City of Lake St. Croix Beach
City Hall
16455 20th Street South
Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043

Staff:
City Clerk-Administrator
Sue Schuler
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
Amy Truhlar

City Hall Hours:
9:30 – 1:30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
Call for an appointment at other times
Phone Number: (651) 436-7031
Fax: (651) 436-8310
Email: lscb@comcast.net
Website: www.lscb.govoffice.com

January, 2016
Issue No. 517

Lake St. Croix Beach

The official posting place for Lake St. Croix Beach city meetings is at the posting board near the front door at City Hall.
A majority of the City Council may be in attendance at any city meeting.

January Calendar

Note: All city meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and held at the City Hall except as noted otherwise.

Friday, January 1, 2016
New Year's Day – City Offices Closed

Saturday, January 9
City Council, Work session – 9:00 a.m.

Monday, January 11
City Council Meeting (2nd Monday due to Holiday)

Wednesday, January 13
LSCV Fire District at Fire Hall

Thursday, January 14
Recycle Day

Monday, January 18
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – City Offices Closed

Monday, January 25
Alliance Meeting – 4:30 p.m. at Fire Station

Thursday, January 28

2016 Approved City Budget – Pages 2-3

2015 approved budget is included for comparison

(Please Remember)

Placing your address on your home is a Public Safety concern and an ordinance of Lake St Croix Beach as well, Please note that if you have an emergency your professionals rely on that to get to you in a timely fashion. Please refer to the ordinance for it will be enforced heavily in 2016, and can involve an administrative fine to residents.

House Numbers

Ordinance 505.045 It shall be the duty of the owner, lessor and/or occupant of every house, apartment, duplex, industrial, commercial, or other building to have house and/or building numbers clearly displayed thereon, either by affixing to said building or sign post . . . The numbers shall not be less than 3 inches in height, in a contrasting color to the base and be so placed as to be easily and clearly seen from the street when approached from either direction.

Winter Parking Restrictions

On street parking, is prohibited throughout city:

- For more than 24 consecutive hours from Nov. 1 thru April 1
- After snowfall, for 48 hours or until the snow is removed.
- Where posted "No Parking"

The above conditions require that vehicles must be *OFF THE PAVED STREET SURFACE.*
Citations may be issued for vehicles that obstruct snowplow routes.

Snow Plowing

During storms with heavy snowfall, the drivers will concentrate on keeping primary routes open for travel. After the storm subsides, all streets will be plowed full width. Garbage cans and recycling carts must be removed from the edge of the street as soon as possible after pickup.

Do not park cars in the street during this time so the snowplow drivers can plow the full width of the street.

Condolences to the family of Margaret Lonegran, long-time resident of Lake St. Croix Beach, daughter of city's first mayor, William Pettitt.

2015 - 2016

2016
LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH
FINAL ADOPTED GENERAL FUND
BUDGET

1			
2			
3		2015	2016
4		Adopted	Adopted
5		Budget	Budget
6	**REVENUES**		
7	Property Taxes	$ 471,478.22	$ 472,519.00
8	Business Licenses	$ 900.00	$ 900.00
9	Liquor & Cigarette Licenses	$ 1,525.00	$ 1,525.00
10	Animal Licenses & Fees	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
11	Boat & Mooring Permits	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,500.00
12	Park Permits & Fees	$ 18,000.00	$ 24,000.00
13	Newsletter Sponsors	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
14	Assessment Searches	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
15	Applications: Zoning & Land Development	$ 500.00	$ 3,500.00
16	Building Permit & Fees	$ 1,000.00	$ 2,000.00
17	Court Fines & fees	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
18	Investment Income	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
19	Cleanup Day Fees		$ 2,000.00
20	Miscellaneous	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
21	Recycle Grants & Aids	$ 4,200.00	$ 4,200.00
22	Cable Commission Grants & Aids	$ 7,000.00	$ 10,000.00
23	Pettitt Park Improvement Fund		
24	Pettitt Park Playground Slide Grants		
25	South Bluff Project Grant		
26	Other Grants/Rebates Received		
27	Heritage Day Donations	$ 150.00	$ 150.00
28	Insurance Dividend	$ 1,169.00	$ 1,169.00
29	Other Reimbursements		
30	2014 Flood Expense Reimbursements		
31	PERA Aid	$ 248.00	$ 248.00
32	Assessments, Retired Water Sys. Bonds		
33	Local Government Aid/MVHC	$ 72,198.00	$ 73,735.00
34	**TOTAL REVENUES**	**$ 588,768**	**$ 606,846**
35			
36	**EXPENDITURES**		
37	**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**		
38	Council Compensation:		
39	Includes Gross Wages, Withholdings, PERA	$ 8,786.70	$ 8,787.00
40	City Hall Staff Compensation:	$ -	$ -
41	Inclues Gross Wages, Withholdings, Benefits	$ 122,232.00	$ 129,513.00
42	Unemployment Compensation	$ -	
43	Flood	$ -	$ -
44	ROW Issues	$ -	$ 20,000.00
45	Elections	$ 470.00	$ 4,000.00
46	Financial Audit	$ 6,515.00	$ 6,515.00
47	Assessing Services	$ 7,828.00	$ 7,150.00
48	Office Supplies	$ 5,700.00	$ 5,700.00
49	Office Equipment	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00
50	Communication Equipment & Service	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00
51	IT Purchases	$ -	$ -
52	Mileage Reimbursement	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,500.00
53	City Attorney	$ 15,000.00	$ 35,000.00
54	Insurance	$ 9,500.00	$ 10,000.00
55	Memberships	$ 1,871.00	$ 1,871.00
56	Dues & Subscriptions	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
57	Newsletter	$ 7,000.00	$ 7,000.00
58	Publishing & Printing	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,500.00
59	Engineering	$ 15,000.00	$ 35,000.00
60	Payroll Service	$ 1,750.00	$ 1,750.00
61	Park Improvements	$ -	$ 10,000.00
62	Donations	$ -	$ 1,000.00
63	Banking Fees & Charges	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
64	Miscellaneous	$ 100.00	$ 500.00
65	**Total General Government**	**$ 208,303**	**$ 291,336**

