

**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Avenue**  
**Monday, May 20, 2024**  
**5:45 p.m.**  
**AGENDA**

1. Meeting Called to Order \*Additional information on agenda item is attached or at City Hall
2. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda
  - a. Bills: Checks #28316 – 28346, 1075E – 1082E (1-6)
  - b. Payroll: Checks #68063 – 68099
  - c. Approve April 8 Lake Commission Minutes (7-8)
  - d. Approve April 15 EDA Minutes (9-10)
  - e. Approve April 16 Library Board Minutes, Expenditures, & Library Report (11-13)
  - f. Approve April 25 Utilities Commission Minutes (14-15)
  - g. Approve May 6 City Council Minutes (16-18)
3. Public – A total of ten (10) minutes is allotted for individuals to briefly discuss a topic of concern or provide comments to the Council.
4. City Attorney
  - a. Discussion/Action –Greenhouse Update
5. City Administrator
  - a. Discussion/Action – Street/Overlay Projects
  - b. Discussion/Action – City Park Beautification Project
6. Roundtable
  - a. Discussion – Commissions/Boards Update
7. Adjourn

**Lake Commission Meeting****Monday, April 8, 2024, 6:30 p.m.****Members Present:** Dave Bucklin, Randy Loewen, Stan Bennett, Janell Bargen, John Beyer, Jean Haberman**Guests Present:** Michael Mueller, Mike Nelson, Vern Peterson, Rachel Yoder

Chair Bucklin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. M/S/P Loewen/Bargen to approve agenda and minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report (4/5/24)****Weed Harvester Income/Expense:****Ending Balance** **\$20,498.32****Trail Income/Expense:****Beginning Balance:** **\$6,088.38**Muske Law Office (150.00)Donation – Charles Harder Memorial Bench 20.00Interest Income 178.78**Ending Balance:** **\$6,137.16**

M/S/P Bennett/Beyer to approve the Treasurer's Report.

**Lake Projects:**

- **Thin Ice Signs:** Dave will try to gather some of the thin ice signs that have floated to the edge and put them on the shore. As soon as a motor is purchased, Randy will get the rest of them.
- **Weed Harvester:** Randy Loewen hasn't heard from Fulda about purchasing the old harvester.

Michael Mueller applied for weed harvester funding from Cottonwood County.

Michael Mueller will post for weed harvesting positions.

- **Carp Problem:** Dave talked to the DNR Fisheries about the carp problem in the lake. The last fish population study was done in 2022. At that time, there weren't many carp and there were lots of crappies and bluegills, which eat carp eggs. The DNR thinks that's a good situation. No further treatment is recommended at this time.
- **Can Bin** – The can bin will be cleaned out on Tuesday, April 9 at 4:00 p.m.

- **Boat Motor** – Randy Loewen will purchase a boat motor with the \$2,000 of grant money from Mountain Lake Foundation, plus up to \$2,000 of Lake Commission funds.
- **Fishing Pier** – The fishing pier will be moved back to the summer location as soon as a boat motor is purchased.
- **National Park Service Contract** – There is interest in pursuing a grant for the National Park Service’s help in designing a plan for the lake, trails, and parks. Luke Ewald will come to the next meeting to talk about the Lake Commission’s goals.

**Trail:**

- The gap between the trail and the boardwalk has been fixed.
- Stan Bennett offered to cut the tree stump that is lying close to the trail near Yoder’s property.
- Discussed how to fix the slick spot where there is run-off by the outhouse close to the beach. Some of the dirt needs to be scraped off to get the water to drain away from the trail.
- Jay Schied’s recommendations and concerns were addressed. The Lake Commission appreciates all the work Jay does around the lake.
- It was recommended to post trail etiquette in the utility bill.
- The DNR will be contacted to meet with Mike Nelson and Lake Commission at the site of the bench on the north side of the lake to discuss mowing a trail up to the bench.
- Janell and Jean will re-stain and paint the Point of Interest posts.
- A lake clean-up day with kids was discussed. April 22 is Earth Day. Nothing was decided for sure.

The next Lake Commission meeting is Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Haberman,  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Economic Development Authority**

Monday, April 15, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mt. Lake City Hall

PRESENT: Jerry Haberman (via phone), Mike Nelson, Darla Kruser, Steve Syverson, Phil Skow, Eileen Augustin, and Vern Peterson, Advisor, Clara Johnson, Advisor.

ABSENT: Mitch Schroeder.

