

**CITY OF PARK RAPIDS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2014, 6:00 PM
Park Rapids Public Library-Lower Level
Park Rapids, Minnesota**

1. CALL TO ORDER: The February 25th, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Park Rapids City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pat Mikesh, and everyone present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Pat Mikesh, Councilmembers Dave Konshok, Rod Nordberg, Erika Randall, and Paul Utke. Absent: None. Staff Present: Administrator John McKinney, Treasurer Angela Brumbaugh, Police Chief Terry Eilers, Planner Dan Walker, Public Facilities Maintenance Superintendent Chris Fieldsend, Liquor Store Manager Scott Olson, and Clerk Margie Vik. Others Present: Ulteig Engineer Brian Hiles, Julie Kingsley and Nate Sitz representing Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District, Jan Rumpza and Ken Grob representing the Fishhook Lake & River Association and the Coalition of Lakes Association, Cynthia Jones, Dick Rutherford, and Anna Erickson from the Enterprise.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Utke, seconded by Randall, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the following addition: **Item #9.4. Resolution Authorizing Proper City Officials to Execute the Paperwork Associated with the Labor Union Agreement for the Rapids Spirits Employees.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes-February 11th, 2014: A motion was made by Konshok, seconded by Utke, and unanimously carried to approve the February 11th, 2014 City Council Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

5. FINANCE:

5.1. Payables & Prepaids: A motion was made by Konshok, seconded by Nordberg, and unanimously carried to approve the payables in the amount of \$57,084.91, and the prepaids in the amount of \$452,011.15, for a total of \$509,096.06.

6. CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Nordberg, seconded by Randall, and unanimously carried to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 6.1. **Resolution #2014-36 Approving Wage Adjustment and Step Increase for Facility Maintenance Superintendent Chris Fieldsend.**
- 6.2. **Approve Backhoe Operator's License to Work in the City of Park Rapids in 2014 for Racer Construction.**
- 6.3. **Approve Tree Contractor License to Work in the City of Park Rapids in 2014 for AC Construction.**
- 6.4. **Approve the Purchase of a 2014 Ford Explorer SUV from Park Rapids Ford in the Amount of \$26,015.00 for the Airport/Maintenance Department, to Replace the 1995 Astrovan.**
- 6.5. **Approve Pay Request in the Amount of \$1,474.88 to TKDA for Professional Services Pertaining to the Airport Runway 18-36 Project.**
- 6.6. **Approve Pay Request in the Amount of \$2,580.00 to Banyon Data Systems for Software Support for Various City Departments.**
- 6.7. **Resolution #2014-37 Approving the Renewal of Liquor Licenses for Necce's Italiano Ristorante, Bogey's, Vallarta Mexican Grill, and Lori Lea Lanes in the City of Park Rapids.**
- 6.8. **Resolution #2014-38 Approve the Renewal of an On Sale 3.2 Beer License for Pizza Hut in the City of Park Rapids.**
- 6.9. **Resolution #2014-39 Approve the Renewal of an Off Sale 3.2 Beer License for Casey's General Store, Holiday Stationstore, Northern Convenience, Orton's Park Rapids, and Orton's Park Rapids-East in the City of Park Rapids.**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

7. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: There were no comments.

8. PLANNING:

8.1. Resolution for Variance Request to Allow a 22 Foot Setback in the R-2 District at 111 Huntsinger Avenue PID #32.43.00300: Walker stated the applicant is Charles Alberg, the property owner. He's requesting an eight foot front yard variance to allow a twenty-two foot setback where thirty feet is required in order to construct a handicap ramp in the R-2 district, at 111 Huntsinger Avenue.

Walker stated this is an after the fact variance request, as staff has already authorized the construction of the ramp for emergency health reasons under the condition that the variance would still need to be approved by the Planning Commission, and also as required by ordinance. We did issue a conditional building permit on January 30th, 2014. We did look at other options for locations but because of the floor plan inside the house, this was the only practical location for the ramp.

Walker stated the Planning Commission met last night and did find affirmative on all the findings of fact, which is consistent with the recommendation to grant the variance.

A motion was made by Utke, seconded by Nordberg, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution #2014-40 Approve Variance to Allow a 22 Foot Setback in the R-2 District at 111 Huntsinger Avenue PID #32.43.00300.