2015 - 2016

2016
LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH
FINAL ADOPTED GENERAL FUND
BUDGET

1			
2			
3		2015	2016
4		Adopted	Adopted
5	Expenditures	Budget	Budget
66			
67	GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS:		
68	Maintenance & Utilities	$ 13,000.00	$ 14,000.00
69	City Hall Renovation		$ 5,000.00
70	City Hall Improvement - furnace/HVAC		
71	**Total Government Buildings**	**$ 13,000**	**$ 19,000**
72	PUBLIC SAFETY:		
73	Law Enforcement	$ 61,589.52	$ 62,358.00
74	Fire Protection	$ 51,788.00	$ 55,075.00
75	Fireman's Retirement Fund Contribution	$ 500.00	-
76	Fire Station Debt Service	$ 13,640.00	$ 13,827.00
77	Grants	$ -	$ -
78	Animal Control	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
79	Erosion & Flood Control	$ 5,000.00	$ 8,000.00
80	**Total Public Safety**	**$ 134,518**	**$ 141,260**
81			
82	STREETS:		
83	Lighting	$ 9,600.00	$ 10,200.00
84	Maintenance	$ 20,000.00	$ 25,000.00
85	Snow Removal	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00
86	Street Drainage / Flooding	$ 2,700.00	$ 2,700.00
87	Signs & Sign Inventory	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
88	Planned Use of Fund Balance		
89	**Total Streets**	**$ 57,300**	**$ 62,900**
90			
91	SANITATION:		
92	Weed Eradication	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00
93	Tree Program	$ 2,500.00	$ 5,000.00
94	Clean Up Day		$ 5,000.00
95	Recycle	$ 24,000.00	$ 26,000.00
96	**Total Sanitation**	**$ 27,500**	**$ 37,000**
97			
98	WATER:		
99	Watermain repairs		
100			
101	RECREATION:		
102	Park Maintenance & Supplies	$ 9,500.00	$ 10,000.00
103	Park Salary	$ 4,700.00	$ 4,850.00
104	Mowing & Lawn Maintenance	$ 12,000.00	$ 15,000.00
105	Pettitt Park Improvements		
106	Bluffland Improvement & Maintenance	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
107	**Total Recreation**	**$ 31,200**	**$ 34,850**
109	CITY DEVELOPMENT:		
110	City Development/Heritage Day	$ -	$ 500.00
111	Training & Tuition	$ -	$ 1,500.00
112	Meeting Per Diem/Exp	$ 2,750.00	$ 2,750.00
113	Codification	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
114	Water System Core Facility		$ 5,000.00
115	Water Management. Organization	$ 4,500.00	$ 5,750.00
116	**Total City Development**	**$ 12,250**	**$ 20,500**
117			
118			
119	Levee Maintenance		
120	**Total Reserve Fund Contributions**	$ -	$ -
121			
122	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	$ 484,070	$ 606,846
125	CIP Streets - 10yr Plan	$ 72,198.00	$ 73,735.00
126			
127	TSF to Bluffland Fund	$ -	$ -
128	TSF to Debt Service/City Hall Maintenance Fund	$ 32,500.00	
129			
130	**Total TSF Out**	104,698	-
131			
132	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES W/TSF	588,768.22	606,846.00
133			
134	Total Revenue Without Tax Levy	$ 117,290	$ 134,327
135	Gross Tax Levy	$ 471,478	$ 472,519
136	Revenues Less Expenses	0	0
137	Proposed Levy Increase/Decrease	$ 4,978	$ 1,041
138	Levy Percentage Change	1%	0%

Hello Everyone,

Please drive carefully, and report any needed sanding and plowing spots throughout the city to our City Staff. Also, please, be careful of deer crossing the highway all along the St Croix Trail. Happy New Year!

Jim Unker

Automatic Payments – Water Billing

The Lakeland Water Utility for monthly water bills is now offering automatic payments. An application needs to be, downloaded, and printed from the City of Lakeland website, filled out, and returned to Lakeland Water via email, fax, snail mail, or in person. Details can be found on their website (ci.lakeland.mn.us); click on Departments the Public Works/Water Utility.
If you have, any questions please feel free to contact the water utility at 651-436-8044.

Annual Notice to All Residential Utility Customers

Bills can pile up just like snow, but the Minnesota Cold Weather Rule is designed to protect people who may have trouble paying their utility bills in winter. The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule applies from October 15 to April 15. The rule, established by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, means that your utility cannot disconnect your residential electric service during the winter if the customer meets the following requirements:

1. Utility disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source;
2. The customer has declared inability to pay on forms provided by the utility (Note: Customers receiving "any form of public assistance," including energy assistance, are deemed to have qualified for inability to pay status);
3. The household income of the customer is less than 50% of the state median income level, as documented by the customer to the utility; and
4. The customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

If you have trouble paying your utility bill, local agencies may be able to provide payment assistance. The state Department of Human Services recommends you call the county in which you live.
If you know you are going to have trouble paying your utility bills, please contact the utility to try and work out a payment schedule.

