

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY OF CROSSLAKE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023  
5:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake met in a Workshop Session on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, Aaron Herzog, Jackson Purfeerst, Sandy Farder, and Marcia Seibert-Volz. Also in attendance were City Administrator Mike Lyonais, Park Director TJ Graumann, Zoning Administrator Pete Gansen, Public Works Director Pat Wehner, Police Chief Erik Lee, Police Sergeant Jake Maier, and Fire Chief Chip Lohmiller. There were three people in the audience.

Dave Nevin called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. and stated that the intent of the meeting was for the Council to discuss things and no one else would be allowed to speak. Mr. Nevin stated that he had asked the clerk to notice this meeting as a special meeting because he wanted to take action on the Jamie Boller property and to pay him to repair his yard from CSAH 66 construction damage. Marcia Seibert-Volz stated that action cannot take place at a workshop. It was the consensus of the Council to approve payment to Jamie Boller in the amount of \$3,573 to repair the grade adjustment on his property.

Sandy Farder stated that she picked parking for her topic for this meeting because the city could lose parking spaces with the proposed CSAH Pedestrian/Intersection Improvement Project. After talking to people and getting more information, she stated that parking will be taken care of and there is no need to discuss the issue. Ms. Farder could not give specifics at this time.

Aaron Herzog stated that he has heard rumors of the Post Office moving and a parking lot replacing that building. Dave Nevin stated that Reed's Market would like the Post Office to move next to their store. A discussion ensued regarding acquiring the property where the Post Office sits now, how many other interested parties would want it, and how much it would cost. Dave Nevin stated that a road could be built behind the hotel and come out on the Post Office site.

Dave Nevin stated that his topic was acquiring property and asked the Council what they should do when property becomes available to purchase. Mr. Nevin stated that several years ago, Jim Anderson offered to sell the City a piece of property and the City said no and now the City wishes they had it. Sandy Farder stated that the Council should consider all opportunities.

Aaron Herzog's topic was ethics, specifically the recent hiring of the labor attorney. Mr. Herzog stated that the Council should have had a contract to review and that a background check should have been done. Marcia Seibert-Volz stated that the Council directed City Attorney Brad Person to prepare a contract. Dave Nevin and Sandy Farder agreed. Aaron Herzog stated that the Council had agreed to keep the former labor attorney on until the union contract was settled and then he received a notice from the new attorney saying that the mediation session had been cancelled. Mr. Herzog asked who gave her permission to change things. Dave Nevin stated that the former attorney chose to remove himself from the proceedings and offered to send all of the files to Susan, the new labor attorney. Mr. Herzog stated that the Council needs to slow down and be careful how

they proceed. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding conversations that Council Members had with the attorneys and how the attorneys represented the City.

Aaron Herzog stated that his next topic to discuss at this meeting was the job description for the City Administrator. Mr. Herzog spoke with former labor attorney, Jake, and he stated that Marcia contacted him and told him what changes she wanted and then he sent those changes to the Council as a discussion item. The Council received the email 20 minutes before the Council Meeting and many did not read it before the motion to approve it took place. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Herzog stated that he will bring it back to the Council so that the motion can be rescinded because the new job description takes away the City Administrator's ability to speak with other union representatives. Dave Nevin stated that the unions should speak directly to the labor attorney. Marica Seibert-Volz stated that the Council is the Personnel Committee so they should be involved in all union discussions. Dave Nevin stated that the new attorney represents the Council and they need representation.

Jackson Purfeerst stated that his topic for this meeting was the side-by-side that the Park Department was going to sell and that the Police Department wanted to acquire. Dave Nevin stated that it should be sold.

Aaron Herzog also had the topic of Fire Chief salary on the meeting notice and stated that the Council should probably have a workshop to discuss what to do. A discussion ensued regarding the Chief's current pay and limiting his hours. Dave Nevin asked if the City wants to be the cutting edge for training for the region, state or country. Mr. Nevin stated that a full-time Fire Chief could turn into a full-time fire department. Mr. Herzog stated that the Chief has worked over 2000 hours in a year which already makes him a full-time employee and eligible for benefits. Marcia Seibert-Volz suggested that the Chief be limited to 20 hours of administrative duties and then it would not be considered full-time. The City Administrator offered to clarify the issue and the Mayor told him he could not speak. Sandy Farder stated that the Council has to be prepared for the Chief to quit if the Council does not compensate him for his duties. Jackson Purfeerst stated that the Chief was offered \$62,500. Aaron Herzog suggested that the Council ask for all of the wage information from all areas within Crow Wing County. Dave Nevin stated that he is concerned about the hours that the Fire Chief puts in versus the hours he uses for his training company and whether they overlap. Mr. Nevin stated that there is conflict there. Mr. Nevin stated that the fire department used to train one Wednesday a month and now they train every Wednesday and that the Council did not approve that. A discussion ensued regarding firefighters attending the funeral of a former Crosslake Fire Chief and receiving compensation. Dave Nevin did not think that was ethical.

Marcia Seibert-Volz stated that she did not have anything listed on the notice but she would like the city sign to be finished.

Dave Nevin stated that obtaining land had been a constructive topic this evening. A discussion ensued regarding affordable housing and how a larger population affects the services that the City provides. Dave Nevin brought up the possible need to have two police officers on duty at a time, during busy times, or with the increase of short-term rentals. Mr. Nevin asked for the Council's consensus to work with Jake Maier on the police schedule. A discussion ensued regarding short-term rentals.

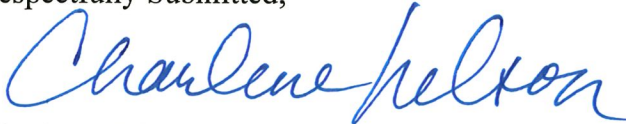
Jackson Purfeerst asked if anyone had an update on the Loon Center. A discussion ensued regarding the Loon Center and the grant money they received and the need for the roundabout in the City if the Loon Center was not built.

Sandy Farder stated that she tabled something at the last Council meeting and thought the Council could do that more rather than rush into making decisions.

Dave Nevin reported that he attended the County Board meeting and the County approved the roundabout. He had asked the County to delay the decision for a month because he had been getting calls from people who were opposed to the roundabout. Mr. Nevin stated that an interesting statistic from that meeting was that 35% people are initially in favor of a roundabout. A year after completion, 75% people are satisfied with the roundabout.

The Mayor closed the workshop at 6:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charlene Nelson  
City Clerk