STAFF: Rod Hamilton, Michael Mueller and Alyssa Nesmoe

GUEST: Jasmine, Southwest MN Housing Partnership

1. CALL TO ORDER: Co-chair Steve Syverson called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.
2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda
  - / Consent Agenda:
    - a. Approval of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes.
    - b. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills. Motion made and seconded by Mike and Darla to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried.
3. Southwest Minnesota House Partnership. Tabitha was able to get a grant for hiring SWMHP, as a grant writer to help with the Workforce Housing Grant application. A 26-year TIF has already been established on this property. The City is applying for the grant and the City would have a 2-1 match of the funds granted. The grant application is due by April 30, 2024, and we will know if we have been awarded the grant in August 2024.
  - a. Housing Grant Resolution will need to be completed by the City Council. Rod and Jasmine will be at the City Council meeting tonight.
  - b. Loan request for proposed 12-unit apartment building project. Motion to approve a loan to Krystall Kapital, LLC of \$50,000, 10 years, deferred for 3 years at 2% interest. Contingent on the receipt of an award from Minnesota Housing. Motion made and seconded by Mike and Darla. Carried.
  - c. Letter of intent from the EDA. Rod provided a sample letter.
4. Krienke Foods Internation, Inc. update. Payments, although still not on time, are being paid earlier than normal. They are currently having conversations with a MN based snack company to see how they could potentially sell more products. Rod will meet with Caleb and this company at a later date.
5. Hotel Update/Discussion. Still in the process of working with banks for financing. Rod spoke with the developer out of Texas regarding financing. The developer recommended looking into an SBA loan and USDA loan. Michael will also be checking with Tammy Omdal, Northland Securities, regarding funding options.
6. Elemendorf/Pro-Shed Visit. Rod, Michael, and Mike toured Pro-Shed to see their building process and learn more about the Mountain Lake based business.

Discussion was had about allowing Mountain Lake businesses to display their products in the commercial park and potentially leasing these lots for that purpose.

7. EDA loan structure including interest rates, closing legal cost, and filing fees and dollar limits. It was decided to table this topic until the next meeting.
8. Commercial Park update. Concerns were raised about the MNDOT meetings where they are proposing options to make the entrances in and out of Mountain Lake safer. So far, the committee that has met with them has not been satisfied with their options.

Discussion was had that the EDA would provide recommendations to the City Council on how this could be detrimental to our town and commercial park.

9. Business Leads update. A few business leads were discussed but that they were contingent upon if the hotel project goes through.

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- a. Next Regular Board Meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- b. Other Business. A window washing bid was received for Heritage Estates, Mason Manor and Midway Estates. Discussed how the window washing is currently done and it was decided to keep things as is and not accept the bid.

11. ADJOURN. Co-chair Syverson adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES**  
**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

11

**Members Present:** Carol L., Rochelle M., Rachel Simon, Rachel B.

**Members Absent:** Rick H.

**Staff Present:** Daniel Mick

**Others Present:** Andy Ysker

**Others Absent:** Michael Mueller

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM by Library Chairperson Rachel S.

**Reports:** Rochelle M. / Rachel B. approved minutes for February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes.

Daniel M. presented the March Monthly reports indicating 3108 total circulation. The expenses for February was \$5,513.87. M/S Rachel B. / Carol L. to accept the March reports as given and to approve the March expenditures, Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:** Daniel M. reported even though the majority of the town was out at the state basketball game the Mary Casanova program still had 16 children attend. It was also reported that almost all of the solar eclipse glasses were given out to patrons. Sadly it was very cloudy on the day but some reported being able to witness the eclipse.

Daniel M. reported that the Memorial Bench meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> did not receive a great turnout but it is planned for two more meetings. One in the fall and another in the spring to “rake the coals” and to keep people thinking about the project.

**In New Business:** Daniel M. presented a recent issue that he believes should be addressed sooner than later. He was asked if a firearm course could be held at the library. Daniel’s position is absolutely no guns in the building during open hours due to the risk of someone hurting themselves. The board was of similar opinions. Currently there is a law that is gaining ground that Libraries and churches be added to weapon prohibited zones. Daniel M. would continue to watch for the legislation and prepare a policy when it is necessary. But at this time the library cannot forbid licensed individuals from entering the library with firearms.

On the same note Daniel M. also asked the board their feelings on renting the program room and what that cost would be in their eyes. Through his research Daniel presented the idea of \$30 for the first three hours and after that \$15.00 an hour. These fees would only apply to those wanting to meet after hours.