Calendar of Events for Valley Library in Lakeland – January 2016

Valley Library
380 St. Croix Trail South
Website: www.washington.lib.mn.us
Phone: (651) 436-5882
Monday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Library will be closed Friday, January 1 and Monday, January 18.

Preschool Storytime
January 4, 11, and 25; 10:30 a.m.

Introduction to Internet Genealogy
Thursday, January 7; 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
This introductory class will focus on Ancestry Library Edition and will feature a brief introduction to other recommended genealogy websites. Register online at http://www.co.washington.mn.us/library or call the library.

Tangles and Doodles: Meditative Art
Wednesday, January 13; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Participants will learn the history of Zentangle inspired art, practice the five basic steps to making a Zentangle design, and make their own Zentangle image to take home. All supplies are provided. Register online or call the library.

Valley Library Book Club
Thursday, January 28; 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
The Book Club will discuss the book "Grand Opening" by Jon Hassler. Visit the library to pick up a copy of the book. Just read the book, come, and discuss. Open to all.

ORDINANCE 1802.020 OPEN BURNING: No person shall dispose of refuse by open burning, or cause, suffer, allow, or permit open burning of refuse in the City of Lake St Croix Beach.

Public Safety

(Including Reports)

Law Enforcement Report

November 2015

Complaints Investigated

5 Information/Assists	1 Noise Complaint
4 Medical	1 Illegal Hunting
3 Car Vs. Deer	1 Harassment
2 Suicidal Male	1 Property Damage
2 Driving Complaint	1 Suspicious Vehicle
2 Extra Patrol	1 Disobeyed Stop Sign
1 Out Of Control Male	1 Property Retrieval

Citations Issued 3

- ## Sheriff's TIP line

A quick, simple way to forward information to Washington County Investigators anonymously is by email.
E-mail: sheriff@co.washington.mn.us, or by calling 651-430-7850

Crime in progress – call 911

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department reported 29 runs in November (5) of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach.
The Fire Department's Website is www.lscvfd.com.

Animal Control

In the month of November, 2 dogs and 1 cat were reported lost, and no animals were reported found.

Reminder: Animal License Renewals are now due. All dogs and cats over 6 months of age, must be licensed. Licenses may be purchased at City Hall during normal business hours or by mail. **Application, payment, and proof of current rabies vaccination required.**

Hazardous Waste Site

General Information

Did you know that residents can drop-off household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables for free at the new Washington County Environmental Center? The Center is located at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury, near the intersection of Manning and Bailey Road, just 4 miles south of I-94. The Center will have expanded hours starting November 3, 2015.

The Environmental Center is open:

Tuesdays	11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Thursdays	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Fridays	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturdays	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Free Product Room

Don't need it? Someone might! Did you know that some of the items you drop-off at the Environmental Center might be stocked in the *Free Product Room* for other residents to pick up, free of charge?

The *Free Product Room* is located inside of the Washington County Environmental Center at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury. Products set out in the *Free Product Room* are first screened for quality. Some of the more popular items are paint and stain. If you are on a tight budget, you might just find the color you were looking for, and there's no cost to you. Other popular products set out in the *Free Product Room* are lawn & garden products and automotive fluids.

For materials collected and more information go to www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter or call 430-6655.

Building Permits

Remember to Contact the Building Inspector before you start a project!

The Building Inspector, is located at
Lake St. Croix Beach City Hall
16455 20th Street South
Lake St. Croix Beach
Phone Number (651) 505-9985
jbuckleylscb@comcast.net

Please note: The Building Department Office Hours
Mondays 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Thursdays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Building Permits Issued September 1 – December 7, 2015

1950 Quinlan Avenue South	Reroof
1445 Ramada Avenue South	Basement Finish
1575 Quasar Avenue South	Reroof
1405 Quasar Avenue South	Window Replacement
1420 Quinlan Avenue South	Window Replacement
16611,19th Street South	Reroof
2020 St. Croix Trail South	Reroof
1265 Quinlan Avenue South	Fence
1941 Quentin Avenue South	Door Replacement
16625 20th Street South	Furnace & Air
2020 St. Croix Trail South	Rooftop Unit
1530 Queens Avenue South	New Garage

Solid Waste and Recycling

Recycle Service

We use a single-sort recycle service. Only certain materials can be recycled. These items are listed on the lid of the cart. Please set your recycle cart at the curb by 7:00 a.m. every other ***Thursday.***

Recycle Hauler is Waste Management 877-969-2783

Garbage Service

The City of Lake St. Croix Beach currently has three garbage haulers who are licensed to collect garbage on ***Wednesdays and Thursdays*** only:

Highland Sanitation	651-458-0043
Maroney Service Inc.	651-439-7279
Waste Management	888-960-0008

Residents may choose a garbage hauler from those who are licensed with the City. All residents must have a contract with a garbage hauler or be able to prove that their garbage is taken to a proper collection site.