Discussion: Nordberg stated we have been through this before with other properties and I'd just like to affirm that the variance goes with the property, not the owner. Walker stated that is correct. Nordberg stated so it's done now and it will be there forever if people leave it there. Walker stated that is correct.

Randall questioned what was the need for the variance? Walker stated it was encroaching into the setback. Randall questioned what was the total cost to the owner? Walker stated a variance has a \$175.00 application fee.

The vote was called.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS:

9.1. Resolution Authorizing Proper City Officials to Execute Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Agreement By and Between the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Park Rapids: McKinney stated the program was endorsed last year as a onetime deal. The request was made and granted \$2,000.00 in funding for the project along with other governmental agencies. I had intended that it be brought to your attention as a renewal request was made as part of the budget considerations last fall and it didn't get in there to my oversight. It was brought to the Council at the last meeting. You voiced an interest in not being entirely familiar with why they are back, so I contacted the appropriate people and they are going to tell you why they think the Council might want to consider again this year contributing to the fund. Part of the reason for the way it's being presented was a fault on my part of not getting it in the budget the way I thought I had it in there.

Julie Kingsley, the District Manager for Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District, stated this is the third year that we are doing the watercraft inspection program. Through the generosity of the county we were given money for the last two years and we were able to hire a water quality specialist who is also running the AIS Program, which is Nate Sitz. He will explain the program and what's going on.

Nate Sitz stated the program is county-wide. There is a public awareness and education component for the program through billboards, radio ads, and newspaper announcements. There's a prevention aspect through watercraft inspections, early

detection aspect in that many lakes do zebra mussel monitoring and aquatic vegetation surveys to look for any aquatic vegetation infestations. A rapid response plan is currently being developed for the entire county that would have a containment plan if one of our lakes should become infested. We also have some strategies for mitigation and management. There are a few lakes in Hubbard County that are treated annually.

Sitz stated last year's program included the participation of twenty-one lakes. We got a grant from the DNR. The total dollar amount of this program was \$142,645.00. \$35,000.00 of that came from the county. \$64,000.00 came from lake associations and by the residents. \$36,000.00 came from townships and cities, and just under \$8,000.00 from the DNR grant. That gave us the ability to do 6,660 hours of inspections and conduct 10,664 inspections throughout the county. We also added a watercraft decontamination unit so if someone were to show up in Hubbard County we would be able to decontaminate that boat to eliminate that risk of being contaminated.

Sitz stated most people are aware that zebra mussels have been expanding rapidly throughout the state since the early 2000's. Watercraft movement from the super-spreader lakes like Minnetonka and Mille Lacs, the popular lakes that are infested, closer to us like Gull and Pelican, they are spreading all over the place from those lakes. Prevention is the most effective action. Part of that is protecting watersheds. A lot of new infestations are downstream from an infested water body. The impacts are economic, recreational, and ecological, so everybody is affected. We think it's everybody's responsibility to prevent this from happening. The DNR focus is on containment. They don't have the resources to protect or shield lakes. Their resources are spent on containing the infested waters and trying to keep it there. That's not 100% affective. Our focus is on shielding our waters and watercraft inspections are a vital element of that prevention strategy.

Sitz stated last year just under 10% of the boats that were inspected last came out of infested waters. There's a chance that somebody could have brought something in. There was a case where somebody showed up with a zebra mussel on the back of their boat. We ended up catching that and had it taken care of. On Fish Hook Lake with the help from the money from the city we did 596 inspections, and 285 hours. Our inspection rate of 2.09 per hour is higher than the statewide average, even higher than the metro average of 1.7. It's a busier lake and we had that same number for the boats last in infested waters of 9.5%. We didn't have the resources to do very many days. The inspections were on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. We'd like to continue to do more.

Sitz stated I went through the 2014 tax statements for properties that have frontage on Fish Hook Lake and Fish Hook River that are in the city limits of Park Rapids. The total private market value of those properties is \$39 million. It's not a small amount of property. The taxes paid to just the city was \$271,173.84. The study in Wisconsin indicated a 13% reduction in property values when infested with Eurasian water milfoil. That could be a potential loss of \$35,000.00 in annual tax revenues just for the city. I wanted to try and put some numbers on that figure. Another noteworthy thing is that the riparian property percentage of total tax base is 16.66% of the city's tax base is on the lake and river. It's a pretty good chunk.

Sitz stated we are asking again for the \$2,000.00 like we got last year to help continue to protect the lake. It's vulnerable. It's a popular destination for our area.