**Director Check In:** Daniel M. led the board through the Summer Reading Program and some of his ideas he is locking into place. From Balloon popping fair games at Pow Wow to tiles that small donations can be used for and after they are personalized can be returned to the library to be hung.

**Materials Suggested:** NONE

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Mick

Mountain Lake  
Public Library  
April 2024

Children	
Audio	6
Books	1230
DVDs	117
Non Print	0
Multi Media	10
Periodicals	3
<b>ADULT</b>	
Audio	7
Books	551
DVDs	147
Non Print	2
Multi Media	1
Periodicals	13
Other Physical Media	23
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	2110
Ebooks	221
Downloadable Audio	404
<b>TOTAL CIRCULATION:</b>	3266
ILLN(MNLink)	41
Interlibrary Loan Sent	274
Interlibrary Loan Received	216

REVENUE	
Cash Income	\$ -
County Revenue	\$ -
Donations (Monetary)	\$ -
Fines	\$ 27.99
Misc. Revenue	\$ -
Meeting Room Rental	\$ -
Sale of supplies	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$ 27.99
EXPENDITURES	
Books	\$ 268.43
Periodicals	\$ 39.95
Audio/Visual	\$ 53.94
Gas Utilities	\$ 107.36
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 116.49
Office Supplies	\$ 21.10
Library Supplies	\$ 89.43
Postage	\$ -
Project Expense	\$ 873.90
Repairs & Maintenance Building	\$ -
Repairs & Maint-Materials	\$ -
Tech/Automation Expense	\$ 39.09
Telephone	\$ -
Training & Instruction	\$ 203.87
MISC.	\$ -
PCLS Delivery	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 1,813.56

## APRIL LIBRARY EXPENDITURES

Expenditure	Description	Budget #	Total
Amazon	7915401-Binders	200	\$50.97
Amazon	5394664-Squeegee	200	\$8.99
Vistaprint	Stamp for PCL Bingo	200	\$29.47
Indoff	Scotch Tape	200	\$21.10
Amazon	1971414-Scanner	309	\$39.09
Travel Expenses	Milage	331	\$203.87
MN Energy	Gas Bill	383	\$107.36
Country Pride	Vacuum	400	\$116.49
Fiverr	Concept Art for Bench	434	\$232.10
Amazon	5904218-Gift Card-Reading Reward Drawing	434	\$25.00
Amazon	1016241-SRP Crafts	434	\$429.30
Ron's Electric	Light Install	434	\$187.50
Amazon	5322646-Books	590	\$38.93
Boardbooks (Sneer)	Book Order	590	\$229.50
Mother Earth News	Magazine Renewal	591	\$39.95
Amazon	6892232-DVD Order	592	\$17.96
Amazon	5285068-DVD Order	592	\$21.98
Nobles County Library	DVD Cleaning	592	\$14.00
		<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$1,813.56</b>

## LIBRARY CASH EXPENDITURES

Expenditure	Description		Total
		<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
		<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

## LIBRARY REVENUE

Revenue	Description	Budget #	Total
Fine	Book Replacment	35000	\$27.99
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$27.99</b>



**Mountain Lake Utilities Commission Meeting**  
**Mountain Lake City Hall**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2024**  
**7 AM**

Members Present: Todd Johnson; Sue Garloff; Mark Langland; David Savage; Brian Janzen;  
City Council Liaison Dean Janzen

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Michael Mueller; Clerk/Administrator; Jill Falk; Utilities Office Manager;  
Dave Watkins; Electric Superintendent; Lane Anderson; Lineman; Steve  
Peters; Lineman; Taylor Nesmoe; Water/Wastewater Superintendent

Others Present:

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7 AM.

**Approval of Minutes and Bills**

Motion by Brian Janzen seconded by Johnson to approve the April 11<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Minutes and  
Check Numbers 23368-23397 (548E). Motion carried.

**Electric Department**

The contractor has finished the work on the underground project. Watkins is continuing to work  
with the engineer on the details for the power plant. The discussion was brought up as to what  
should be done with the old building once the new one is completed. Watkins voiced his  
concerns that the city spending money on an empty building does not seem logical.

**Water/Wastewater Department**

Milk Specialties placed a call this week regarding a leak on Stewart Avenue. Leak detection  
came out and could not locate anything of concern. Nesmoe believes the leak is due to a county  
tile. He also mentioned that they will be sending in pond samples and are hoping to complete a  
discharge next week.