Yard Waste Drop-off & Compost Sites

Woodbury: Compost Concepts
Location: 4600 Cottage Grove Drive
Phone: 651-769-0531

Cottage Grove: Cottage Grove Compost Site
9600 Glendenning Rd.
Phone: 651-459-1556

The Lake St. Croix Beach City Council Meetings may be viewed on Channel 16. Meetings are also available on the city's website www.lscb.govoffice.com

Schedule:
Jan. 6 at 4 p.m. and midnight
Jan. 7 at 7 a.m.
Jan. 13 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Jan. 14 at 9 a.m.
Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. and midnight
Jan. 21 at 7 a.m.
Jan. 27 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Jan. 28 at 9 a.m.

Upon occasion, the transmission of these meetings may be delayed or not available due to technical difficulties. Check their website for more information www.vactv.org.

HIGHLIGHTS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

The following are unapproved minutes from the November 16, 2015 City Council meeting. *Condense minutes, May at times, be necessary to fit space. (Complete minutes on file at City Hall.)*

Members Present Tom McCarthy, Charles W. Brown, Cindie Reiter, Jim Unker
Staff Present John Parotti, Kevin Sandstrom, Susan Schuler, Amy Truhlar
Others Present Becky Brewster, Mary Ashby, Mary Parr, Dolly Burns, Jon Place, Richard Glasgow, Lyle Merriman, Bob Swenson

- **Call To Order** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:07 p.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** was said.

PUBLIC HEARING – TRUTH IN TAXATION

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING by Mayor McCarthy at 7:08 p.m.

RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lyle Merriman, 1281 Quinlan Avenue South, explained That he owns three lots, and his home sits on two of those lots. The third lot is to the west of the other two and is not buildable, because it is too small for the zoning district. He noted that the Vacant lot is taxed separately and is not homesteaded. The lot is being taxed at a very high value for a non-buildable lot. Councilmember Reiter suggested he contact City Hall to obtain the name and contact information for the assessor from Washington County for this area.

City Clerk-Administrator Susan Schuler pointed out that the preliminary levy was set with a 3.3% increase. The City Council has brought the levy down to a 0% increase. She Noted that the city will be paying for tree trimming in the Right-of-ways (ROW) this year. The cost, which was lower Than anticipated, for this has been included in the budget. Although the city's levy was held to a 0% increase, the County's levy may increase causing resident's taxes to Increase. Councilmember Reiter explained that a resident's Taxes may also increase if the property value has increased. Mary Parr, a resident, noted that vacant lot values have seemed to increase at a very high rate for this year.

CLOSE HEARING

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER BROWN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER REITER, TO CLOSE THE TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING AT 7:18 P.M. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (KLINE).

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

- **Approve Agenda** Agenda Item 3
  Councilmember Reiter asked to add Item 9A, Quote for Right-Of-Way Work.
  M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF ITEM 9A, QUOTE FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY WORK. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (KLINE).

- **Consent Agenda** Agenda Item 4
  M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: REITER – AYE, BROWN – AYE, UNKER – AYE, KLINE – ABSENT, MCCARTHY – AYE.

  M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 16, 2015 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

  M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING LICENSES FOR 2016: MARONEY SANITATION, INC.: GENERAL CORPORATION – GARBAGE HAULING; WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MINNESOTA: GENERAL CORPORATION – GARBAGE AND RECYCLE HAULING; HIGHLAND SANITATION: GENERAL CORPORATION – GARBAGE HAULING; BEACH BAR: LIQUOR ON-SALE, LIQUOR OFF-SALE, LIQUOR ON-SALE SUNDAY, OPTIONAL LIQUOR 2:00 A.M., CIGARETTE; FREEDOM STATION (ERICKSON OIL PRODUCTS): CIGARETTE. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

  M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE A CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2016 AT 9:00 A.M. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

- **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**
  City Clerk-Administrator Schuler reported that she had received one written comment from Kricket Kohl, 1941 Quentin Avenue South, to be read into the record. Ms. Kohl complained that Councilmember Kline was using an electronic device during the November City Council meeting and not paying attention to the issues being discussed and voted upon. She suggested that the City Council should all put away their electronics during City Council meetings.

  Mary Parr, 1430 Quasar Court South, noted that there are many houses in the city with missing or unreadable addresses. She pointed out that there is an ordinance regarding visibility of addresses, and the ordinance should be enforced. It was noted that this can also be a safety issue. City Attorney Kevin Sandstrom advised that it would be acceptable to use an administrative citation for these violations. A reminder of the requirements for addresses is included in most city newsletters. Deputy Fire Chief Jim Stanley added that when they have trouble reading addresses, he sends the homeowners reminders. He then checks on these addresses in approximately 30 days. If, after 30 days, there is still no fix, he will submit those addresses to city staff. Schuler commented that if the residents or fire department are out driving around And see this, that

they need to inform city hall so the ordinance can be enforced and we know that it is being addressed.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

Councilmember Brown reported 40 calls to law enforcement in the month of November. There were three citations issued. The animal report for November listed no calls, no warning letters sent, 2 lost dogs, 1 lost cat, and 0 animals found. Councilmember Unker noted all the calls to law enforcement to deer accidents. He asked if a "Deer Crossing" sign could be installed on St. Croix Trail South (CSAH 18). Possible locations for this type of sign were discussed. Mr. Stanley suggested that city staff contact the Washington County to determine who installs those signs. Mayor McCarthy noted that carcasses are left on the sides of roads for scavenging animals if there is not public safety issue.

