

Pursuant to due call and proper notice thereof, a meeting of the Breckenridge City Council was held on August 5, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, Breckenridge, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Russell Wilson; Council Members Beth Meyer, Evie Fox, Reed Johnson, James Jawaski, Chris Vedder and Scott Wermerskirchen. Finance Officer, Isaac Jordahl and City Attorney Jason Butts.

Members Absent: None.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Johnson moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried unanimously.

Open Discussion:

- Jeff Paur was present and wanted to inform the Council of some comments he has been hearing lately of nobody wanting to come to Breckenridge after 5:00 to eat or drink. Wahpeton side is busy with people eating/drinking/gambling but when he drives over to Breckenridge, there are very few cars in the lots. He is wondering what is going on?

The Wilkin has not contacted the City about any slowing of business or any other concerns. Council Member Wermerskirchen is going to visit with one of the individuals whom said they will not come here to see what the reason is.

- Jerry Czichotzki was present and would like the City to purchase the old depot building. It is currently owned by Burlington Northern. Not sure if it is for sale or not. They will bring it up when they meet the railroad again regarding the crossings.

Motion by Council Member Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following:

- A. Motion approving the minutes from the regular City Council meeting on July 15, 2024, and closed meeting of July 15, 2024.
- B. Motion approving the filing of the Public Utilities Commission minutes from July 15, 2024.
- C. Motion approving a Bingo License for Kraz Dance Parent Organization.
- D. Motion approving a Bingo License for the Cowgirl Volleyball Boosters Club.

Council Member Wermerskirchen offered Resolution No. 13452-38/2024, "**A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE BILLS AND CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE, MINNESOTA,**" and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried unanimously.

Finance Committee: No updates.

Public Works Committee: No updates.

Police Committee Chair Wermerskirchen gave the following updates:

- LEC issues. Got a new bill from the County and going through it due to various expense incurred.
- Getting closer on some new Police Officer hires.

Personnel Committee:

- They did one round of interviews, an offer was made but they declined due to their family not wanting to move. The committee decided to readvertise again.
- Jason Butts explained that Lori Conway is disputing her final pay. Her original last day was August 3rd but she left on July 23rd instead. According to the MN Dept. of Labor, if a salaried employee leaves in the middle of a pay period, they should be paid hourly for that period. Nothing is specifically stated in our Personnel Policy Handbook so the Dept. of Labor rules were followed. She is asking to be paid her full salary and referenced that the Mayor and Council Member Vedder told her it was okay to leave. Both indicated that was not true. Motion by Council Member Wermerskirchen to keep what was done and only pay for the time she actually worked. Seconded by Council Member Johnson and carried unanimously.
- Lori Conway is also requesting to get paid out for her remaining vacation. Since she left prior to her 30-day notice, it put her departure as NOT in “good standing” according to the Personnel Policy Handbook. Many unfinished items were left for other staff to take care of as well. According to the handbook policy, that is grounds for denying being paid out any unused accrued vacation. In an email to the Council Members, she referenced different situations as past precedence. All of the situations she mentioned, it was her making the decision on how it was handled as they were the duties of the City Administrator. Without one, the Council will need to make that decision. Council Member Vedder moved to pay Lori Conway her remaining vacation and make it go away and then to relook at the policy. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried with Members Wermerskirchen and Fox voting against the motion.
- The City received a check from Cross Lake for the August medical premium for Lori Conway that she had negotiated with them. It is not in any policy, but past presence is that if you work one day in the month, you are allowed to stay on the City’s health insurances. A previous Police Officer had to come back from Florida in order to work one day into the month so he could stay on the City’s insurance. Ms. Conway did not work any days in August. She would have the ability to go through Cobra and purchase the insurance if she chooses. Council Member Wermerskirchen moved to end her health benefits as of July 31st and send the check back to Cross Lake with a note on how

to proceed with the proper procedures (Cobra). Seconded by Council Member Vedder and carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

A. City Attorney: Doing lots of City Admin stuff.

B. Director of Public Services:

- Street Improvement Project. Work has started and every Thursday they will be meeting with CSI on upcoming scheduling. Signs were placed in residents' yards along Oak Street which are killing the grass. They were put up quite early and people are able to lean up against a tree if they like.
- There is another meeting tomorrow with the RRVWSP. They have the final numbers on what it will cost the City. Neil will bring info back to the Council.

C. Chief of Police:

- Hannah is going to start taking minutes at the Police Committee meetings.
- At the tail end of completing the hiring process of a Part-time and Full-time Officer.
- Railroad – continuing discussions with a possible beacon on the southside of Hwy 75 notifying cars of the crossing being blocked.
- There is a possible grant available to put in an overpass. It has a September 23rd deadline. Will not make this one but would be nice to get the information in case there is another opportunity next year.
- National Night Out tomorrow if anyone wants to help volunteer.

Motion by Council Member Jawaski to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Vedder and carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

RUSSELL WILSON, Mayor

ISAAC JORDAHL, Finance Officer