Mikesh questioned what is the DNR actually doing to help out with this if you have to apply for grants to solve a problem that they have. Sitz stated we applied for a grant for

\$15,000.00 to help offset the cost to the county. That would be spread out over all of the lakes that we do inspections on. They have an individual grant program for lakes. The results of that just came back. One lake in Beltrami County got those grants. About 98% of their money is spent either on or near infested water bodies. Since we don't have that situation they're not giving a whole lot of money in our direction. There is a possibility of funding through the Outdoor Heritage Council.

Ken Grob stated the DNR gets about \$8 million from the legislature for Aquatic Invasive Species annually. This year that's \$500,000.00 less than they had in the previous two years. About a fourth of that goes for water craft inspection. 92% of their inspection is concentrated on infested lakes. Their strategy is to focus on contaminated and infested lakes. They are asking the rest of the state to shield their lakes. We fit in that category of shielding. We've put together an aggressive program under the direction of the county commissioners. They set up that AIS Task Force for the county that does the water craft inspection program, which is one piece of that. We're trying to fill in to the DNR's strategy.

Grob stated I know there are people who say the DNR ought to be doing this. The DNR only does what the legislature lets them do. We had submitted through our local representative Roger Erickson, he introduced a special amendment last year to give \$300,000.00 to Hubbard County to run a pilot program similar to what we are doing that went all the way through conference committees, negotiated, and the governor agreed to it, and at the last minute he did a line item veto of the bill. It was very disappointing. So we are back to doing the same thing that we have done in the past, which is shielding our lakes in Hubbard County. The DNR does provide AIS specialists. They provide training and other kinds of help besides the \$7,000.00 grant. The DNR only does what the legislature lets them do. Until the legislature decides they are going to do something different, raise some sustainable funds, that get downloaded to local government units, we have to do what we are doing to protect our lakes.

Grob stated those 10,600 hours that was talked about, that's 18% of the total done through the entire state. Under thirty-three of these grants, they did 64,000 hours' worth of inspections. We did almost 18% of those here in Hubbard County. That's good news for Hubbard County. We have a very effective program, well recognized around the state. Last year and what we are doing this year, at the direction of the county commissioners, we have every significant lake in this county, for which we have had watercraft inspections and education programs going. We've had twelve townships participate and all three cities. This is a partnership. Everybody is involved. Everybody will be affected if we get a serious invasive aquatic species in the county. You're a piece of that puzzle. I don't think anybody that lives in the City of Park Rapids would like to see the beach with zebra mussels because you wouldn't be able to swim. Those people that draw water out of the river and water and have docks, they will be clustered with zebra mussels. Anyone who has seen the impact of them would say, you have to do your very best.

Kingsley stated through the state AIS task force we are working at the state level trying to get more sustainable funding going. That is in the background and working and chugging along very slowly. Utke stated that needs to be done. That's the biggest disgrace because when you read the writing of the constitutional amendment it says 33% of the receipts shall be deposited in the clean water fund and may only be spent to protect and enhance and restore water quality. That's \$100 million a year, and they are not doing it.

Grob stated you make a really good point. There are a lot of people very upset over what's happened with that Legacy Amendment. Wildlife gets \$100 million. They are saying our charter says we cannot give it to AIS. The clean water fund is another \$100 million and they are saying no, it can't go for that. Utke stated whatever they may say, it's right there in the constitution amendment, they can't rewrite the constitution. Kingsley stated they are interpreting it very narrowly. Utke stated that's where we all need to put pressure on them because it's a disgrace. Grob stated that happened last year and one of the legislators pressed for it, but the bottom line is the governor said I'm siding with the Outdoor Heritage Council and I'm not allowing anything get the \$100 million except what they recommend. They did end up giving \$4 million to the Initiative Foundation for a five year program, which they will start giving out grants to do pilot programs. Utke questioned is that out of the budget that you are thinking of? Grob stated that came out of the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Grob stated it doesn't solve the problem, which is sustainable funding. A lot of people, including myself, have been pushing for either raise boat and fishing licenses, or out of state licenses. Utke stated we are already paying extra tax, I wouldn't go for anymore raises or increase of fees. Grob stated I'm trying to tell you that I'm just as frustrated as you. But at this point our state legislators and our governor are siding with the fact that those \$2 million are spent the way they want and it's not on AIS. Utke stated that's right and it's not their money. It's spelled out how it's supposed to be. We need to hold their feet to the fire. Grob stated if you asked the people in this room when they voted for that amendment were they thinking we were going to get help on our water? Utke stated that was what it was sold to you as. Grob stated you and I can't solve that, but what we have to do until that gets fixed, we have to protect our lakes. We are doing a good job and we're doing as well as anyone in this state.