Jim Stanley, Deputy Chief of the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department, reported 29 calls in November, 5 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach. The new LED Fire Department sign is scheduled to be delivered approximately December 29, 2015. He will do the installation, and a licensed electrician will hook it up to the power which is already out to the sign. Schedules for CPR classes available to residents will be included in newsletters starting in January. Classes will be offered for free or for a small charge to cover expenses depending on which class is taken. Pete Granat, 17-year Fire District Board member and a 21-year firefighter, has retired effective immediately due to health issues.

City Clerk-Administrator Schuler asked if any fire inspections had been performed in relation to the conditional use permits (CUPs) requirements, and Mr. Stanley stated that no businesses have yet contacted him to schedule their inspections, but that is a requirement of the CUP renewal. He will begin contacting the businesses soon with the contact information provided to them from the clerk/administrator.

There is no burn ban on recreational fires, which are fires that have logs at least 3 inches in diameter.

- **CITY STAFF REPORTS**
  - **City Engineer Parotti**

John Parotti, City Engineer with SEH, reported that an application for payment had been submitted by Zappa Brothers, Inc. for the work performed on the flood-damaged restoration Site #2. The work has been inspected and is completed. The application is for the exact amount as the bid stated, and City Engineer Parotti recommended payment as requested. Councilmember Reiter asked whether a portion of the payment should be withheld to ensure all work is completed correctly. Engineer Parotti explained that he is not recommending withholding any portion of payment as there are not future items to be completed by Zappa Brothers, Inc. He noted that the work must be completed in order to receive the reimbursement from the State of Minnesota.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $84,381.60TO ZAPPA BROTHERS, INC. FOR WORK PERFORMED ON RESTORATION SITE #2. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (KLINE).

City Engineer Parotti reminded everyone that planting work will be completed in the spring for an estimate cost of $3,000 - $4,000.

Mr. Parotti reported that he is working with staff regarding easements, and they have been making some progress. He sent a letter to Xcel Energy to schedule a meeting in January to discuss levee pole relocation.

  - **City Attorney Sandstrom**

Nothing further to report.

  - **City Clerk-Administrator Schuler**

City Clerk-Administrator Schuler reported that there was a meeting to discuss changes to the draft ordinances for minimal impact design standards (MIDS). A list of building permits issued was included in the City Council meeting packets and will be included in the next newsletter. The city's phone lines have been switched over to Comcast, and the alarm system has been switched to CWS Securities. Applications for reimbursement for the grants for the restoration sites on the bluff will be submitted as well before year's end Mayor McCarthy thanked everyone involved in the restoration projects on the bluff.

  - **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar**

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar presented the bills for the month totaling $132,917.91.64. This total included the annual payment for the fire department building and the payment to Zappa Brothers, Inc.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE DISBURSEMENTS FOR $132,917.91 AND APPROVE ANY ADDITIONAL CLAIMS RECEIVED FOR 2015 THAT ARE RECEIVED BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Councilmember Unker asked about a receipt from John Bohnhoff for his CUP. City Clerk-Administrator Schuler reported that the city had received his payment, but had not received his paperwork. Councilmember Unker suggested the check should not have been cashed without the accompanying paperwork. It was noted that Mr. Bohnhoff has been deployed again and is currently not in the United States. Councilmember Unker noted that responsibilities at home for a rental property still need to be taken care of. Deputy Fire Chief Stanley reported that he has not inspected the property for at least 5 years, so he cannot say whether the structure is rentable. City staff added that last reported the property was not being rented as a duplex, but he wanted to keep the CUP in place to rent it in the future. Councilmember Brown stated he had contact information for Mr. Bohnhoff and would contact him. Councilmember Unker stated that the check has been cashed, so the city had 60 days. If paperwork is not submitted within that time period and a fire inspection is not performed, the city should revoke his CUP and refund his money.

MOTION PASSED, THREE AYES, ONE NAY (UNKER), 1 ABSENT (KLINE).

City Clerk-Administrator Schuler reported that she had received a submission for per diem for 2014 from a former councilmember, Cheryl Kopp and since she was not here in 2014, she did not feel comfortable approving this payment without City Council approval. The City Council agreed that it, was owed, and should be paid. Schuler commented that she sent out an email and reminded all members to get the per diems in before tonights meeting for approval to tie out the end of 2015

- **NEW BUSINESS**
  - **2016 Regular City Council Meeting Dates**

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar explained that the regular City Council meetings in 2016 would be held on the third Monday of the month except in January and February when the third Monday of the month falls on a holiday when no business may be conducted. She asked the City Council to determine whether to hold the January and February regular City Council meetings on the second Monday as they have done in most years or on the third Tuesday as they did last year. It was noted that videographer Don Fixmer is available on the second Monday of the month, but not on the third Tuesday.

M/S/P (McCarthy, Brown) TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AS

PRESENTED WITH THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS BEING HELD ON THE SECOND MONDAYS OF THE MONTH. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

- **2016 City Levy and Budget**

  M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2015-23, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2016 CITY TAX LEVY IN THE AMOUNT OF $472,519. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: REITER – AYE, BROWN – AYE, UNKER – AYE, KLINE – ABSENT, MCCARTHY – AYE.

