programs and events that they will be holding.

Erkel stated that people can go to macnoms.com to see all flight information in the area or if they have any questions/issues.

Erkel asked if they would be seeing and approving the Emergency Plan and other modifications from the Fire Department. Look stated that the Emergency Plan is being worked on and the County has to finalize theirs first before the City can finalize theirs.

Erkel stated that lots of residents have been taken to court by the City, and asked if there are any current cases. Look stated that the current cases were approved by the prior Council, but the new policy is that before prosecution, the Council has to be made aware and vote on them.

Erkel asked if the Seniors could get a copy of the cleaning contract and contract renewal date.

Erkel stated that she thinks they should have a policy for what should be done if keys are forgotten and staff has to go and unlock a building for an organization. Look stated that when the new security system is installed access can be granted instantly from a cell phone.

Erkel stated that the Senior meetings are held at 10:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month.

Anderson stated that he attended the League of Minnesota Cities' newly elected official conference and noted that there was a lot of guidance and information. Anderson stated that a new webinar regarding social media issues is coming up that they should look at.

#### **9.0 C Other**

None.

#### **10.0 Adjourn**

**Mundle stated I'll make a motion to adjourn. Erkel stated I'll second.** To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*