Jan Rumpza, President of the Fish Hook Lake Association, stated the way we have to think about it right now is that we have a vested interest in all of our water right here. We are showing them by example how important that is to us. To me, that's why we fund things like this. We have many volunteers that are helping us. Utke stated the last piece of the puzzle is as city residents you have already contributed through the county with their \$35,000.00. The city would be getting hit twice is what it amounts to.

Mikesh stated two years ago when you brought this up to us, we asked you if this was a onetime deal. At that time you said when we get everything up and going, it's onetime, we're not asking for any more money. Here you are back. Grob stated I don't know if I would have translated it that way. It's a one year commitment, because we don't know what's going to happen. I would have thought I would have told you that I have a two to three year window to the legislature to get things fixed, but we have to do this on a year to year basis. Every township I go to they ask the same kind of question and I say, we're not getting any more this year, therefore we have to do it. I don't know what will come next year. At this point, I believe, we have to keep doing what we're doing. It's a one year commitment, and if nothing happens at the state level, and we still feel it's urgent to protect our lakes, then we'll be back here and at every lake association. Potato Lake contributes \$15,000.00 to the program. Long Lake is putting out \$15,000.00. The people on Mantrap are the same way. Those people are paying taxes too and at the same time have to cover their lakes. So \$2,000.00 seems pretty small compared to what one hundred lake residents are doing.

Utke stated we appreciate your efforts 100%. Sitz stated this wouldn't be without match. The lake association is also putting money in. Last year they matched the city contribution by putting in \$2,000.00 on their own. It will be that much and we're shooting for more this year. It's not that we're just asking the city for money, the lake association is coming up with money on their own as well. Todd Township is going to be involved this year as well. Kingsley stated that same argument goes for Nevis and Akeley, and the townships as well. They're paying taxes and they are contributing also. Another thing that we've done is a lake assessment on all of the lakes. According to how many PUDs, resorts, accesses, and Fish Hook is one of the higher ranking ones as far as risks that we see coming into this area. That's why we would to try and increase the coverage of water craft inspections for it. We see it as a very visible one. It gets used.

Konshok stated we got inspected when we put the boat into the lake access. They did a good job. One question I had was I did not put in at the river access in Heartland Park. Are you able to inspect that one as well? Sitz stated we did a couple of days last year. We primarily, with the limited funds for Fish Hook, we did the Highway 71 access because it's busier. Another thing I'm looking at is car counters to try to get an idea of how many vehicles are using an access so I know when to be there. I don't want the inspectors sitting around doing nothing. Konshok stated I'd like you to look at that because my perception is that who primarily uses that access on the river is fishermen. I've seen some pretty impressive boats going in there. For those of us with pontoons and speed boats that ramp is too steep, but it's ideal for fishing. It's worth taking another look at that the idea that fishing boats often are transiting more than the pleasure craft. Grob stated we do volunteer inspections as well so we have a feel for how many are going in at an access. It's much less. Konshok stated I know it's much less, but it seems like every time I go by there's another fishing boat backing in. That's part of the challenge.

Konshok stated I'm not pleased any more than anyone else is to continue to pony up on this. I know you do a good job. When Senator Skoe and Representative Erickson were here for their meeting, you pretty much took over the meeting. They were definitely putting the pressure on the state. Skoe said one possible initiative was to attach funds to the payment in lieu of taxes funds that go to the county for the state owned land for the county to try to use that as an existing vehicle to try to get some money for AIS. He's pretty savvy at that. It's a way to end run around the system. The system as defined by the Legacy Funds, or whatnot, is clearly broken. They acknowledge that.

Grob stated the missing element in the state's strategy is in fact when they're asking Hubbard County to shield their lakes there's no revenue source to go with it. They've got to find a sustainable funding source without a lot more taxes that can be downloaded to the local governments who can then do exactly what we are doing. We've been adamant about not giving it to the DNR so they can do their thing. We want it to go to county government to implement it like we are doing. That will take some time to do. Skoe and Erickson are pretty aggressive in trying to figure that out. Konshok stated that's a credit to you guys because they can see what you guys have been able to do.