  M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2015-24, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2016 CITY BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF $606,846. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: REITER – AYE, BROWN – AYE, UNKER – AYE, KLINE – ABSENT, MCCARTHY – AYE.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - **Quote For Right-Of-Way Tree Trimming**

City Clerk-Administrator Schuler noted that this issue was tabled at the November City Council meeting to allow for another bid to be submitted as requested by the contractor and approved for extension by council. That bid however was not submitted. One bid was submitted for the right-of-way (ROW) tree trimming from Sav-A-Tree in the amount of $17,759. It was noted that this amount was used for 2016 budgeting purposes.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM SAV-A-TREE FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY TREE TRIMMING FOR $18,000. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

- **OTHER BUSINESS**
  - **Cable Commission**

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER UNKER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER REITER, TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CABLE COMMISSION SO THE CITY CAN BECOME ITS OWN AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE THE CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT.

Councilmember Unker stated he was unhappy with the Cable Commission and wanted to go in a different direction. He stated that he was very frustrated when he was on the Cable Commission. He noted that the Cable Commission cannot appropriate funds before they are received by the city, and it is up to the City Council to determine how to use those funds. Councilmember Reiter asked when the current franchise agreement went into effect as she did not remember it being brought to the City Council for review with the City Attorney and approval.

Richard Glasgow, Chair of the Cable Commission, explained that the Cable Commission used to have an attorney, but they felt he was taking too large a portion of the money. Mr. Glasgow and Randy Kopesky, Co-Chair of the Cable Commission, negotiated the terms of the franchise agreement with Comcast.

Councilmember Unker noted that the city representative and city staff do not receive notifications of meetings or minutes of the meetings. He noted Councilmember Brown, the Cable Commission representative for the city, stated that there had been no meeting to approve the check issued to the city with the memo line: for fire sign. Mr. Glasgow stated the check was approved at a meeting early in the year, when all normal expenses for the entire year are approved. It was noted that this was a special disbursement, not a normal expense.

Councilmember Unker pointed out that the letter sent from the city when the check was returned to them asked for the minutes of the meeting when the disbursement was approved. Mr. Glasgow, who whited out the memo line and then initialed it, stated that he did not see the letter. He reported that he was only told that the check was returned because the city was not happy with the memo on the check. Councilmember Reiter stated that the City Council was unhappy with the whole process of the disbursement, not just the memo line because there was no action to allow the special disbursement. Mr. Glasgow stated that meetings were held regarding this disbursement, and Councilmember Brown must not have been in attendance.

Councilmember Unker stated he still does not like the direction of the Cable Commission and thinks the city should withdraw. Mr. Glasgow stated that the city has the right to withdraw from the Cable Commission. He stated that the city is bound to the franchise agreement, but if they want to withdraw from the Cable Commission, a letter should be sent to the commission stating the intent to withdraw. 18 months after the letter is sent, the withdrawal will become effective. He stated there were no advantages to withdrawing. Councilmember Reiter reported that the City Council should hear all the advantages and disadvantages to withdrawing before making the decision to do so. Mr. Glasgow then stated he did not like to be chastised ion a public forum. He felt that the City Council was bashing the Cable Commission and him, but he felt he had a good relationship with Mayor McCarthy, who he talks to often. He also felt that Councilmember Brown did a good job as a member of the Cable Commission.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

City Clerk-Administrator Schuler asked what the City Council would like her to do with the check that was returned to the city with the memo line whited out. Councilmember Unker noted that Mayor McCarthy should not have brought the check back with the whited out memo line and told Clerk-Administrator Schuler to cash it. It was noted that a new check should have been issued. Mayor McCarthy stated that he thought the best thing to do was to white out the memo line and give the check back for the city to cash. Councilmember Unker stated that was not a decision for the mayor, and instead it should have been decided upon by the entire City Council. Mayor McCarthy stated that he thought the best thing would be for the money to be deposited before the end of the year. Councilmember Reiter pointed out that those decisions cannot be made by one member of the City Council alone. Mayor McCarthy stated that in order to get the money in the bank, he made the decision to have the memo line whited out. Councilmember Brown pointed out that the check is null and void because it was issued over 90 days ago. Mayor McCarthy stated that the check belongs to the city and it should be deposited in the city's account. Mr. Glasgow stated that the check was not a special disbursement, but Councilmember Reiter noted that there was a statement with a column that showed it as a special disbursement, and Councilmember Unker asked why the city was not getting its entire funds. Mr. Glasgow stated that every check issued from the Cable Commission has preferred uses, but those uses are not binding. Mayor McCarthy asked if the check could be re-issued since it was already approved through the Cable Commission. Mr. Glasgow suggested the City Council direct the City Clerk-Administrator to send the check back with a letter requesting a new check, and it would be issued. Mayor McCarthy stated that the City Council could hold a meeting in January or February to discuss the advantages and disadvantages to remaining in the Cable Commission.

- **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS**

  Councilmember Brown's Report

  Nothing further to report.

Councilmember Kline's Report
Absent.

Councilmember Reiter's Report
Councilmember Reiter reported that the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization did not meet, but there was a meeting regarding the draft MIDS ordinance at City Hall earlier in the month. After discussed changes are made, the draft ordinance will be sent to the Planning Commission for review. Councilmember Reiter reviewed some items that can now be recycled through Washington County at the Environmental Center including grocery, retail, and dry cleaning plastic bags; cereal and bread bags; holiday lights; extension cords; campaign and real estate signs with metal stands; and scrap metal such as pots and pans. Brochures are available at City Hall listing all these items. She noted that the hauler decides what they will accept, so Washington County is now accepting these items to help boost recycling rates.