**City Administrator**

The Paya Citizen Portal is up and running. Mueller reminded everyone to register and check it  
out. He also mentioned that a Bitcoin/A.I. Data Center was interested in a location in Mountain  
Lake. The cooler temperatures and wind provide the perfect climate for the location. They would  
require 10Mwh for service. Mueller has spoken with ITC, and they could be able to provide the  
community with an additional 12Mwh, however, they would need to adjust their infrastructure.  
Glencoe currently has an operational center, and Blue Earth is in the process of building one. At  
this time, the voltage can not be maintained and keep the city running. This could increase the  
revenue for the utilities, so it would be another discussion once the new plant is fully operational.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Jill Falk, Utilities Office Manager

**City of Mountain Lake  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave  
Monday, May 6, 2024  
5:45 p.m.**

Members Present: Andrew Ysker, Dean Janzen, Bryan Bargaen, Mike Nelson

Members Absent: Darla Kruser

City Staff Present: Michael Mueller City Administrator; Maryellen Suhrhoff City Attorney; Louis Norell Assistant Police Chief; Ben McHenry Police Officer; Daron Friesen Street Superintendent

Others Present: Joel Alvstad, Tim Coners, Danica Dick

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 5:45 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda**

Motion by Janzen, seconded by Bargaen to add union contract and roundtable discussion to the agenda. Motion carried 4 – 0. Motion by Bargaen, seconded by Ysker to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Bills: Checks #28255 – 28315, 1065E – 1074E

Payroll: Checks #68031 - 68062

Approve April 11& 17 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve April 15 City Council Minutes

Approve April 23 Board of Appeal & Equalization Minutes

Approve April Street Department Report – *Daron Friesen, Street Superintendent*

Approve Resolution #7-24 Arbor Day

Approve \$300 Donation to Pow Wow Road Race and Fitness Walk

Approve Mental Health Month Proclamation

**Public**

No comment

**Fire Department**

Fire Chief Tim Coners requested an increase in wages for the department, as well as permission to purchase equipment. The current pay is \$10 per meeting/practice, \$10 per responding to a call, and \$20 per call that covers the first 2 hours, after 2 hours it is an additional \$10 per hour. The request was to double the pay for the department. The Council tabled the request until the Fire

Chief researched what other fire departments in the surrounding area are paying their personnel. Coners requested for the unpaid training officer for the fire department to be paid \$600 per year. Motion by Janzen, seconded by Bargaen to approve the training officer pay of \$600 per year. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Coners requested to purchase a Pentheon iCutter and Spreader for \$37,740.48. Motion by Bargaen, seconded by Ysker to approve the purchase. Motion carried 4 – 0. Motion by Janzen, seconded by Bargaen to approve up to \$30,000 for the purchase of a used side by side vehicle. If the department needed to purchase it new, they would need to come back to Council. Motion carried 4 – 0.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

Danica Dick, Chamber Director provided a bid from Mountain Lake FFA for replacing the concrete edging and install new edging in Memorial Park. Motion by Bargaen, seconded by Janzen to approve the FFA bid as long as the FFA uses stone paver edging, it's able to mow over, Daron has oversight on the project, and if not to come back to City Council. Motion carried 4 – 0.

### **Street Department**

Street Superintendent Daron Friesen discussed the poor condition of the pathway/trails in City Park and provided three bids to update them. Motion by Janzen, seconded by Bargaen to approve Kulseth's bid of \$28,247.40 to replace the asphalt trail with concrete. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Friesen discussed mills and overlays on our streets. Many of the streets in our city are 35 to 40 years old, and an overlay could extend our roads to another 20 years of life without a full street reconstruction. The question the Council had was whether or not the project could be assessed and bonded, and wanted further clarification before any decisions were made. The item was tabled.

### **Police**

Assistant Police Chief Louis Norell is requesting to get ahead of the upcoming vacancies by adding a new officer as early as July. Motion by Janzen, seconded by Ysker to post an opening for a full time police officer. Motion carried 4 – 0.

### **City Attorney**

An update was given to the council regarding civil processes on various properties, public nuisances, current processes, court procedures, agreements, and plans.

**City Administrator**

The Mountain Lake School District asked for a \$4,000 increase in the City's donation to the summer program. The City currently donates \$5,000 a year to the summer program. City Council requested from the School Board the summer program budget, showing all revenues and expenditures, which has not been provided. The item was tabled until a budget is provided.

Michael Mueller, City Administrator, requested a Certified Tree Inspector licensure to be added to the union contract, adding 50 cents per hour to the Appointed City Tree Inspector, discussion ensued and no motion was made.

**Roundtable**

An update was given to the council regarding board and commission meetings.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Michael Mueller, Administrator/Clerk