A motion was made by Nordberg, seconded by Randall, to approve Resolution #2014-41 Authorizing Proper City Officials to Execute Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Agreement By and Between the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Park Rapids.

Discussion: Nordberg stated this is as close as we can see to predicting a tornado or a catastrophe for us that this is a threat. Other people have suffered losses, and if it comes to us it will be our loss. I think it's a minor step that we can help these people protect us.

Mikesh stated I believe we need to keep pressure on our officials to try and get that money out to us. Utke stated we sat around and said the same thing last year. That's not going to happen. We'd have to knock on their door every day because they just don't listen. They have to do something. They have millions of dollars sitting there specified for that purpose just building up. That's why I have a hard time supporting it. Not because of the effort that goes into this locally. It's because the state's got it and they're just not doing their job. Nordberg stated it's more than a state effort. Other states have this. It's a national problem. Utke stated our state has a funding source, which was sold to the people who voted for it that this is what it was going to support. They are stock piling money and doing other things with it, but they are not taking care of us.

Dick Rutherford stated with \$179 million in that fund as of yesterday and Nancy Stewart will not call you back, and she is the head of it, the DNR is going to spend that money on buying land in the north part of Hubbard County instead of spending it on our lakes. There's something wrong with the people that we have in office. They ought to quit spending it on land and start spending on the lakes and take care of what we have.

The vote was called.

The following Councilmembers voted yes: Konshok, Mikesh, Nordberg, Randall.

The following Councilmembers voted no: Utke.

The motion carried 4-1.

9.2. Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering

Advertisement for Bids for the Heartland Trailhead Project: Brian Hiles stated you have before you a resolution requesting approval of the plans and specs and advertisement for bids for the Heartland Trail Project. This is the second portion of the project that we did last year with the underground utility replacement that we did on Beach Road and Washington Avenue. This portion includes the street construction of Beach Road and Washington Avenue, construction of a parking lot on a city owned lot at the intersection of Beach Road and Washington Avenue. That new parking lot will provide twenty regular and two handicap parking stalls. Also included is construction of the Heartland Trail on the north side of Beach Road, and paving all of the trail from the county side of the project through Red Bridge Park and over to Trunk Highway 71. The last portion of the project is some park lighting, electrical lighting in Red Bridge Park. We have five decorative LED lights with a control box. The style is similar to what was installed on the Main Avenue Project, so it will look similar to those lights. They won't be exactly the same. The lights on Main Avenue didn't come in an LED, and it was requested by city staff to go to an LED light in the park. They will have the plant hangers on them just like in downtown. They will have an outlet on them too to provide some additional electrical service in the park area.

Hiles stated we're requesting a bid opening for March 18th on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the city hall. We can come back to the Council with the bids the following week at the March 25th meeting. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 20th, 2014. That would be all the paving, turf restoration, everything. The contractor would be done and out

of there by June 18th. The estimated cost for the project, the electric and lighting portion is \$34,500.00, and the street, trail, and parking lot portion is \$133,587.00. The street, trail, and paving portion is covered by the DNR grant that the city has attained. There was additional money provided by the DNR through an amendment to the agreement to provide for the paving on the county side of the project, and the paving of the trail from the bridge to where we had initially. We're going to take off with the city portion of the project. It was negotiated with the DNR that there would be some cost saving by having one contractor do all of the paving. They agreed to provide the city some additional funding for that. Above the \$133,000.00 there is an additional \$25,000.00 from the DNR to help offset those costs. That also was for the cost of the land acquisition for the easement. I dropped off a couple of sets of plans for the city this week. There are two sets at city hall. City staff has been through the plans and have signed off on the design portion of the project. We just need the Council's authorization to go ahead and advertise it.

Konshok questioned did we address the issue of height on the lamp posts? The plans show eight foot with the hangers at six feet. That's a little low. Hiles stated the eight feet is what came out of our meeting with city staff. Walker stated that was one of the Park Board recommendations. Konshok questioned what are the poles on Main Avenue? Hiles stated they are fourteen feet. Konshok stated they need to be higher. Mikesh stated especially if you have plants hanging from them. How long will the plants stick around? Fieldsend questioned are the ones at the south end the same height as the ones on the north end? Hiles stated the double light ones are higher. Fieldsend stated we went with the single light ones in the park. Konshok stated at the lowest point it should be at least eight feet.