Councilmember Unker's Report
Nothing further to report.

Mayor McCarthy's Report
Nothing further to report.

- **ADJOURNMENT**
  M/S/P (Unker, McCarthy) TO ADJOURN AT 8:22 P.M. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (KLINE).

Acronyms and abbreviations that may appear in this newsletter.

CC	=	City Council
LSCVCC	=	Lower St. Croix Valley Cable Commission
M/S/P	=	Moved, Seconded, and Passed
M/S/F	=	Moved, Seconded, and Failed
M/S/W	=	Moved, Seconded, and Withdrawn
RFP	=	Request For Proposal
STS	=	Sentenced-To-Service
SEH	=	Short Elliott Hendrickson (City Engineer)

Junk Cars

Ordinance 723.01 - "Junk Vehicle" shall mean any of the following:

- Any type of vehicle requiring a license to operate on any public highway or street, but without a current license attached thereto.
- Any type of vehicle not in operable condition.
- Any type of vehicle that is partially dismantled and is used for sale of parts, or source for replacement parts for repair of other vehicles.
- Any type of vehicle that is kept for salvage or scrap of any sort.

Keep Jack Frost From Nipping At Your Septic System

This time of year, families with septic systems should take precautions to prevent costly septic system problems over the winter.

Prevent Freezing In The First Place. Insulation is key to preventing pipes and drainfields from freezing. Allowing grass to grow an extra six inches over the entire system (septic tank, connecting pipes, and drainfield/mound) in the fall can protect it from frost. Another good insulator is a layer of mulch (for example, straw, leaves, or hay) spread 8-12 inches deep over the system. Other ideas include maintaining wildflowers or native grasses over your tank and system.

Don't Be A Drip, Keep It Hot. Dripping faucets trickle water into the system, which can cause ice to build up and eventually freeze a pipe closed, often right where the septic pipe leaves the home. Fix all leaks and keep the system "energized" with regular doses of warm water during the winter – the warmer the better. Spread out your laundry schedule so you run one warm/hot load a day. Use the dishwasher and take hot baths. However, DO NOT leave water running all the time, as this will hydraulically overload the septic system.

Keep Off The Grass (And Snow). Keep all vehicle, animal, and human traffic off the system. This is a good rule to follow all year long as compacted snow and soils cause frost to go down deeper and faster. Pay special attention to the area between the house and the septic tank. Stay off these areas even during the winter as compacted snow provides much less insulation that undisturbed snow.

Keep It Safe. Make sure all septic tank covers are in place and firmly attached to prevent someone from falling in. Make sure all inspection pipe caps are in place and in good shape to keep cold air out.

Keep New Systems Under Cover. A new septic system covered with bare soil can have problems with freezing the first year. Cover a new tank, mound/drainfield with an insulating layer of mulch or similar loose material.

It's Frozen. Now What? If your septic system freezes, call a septic system professional. For Minnesotans, the MPCA website includes a search tool for finding certified professionals in your area. Search online for "MPCA SSTS licensed business search."

If it's not feasible to correct a problem, the only option is using the septic tank as a holding tank until the system thaws naturally in the spring. Have a pumper empty the tank when it starts to fill up.

There are some things you should never do to try to fix a frozen system:

- Do not introduce antifreeze, salt, or a septic system additive into the system
- Do not pump sewage onto the ground surface
- Do not start a fire over the system to attempt to thaw it out
- Do not run water continually to try to thaw the system. This can overload the system.

For more information on your septic system works and how to keep it healthy all year, go to the SSTS Practioner and Homeowner Webpage at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/0agxb12.

For the Sake Of Our Lakes, Keep Your Pavement on a Low-Salt Diet

As Minnesota begins to deal with heavy snowfall and cold temperatures, most of us will rely on a crucial tool to clear the roads and sidewalks: salt. It is estimated that we use more than 350,000 tons of salt on the metro area roads, parking lots, and sidewalks annually.

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), our waters should follow the advice our doctors have been giving for years: stick to a low-salt diet. Rock salt, which contains chloride, is the most commonly used de-icer. However, much like table salt, rock salt's benefits are peppered with danger. Salt saves icy roads but can have the opposite effect on the nearby environment. Its public safety benefits come with environmental drawbacks like polluted waters and poisoned aquatic wildlife.

In the Twin Cities Metro Area, 78% of the salt applied to roads stays within the region's watershed. Chloride from salt eventually finds its way into the groundwater. Once in the water, it becomes a permanent pollutant and continues to accumulate in the environment over time. In other words, it doesn't melt or go away.

High levels of salt can be harmful to fish and other freshwater life and can affect groundwater and drinking water supplies, infrastructure, vehicles, plants, soil, pets, and wildlife.

"Too much chloride has serious water quality consequences," said Brooke Asleson, chloride project manager at the MPCA. "Less is more when it comes to applying deicing salt. It only takes one teaspoon of road salt to pollute five gallons of water."

To address these issues, the MPCA partnered with local and state experts in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to create a plan for effectively managing salt use to protect our water resources in a responsible and strategic approach. The goal of this plan is to provide strategies to help local partners reduce salt use while providing safe conditions for the public.

Improving practices for de-icing roads, parking lots, and sidewalks will not only benefit water quality, but also lead to long-term cost savings as a result of purchasing less salt and reduced impacts on vegetation and corrosion of infrastructure and vehicles.

