



Regular City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 18, 2025  
Lakeland City Hall

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## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**City Council Present: Council Member Millard & Council Member Wagner**

**City Staff Present: City Clerk Michelle Elsner, City Engineer Erik Henningsgard & Public Works/Water Department  
Craig Billerbeck**

**Via Zoom: Mayor Craggs, City Attorney Dave Snyder, & Zoning Consultant Emily Herold**

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:01 PM**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Recited**
3. **ADOPT AGENDA** Council Member Wagner motioned to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Millard, all ayes motion was carried.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA –** Council Member Millard motioned to adopt the consent agenda minus item C. Seconded by Council Member Wagner, all ayes motion was carried.
  - A. Approve February 18, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
  - B. Monthly List of Claims
  - C. Approve Tru Green Contract for 2025 – Pulled for discussion – After discussion on the safety of the Tru Green chemicals with Craig Billerbeck from Public Works Council Member Millard made a motion to approve the 2025 contract for Tru Green. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wagner, all ayes motion was carried.
  - D. Approve the 2025 Maintenance Contract for the Washington Conservation District
  - E. Resolution 2025-06 Approving the Conditional Use Permit Amendment for Cheep Storage
  - F. Approve the FEMA Grant extension
5. **AGENCY REPORTS**
  - A. Law Enforcement Report
  - B. Fire Department Report
  - C. Financial Report – ABDO
  - D. Zoning Report – MSA Professionals
  - E. Engineering Report – Erik Henningsgard – SEH Engineering
  - F. Public Works/Water Department Report – People Service
  - G. Animal Control Report – Companion Animal Control
  - H. Building Permit Report – Rum River Construction Consultants
6. **OPEN FORUM** (Public Comments, Presentations and Petitions)

**PLEASE KEEP COMMENTS TO NO MORE THAN 5 MINUTES**
7. **PUBLIC HEARING** (Discussion and Action by the City Council will follow each Public Hearing after closing)
8. **NEW CITY BUSINESS**
  - A. Discussion on the 2024 Audit – John Stachel from Abdo came and spoke about the audit findings for the 2024 Audit. Mayor Craggs motioned to approve the audit findings from ABDO. A recommendation was made to implement documentation for controlling the cash payments and a recommendation for an EFT policy for the City. Council Member Millard seconded the motion, all ayes motion was carried.

B. Discussion and Action on Quinnell Avenue Project Bids - The Contract was awarded to Valley Paving for a total cost of \$397,753.25. Mayor Craggs motioned to award the bid cost from Valley Paving. Council Member Millard seconded the motion, all ayes motion was carried. The project is slated to begin in mid-June 2025

C. Discussion on City Hall Safety/Alternative meeting location/ City office sign – Erik Henningsgard from SEH was present to discuss the limited visual assessment on the building. It seems the cracking in the building have increased and need to be monitored regularly. There was discussion on what type of inspection would be helpful to assess the building.

Dietrich Wilke spoke to the possibility of the meetings being held at the library and the type of equipment that would be needed in order to set it up as a conference room setting with fewer video options and camera's. There are 3 levels of A/V equipment options ranging from \$1900.00 to 700.00 for equipment along with quotes for set up time and Dietrich's meeting prep time. Council would be sharing microphones like in a conference room setting.

There was discussion regarding a 2 sided sign at 1190 St Croix Trail S., noting the location of the city office. The Clerk was directed to get another quote on a 2-sided sign.

D. Discussion on Lakeland Beach Pathway installation – Washington Conservation District he recommended the Tru Grid system for the pathway to the picnic tables and the grill. The materials will cost about 1200.00 plus installation costs. These costs would not include the tree removal for pathway clearance.

E. Vacant City Council Position 2 of the 5 candidates were present at the meeting to answer questions.

The candidates are as follows (Bio's were copied from candidates submissions)

Taylor Vaillencourt – Was not available My wife of 43 years moved to lakeland 41 years ago in our "starter home" still here and loving it. We raised one daughter I retired 4 years ago from the met council after 42 years as an operating engineer and union rep/ contract negotiator, it it here I was trained in group dynamics and consensus based negotiations, our labor- management teams were formed in the early 90's and were very innovative at that time My first involvement with the city was in the late 90's as an employee of beanies i was on the parking task force..... The results were very one sided and disappointing City interests

Why is the city so business unfriendly? I witnessed it, know many business owners and it's real

The beach is treated as a burden not an asset, the outhouse went over twice during the flood! Years of erosion, exposed fabric I'm a riverrat and our city is not in a good light because of this "eyesore"

Traffic patterns in old lakeland are dangerous and need to be addressed, coordination with the roundy"s would be a start

City hall needs to be relooked at, what does different levels of renovations mean? Gotta haves versus wanna haves we you to say when i was involved with large proiects at work

There's more Lastly I came up 30+ votes short in the last election so I do have some residents support

Craig Morris via Zoom - Craig is a Human Resources, Labor Relations, and Public Administration practitioner with over twenty-five years of experience in the private and public sectors. Craig has been elected or appointed on the Boards of Directors for many Minnesota community organizations, commissions, and councils. He earned a BA in Public Administration & Economics from the University of St. Thomas, an MSM from Strich University, and Hamline Law. That latter enables Craig to fulfill requirements for Mediation as a Qualified Neutral Under the Minnesota Supreme Court Rule 114. Craig and his wife have two married adult children and four grandchildren.