Hiles stated I can revise that, but that was the direction that we got from city staff. We can go with a similar height of the single light in the downtown area. There will be additional costs for the addition height versus what the estimate has. Konshok stated we'll save that easily in vandalism costs. Utke stated if they are at six feet vandalism would be a problem. They are a little bit out of sight in the evening hours. Did staff talk about that? Are you comfortable with the six? Fieldsend stated this isn't necessarily a young person's park so vandalism would be less because there is nothing there for them to do at night.

Walker stated the reason for having the lights lower was because the Park Board wanted it to be more of a human scale rather than in a commercial district where the lights are going to be higher. It will give it more of an intimate feel. Utke stated I like that idea of the lights but I agree that the plants would be a disaster. Walker stated there aren't plans for there to always be plants. The planters were there so that if there was a need to hang banners or planters for occasions they would be there but we never discussed the option for there to be permanent fixtures on those light fixtures.

Hiles stated the other option would be to leave the shorter lights but remove the plant hangers. Konshok stated I like them but you have to have an eight foot clearance to the bottom of the planter, just from the vandalism standpoint. Otherwise, we'll be repairing and replacing them. Walker stated if you are going to be looking at somebody getting at them, they'll get them at six feet or eight feet.

Cynthia Jones stated in the years that we put the plants on Main Avenue we did have one argument between some folks in the Highway 71 apartments and the apartments on Main Avenue. They did at eight feet take one of the baskets down and crashed it. They can get them at eight feet. But in all of these years we had one basket damaged. Konshok

stated I would argue that's because the poles are higher and it's patrolled more. It's the temptation factor.

Hiles stated I can do it however the Council wants to bid it. McKinney questioned could you have a bid alternate so we could know what the cost is? Hiles stated yes we could bid it as an alternate if you'd like. Konshok stated I would say just raise it. Utke questioned does the Park Board have a plan for flowers once it's done? Konshok stated more or less. Utke stated even if they were eight foot lights, with six foot hanging baskets, with the temptation to swing at them, there's going to be a lot of ground cover with flowers and such. Maybe there'll be more on the ground around the poles so the baskets won't be a big deal. Hiles stated I would think that in a park setting you'd have more greenery and plants already there as opposed to having baskets only like downtown. Konshok stated I like the idea. One of the reasons we suggested putting those there was to tie Red Bridge Park thematically to Highway 34 and to downtown. It's all part of the bigger plan. It will work we just have to raise it up just so it's not too easy to grab. All the kids in town are going to transit through there on their bikes. We're just trying to prevent people from messing with the planters as they go by.

Hiles stated just so you know there will be additional cost for the extra height. Mikesh stated pay for it now or pay for it again and again when they wreck stuff.

Nordberg questioned do the plans include anything, or is it possible to include anything, for the pad for the old red bridge. Hiles stated we didn't include that. We thought it would be a cheaper alternative for the city to do that on their own with a local person. Utke stated I don't think we need to go through the whole engineering process for that. Fieldsend stated we determined to wait on the bridge. Walker stated the Park Board will be discussing some of those remaining items, the red bridge stuff and the landscaping plans at their next meeting. Hiles stated I see a lot of cost savings by contracting with someone local. Fieldsend stated there are several pads that have to be done in there for picnic tables.

McKinney questioned do you want alternate bids or do you want to go with eight feet. Konshok stated I'm open to either. I feel strongly that it has to be done, but if you want to take a look at the costs that's fine. Utke stated the alternate option would be a ten foot pole with an eight foot crossbar. Then the bottom of the basket would be at six feet. Konshok suggested twelve feet. Hiles stated the lights will be along the trail, centered about four feet off the trail. Utke questioned are these lamps the ones that go up in the air, or does it shine down? Hiles stated it's a street lamp typical to the single one on Main Avenue. They don't shine up, they shine out. Burlingame stated they'll look similar to the lamps on south Main, but they will be LED. They will shine down and out. There are reflectors in them that allow the light to shine down. Utke stated ten foot is about as high as you want to go in that type of area. You can still put your brackets at eight foot. Konshok stated they design the lighting with the poles at any height, but as was pointed out it's just more expensive the higher you go. Hiles stated we can go ten feet with the brackets at nine. There's nothing saying that we have to have that two foot separation, and then put the outlet at six feet.

Konshok questioned is there a lock box on the electrical outlet. Hiles stated the circuits that the outlets are on will be controlled by the main circuit box so they'll be off pretty much all the time until someone requests electricity in the park. Then the city can turn them on. There will be two separate circuits run down there, and then all the lights are

run off of a photo cell. The LEDs provide a more clean, white light. With the same wattage it seems to light it up a lot more. We're not trying for complete coverage, it just gives some ambience down there. Konshok stated part of it is to make it welcoming. If it's too dark it affects the perception of security.

Cynthia Jones questioned is there additional power in the park if we wanted to do a band? Is there enough power to run something like that? Hiles stated as part of this project we have just 110 service down there right now. If there is a need in the future for additional that would have to be run in there. Konshok stated we talked about that as part of the redo of the beach house to hopefully provide a deck-type structure around the building, and provide an outside panel to support that type of thing. Jones stated in the meantime we wouldn't have anything. Utke questioned where is the control box going to be mounted? Hiles stated it will be on the west side of the beach house building. Everything will be underground in conduit so there won't be overhead wiring, except for the power that is already there now will come off that pole that's on the corner of Beach Road and Washington Avenue and go underground from there over. The meter, circuit box, and the control box for the lights will all be within that garbage enclosure there. Utke stated so there will be five poles along that sidewalk that all will have power to them, 20 amp service. I'm thinking of stuff that would end up in the park. I don't think there has ever been a need for 220, so much as a good, solid source of 110. Hiles stated we set it up so that the first third, fifth lights are on one circuit, and the second and fourth are on another one. Two of the lights are on one circuit and three are on another, as far as the outlet. That way it can handle a little bit bigger load. Konshok stated it will be good 110 coverage. Utke stated looking at what has been down in that park in the past number of years, if it's improved, hopefully there will be more actively, that's very limited power. Konshok stated the idea was if there would be larger scale productions, needing more power that will be tied into the beach house project. There's room on the east side of the beach house to do a large stage. It would be better to have a large bank of power on the side of the building. The stuff on the pole was only meant to be supplemental spot power. Utke stated if they tried something big at this point it isn't going to work.

A motion was made by Konshok, seconded by Nordberg, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution #2014-42 Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for Bids for the Heartland Trailhead Project, with the change to ten foot light poles with nine foot hangers.

Discussion: Hiles stated the water plant project is on schedule. They have the majority of the piping done. Most everything that is in is painted. It should be up and running by the end of the month by the substantial completion date. There is nothing hindering the same volume for the production of water at this point.

9.3. Resolution Appointing a Temporary Office Clerk for the City of Park Rapids: McKinney stated we have gone through the process as authorized by the Council to secure a temporary employee during Stuemke's medical leave. She is undergoing treatment. Things are better, but it's unlikely that she will return for some time. We went through the process as authorized by the Personnel Committee. The recommendation is that we offer Janel Stewart, at \$13.00 an hour, with the adoption of the presented resolution. She is available to start as of tomorrow. **A motion was made by**

Utke, seconded by Konshok, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution #2014-43 Appointing Janel Stewart as Temporary Office Clerk for the City of Park Rapids.

9.4. Resolution Authorizing Proper City Officials to Execute the Paperwork Associated with the Labor Union Agreement for the Rapids Spirits Employees:

McKinney stated we have the union agreement with the Rapids Spirits employees. It is consistent with the report that the Personnel Committee made to the Council. I'm delighted that they have given us a lot more flexibility in our management options. We recommend that the city enter into the agreement that has been ratified by the union. We're the last step in the process. **A motion was made by Utke, seconded by Konshok, to approve Resolution #2014-44 Authorizing Proper City Officials to Execute the Paperwork Associated with the Labor Union Agreement for the Rapids Spirits Employees.**

Discussion: Nordberg questioned on #7 is there any procedure for doing that already, the Sunday work hours? McKinney stated no. We aren't authorized to sell liquor on Sundays, nor do we have any other business at that location that would involve those employees. They asked that we anticipate the authorization to enter into some terms in that regard. Our position was let's wait and see if we do it and what the terms are, and if that's the case we agree to go to the table and talk about the Sunday issue. We didn't want to agree to something that we didn't know what the terms would be. Konshok stated this allows us to do that without opening up the agreement. McKinney stated exactly. It's an open issue to that extent. Mikesh stated we had a lot of back and forth discussion with this group. They came in asking for the world. Through a lot of McKinney's help, and back and forth we finally got to this. They're happy and we're happy and it's workable.