**Mr. Morris withdrew his interest because he believes the other candidates are very qualified for a council seat.**

Canaan Martin via Zoom - I received my Bachelors of Architecture from the University of Arizona and worked for a private firm in Tucson, Arizona for about 3 years.

After that, I studied at the University of Houston and received my Masters of Science in Space Architecture.

I then landed a contract position at NASA Johnson Space Center in the Habitability Design Center working on a number of projects throughout the administration.

After a few years and some substantial changes in funding and direction, I left to complete my Architectural Licensure in Colorado working on local government projects as well as private design and construction.

As the pandemic began, my travel-heavy lifestyle was forced in a new direction so I packed up and moved to live

with my then-girlfriend / now-wife in Woodbury, MN.

There, I invented the Garden Cruiser Mobile Greenhouse and focused on teaching others to hydroponically grow vegetables and leafy greens all year round inside their homes or garages. When cannabis became legalized, our customers tripled - all wanting to learn to grow it hydroponically in their homes.

As Garden Cruisers grew, we needed a storefront to better house inventory and take care of our customers, so we purchased the old bank building at 177 St. Croix Trl. S. in Lakeland Shores.

In order to meet the demands of our customers and provide the seeds they needed, we got licensed by the newly created Office of Cannabis Management, which enabled us to sell all types of cannabis products and led us to create Green Canopy Inc.

Currently, I am Principal for Green Canopy and I continue building Garden Cruisers.

Qualifications:

In total I have had 7 years of Architectural education which, at many times, focused on large scale city design and master planning.

I am excellent at reading and comprehending ordinances, codes, & law.

I have a solid understanding of the ways of government professionalism.

I can easily separate my personal desires and beliefs from the topics and decisions that need to be made unbiasedly.

I maintain a busy but flexible schedule and can, more-or-less, make myself available just about any time for council activity or the needs of Lakeland's constituents.

Interest:

Since moving to Lakeland, I have pushed to get myself and other citizens more involved in city government.

I have addressed the council on reestablishing the Planning Commission multiple times and continue to desire for it to be established and to be directly involved.

Initially, I had a bit of frustration with the speed and quality of the decision making process here in Lakeland and, though I see much improvement lately, I believe I can assist in streamlining, clarifying, and finalizing the important issues and topics brought before council by both government and civilian sources.

I am very eager to learn more about, and more directly engage in, the political process here in Lakeland and help better shape our community for its current and future citizens.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Corey Gordon – No Bio Provided

Brad Holz -. I have been a property owner in Lakeland since 2009 and lived here on and off since. I am a licensed Realtor, a Ski Tech at Afton Alps, have a handful of properties up and down the river valley, former VP of Information Technology, have two daughters in Stillwater School District, and lived in the St. Croix Valley for 20 years.

The Council will decide at the April 15, 2025 Council Meeting.

## **9. OLD CITY BUSINESS**

**A.** Discussion on Ruth Ann Brunkhorst (Former Clerk and Zoning Administrator) Memorial – Ruth Ann was the City Clerk and Zoning Administrator for the city of Lakeland for many years. Mr. Morris feels it would be an appropriate memorial to honorably make 4<sup>th</sup> St N. Just a sign on the corner like Dave Erickson Drive by the plaza. Attorney Snyder recommends that when the ceremony is scheduled, it as an open meeting so that quorum would be able to be in attendance. Staff is going to work with Mr. Morris and Attorney Snyder on the resolution. Gary Brunkhorst thanked the city council for doing this designation.

**B.** Planning Commission - The Council requested some information into the newsletter for April to see if we can generate more interest. Attorney Snyder stated that it would take an ordinance change in order to reinstate the planning commission. The old ordinance could be used as a template for the new ordinance.

**C.** Personnel Committee Recommendation – This is specific to the situation of the current PTO and vacation policy which does not limit on the hours to accrue. This is a liability to the city because if the clerk was to resign it would be up to the city to pay out the majority of the accrued time. ABDO is helping to come up with a reasonable cap on hours and a dollar amount for a 1 time payout to Michelle, she currently has over 400 hours of sick and vacation time on the books.

**10. CITY STAFF REPORTS** Council Member Millard asked about the emergency siren that errored and didn't shut down at the last test from the county. We are looking to purchase a new main board for the north siren.

**11. CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR REPORTS –** Mayor Craggs gave an explanation of the cable commission meeting. We are allowed to charge a franchise fee of 5% to the provider. It is projected that Lakeland will receive approximately 22,000.00 in franchise fees that is unrestricted funds to the city.

**12. ADJOURN –** Council Member Wagner motioned to adjourn at 9:29 PM. Seconded by Council Member Millard, all ayes, the motion was carried.