The vote was called.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: McKinney stated the public works people are doing a great job in dealing with this un-typical situation with the weather and the frost line. Yesterday we had one-hundred and twenty properties that had a problem getting water because of the frost. We have prepared an open letter to the citizens from the mayor that makes the point that while we are doing all we can to help, it really is the responsibility of the property owner to help us help them. We need to be careful to not say just on the outside chance you might have a problem, turn your water on, because that puts an unnecessary burden on our water supply. This letter addresses that and it also tells them how to deal with the monitoring on their own. There are a lot of people willing to do that but they needed more instructions. The citizens have been very cooperative. When you've had water without interruption for years and suddenly you don't, your patience can run thin. Yet they have been great and understanding. I've been told when it gets warmer it gets worse because it drives the frost down and it's already at 96 inches deep. We are confronted with more than just a casual problem. We're dealing with it. The crews are doing great. The way we deal with it will be a work in process.

McKinney stated we do have the construction at the new well. We talked to the contractor to get that done as quickly as we can, yet we must realize just because the construction is done there is still preparation that can take weeks. We're thinking the soonest we'll be on line with that is the middle of March. We don't have any reason to be concerned about our quantity of water. It is not an endless source, and we want the people to be aware of that. We appreciate getting that temporary employee because that slot is the one that works with the water bills and notices. We have decided not to send disconnect notices because we have other things to do.

Burlingame stated the thawing machine is supposed to be here on Thursday. We're going to have to learn how to use this machine too. It may not be any better than what the locals are using. McKinney stated we want to remind the residents that they need to come in and register for the discount program that we are proposing. It isn't an after the fact thing. The other thing that we are doing is encouraging them to get ahold of the people that can help them the most and then we'll do what we can if that doesn't work.

Konshok questioned are we cutting this too close? If water drops below 36 degrees then they start running the water. Is that too tight a tolerance? What did you base that on? Burlingame stated that's the number the other cities are using. Once you get below 38 degrees, then keep an eye on that. Konshok stated my biggest concern is that people aren't home to check it three times a day. We want to make sure we're not cutting it too close. McKinney stated we hope they understand that this is a suggestion. It's their responsibility to do what they feel comfortable with. Konshok stated absolutely, but dealing with the consequences falls on the city as well as the individual.

Nordberg questioned is there any risk with our water towers? Burlingame stated I climbed both of them today and took pictures. We still have active motion. Nordberg questioned is there an ice skim at all? Burlingame stated there always is in the winter time. Towers ball up with ice from the outside in. Because of the motion from water going up and down in the towers, that's all busted up. That's what we're looking for. We had a lot of breakage which indicates the water is flowing. Once the pressure transducer flat lines we know that the tower is capped over and then you have a bigger problem. We also have a contact for people to come and thaw it. There have been quite a few frozen towers in Minnesota. The city of Orr is shutting down their tower. They're going to pump directly into the system. We're trying to prepare for the worst. There are a lot of towns that have their water lines freezing up. Where the water lines are 32 degrees or below we are running the water hydrants to keep our mains open.

11. DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES: Walker stated I'm just back from the Blandin experience. It was a good week and there was good city representation. I'll bring some of that training back to what I do.

Scott Olson stated there have been a few maintenance issues at the store. Some of the neon letters in the store's sign are burnt out and are being fixed. The compressor valve went out on the number one cooler, which was repaired the same day.

Fieldsend stated he was also at the Blandin retreat. He added I hope to help the community with the things that he learned. It was a good experience. We've had trouble with the bobcat lately. We've spent some money on it to keep it going.

Eilers stated there was a homicide at the old Middle School. We have a gentleman in custody and he'll be arraigned tomorrow morning on murder charges. We got a lot of help from the sheriff's office, the BCA lab, Becker County, and our local officers. We put about twenty-five people out on the streets and we ended up solved it in twenty-eight hours. It's a sad situation, but we do have someone in jail.

12. MINUTES/REPORTS/INFORMATION: There were no comments.

13. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Nordberg stated Randall and I did go to Blandin too. There were twenty-four people from Park Rapids. There were so many people signed up and qualified and because of that the alumina are anxious to get more people through it that they may have another one. It's quite an experience in leadership.

Konshok stated I'd like to echo the kudos to Burlingame and his crew for everything that they are doing.

14. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Utke, seconded by Nordberg, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

[seal]

Mayor Pat Mikesh

ATTEST:

Margie M. Vik
City Clerk