A key challenge in reducing salt usage is balancing the need for public safety with the growing expectation for clear, dry roads, parking lots, and sidewalks throughout the winter. Notable efforts to improve winter maintenance and reducing salt usage while maintaining public safety have already been made by a number of winter maintenance organizations. The intent of the plan is to build on those efforts and to assist agencies, local governments and other stakeholders to determine salt reduction strategies to restore and protect Minnesota's water resources.

How Can You Make A Difference? Currently there are no satisfactory alternatives to salt that are environmentally safe, effective, and inexpensive. However, we can reduce salt at the source through application strategies.

Each person contributes to the attitudes and practices that have created a high and steadily growing volume of salt that is used each year. Citizens set the expectation that winter maintenance crews must meet, and they use salt on personal property such as sidewalks and driveways in the winter. Below are a few simple steps the public can take to protect water resources.

Support Smart Salting. Support local and state winter maintenance crews in their efforts to reduce salt use.

Shovel First. The more snow and ice you remove, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be. After the ice has been broken up, you can decide whether deicer is even necessary to maintain traction.

Apply Salt Before The Storm. Salting before can prevent snow and ice from building up on roads, therefore reducing overall salt use.

Slow Down. Drive for winter conditions, and be courteous to slow-moving plows. The slower they drive, the more salt will stay on the road where it is needed.

More Salt Does Not Mean More Melting. Use less than four pounds of slat per 1,000 square feet (an average parking space is about 150 square feet). One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug. And be patient: salt takes time to work. Applying more will lead to unnecessary contamination.

15 Degrees Is Too Cold For Most Salt To Work. Most salts stop working at this temperature. In frigid conditions, use sand for traction.

Sweep Up Extra Salt. If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement, it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. The excess can be swept up and reused for the next snow or disposed of in the trash.

Your actions matter. Get involved. The public has a critical role in helping solve this challenge of providing safe winter travel conditions and protecting our valuable water resources.

For more on what you can do to reduce chloride in our waters, or to read more about MPCA's role on this issue, visit the agency's Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride Project webpage.

Treasurer's Report

Period Ending December 29, 2015

Fund	*Fund Description*	*Beginning Balance*	*Receipts*	*Disbursements*	*Ending Balance*
100	Routine Operations	$509,971.89	$ 11,778.17	$ 129,905.41	$ 391,844.65
205	Pettitt Park Improvement	$ (2,649.11)	$ -	$ 3, 012.50	$ (5,661.61)
206	Gambling Proceeds	$ 568.12	$ 873.43	$ -	$ 1,441.55
350	Debt Service Fund – MWP92	$ 4,582.16	$ -	$ -	$ 4,582.16
360	EDA Debt Service Fund	$(171,696.37)	$ -	$ -	$ (171,696.37)
400	Flood Fund	$ (6,336.12)	$ -	$ -	$ (6,336.12)
402	Street Capital Outlay	$ 85,010.01	$ -	$ -	$ 85,010.01
410	Bluff land Grant	$ 1,785.00	$ -	$ -	$ 1,785.00
	Total All Funds	***$421,235.58***	***$ 12,651.60***	***$ 132,917.91***	***$ 300,969.27***

Ordinance 724.04 ***Outdoor Implements*** . . . Any power lawn mower, snow blower, power hedge clipper, power saw, or such other implement designed primarily for outdoor use, shall be operated only between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays, or between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and State and Federal Holidays

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Charles Brown
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E-Mail: chazbrown@comcast.net

Michelle Kline
Councilmember, 651-300-8097
E-mail: lscbkline@gmail.com

Cindie Reiter
Councilmember, 651-436-8244
E-Mail: cindie55043@gmail.com

Jim Unker
Councilmember, 651-340-5800
E-Mail: C6513405800@gmail.com

Services

Animal Control 715-386-7789
Building Inspector 651-505-9985
City Hall phone 651-436-7031
City Hall Fax 651-436-8310
Fire Hall (non-emergency) 651-436-7033
Lakeland Water Utility 651-436-8044
Police (non-emergency) 651-439-9381
Street Lights Out - Xcel Energy 1-800-960-6235
Well Water Test Kits - Wash. Co. 430-6655
U. S. Post Office - Lakeland 651-436-5469
Waste Management (Recycling) 877-969-2783
Maroney's Sanitation 439-7279
Highland Sanitation 458-0043
Waste Management (Garbage) 888-960-0008

Fire, Medical & Sheriff Emergency 911

Representatives

Gary Kriesel
Washington County Commissioner 651-430-6213

Kathy Lohmer
Minnesota Representative (District 39B) 651-296-4244
E-mail: rep.kathy.lohmer@house.mn

Karin Housley
Minnesota Senator (District 39) 651-296-4351
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Mark Dayton
Minnesota Governor 651-201-3400
E-mail: mark.dayton@state.mn.us

Betty McCollum
U. S. Representative (District 4) 202-225-6631
E-mail: betty.mccollum@mail.house.gov

Amy Klobuchar
U. S. Senator 612-727-5220 or 202-224-3244
E-mail: klobuchar@senate.gov

Al Franken
U. S. Senator 651-221-1016 or 202-224-5641
E-mail: info@franken.senate.gov

Meeting Schedule

- Planning Commission – 1st Wednesday
- LSCV Alliance – 4th Monday at Fire Hall at 4:30
- Middle SCV WMO – 2nd Thursday at Washington Conservation District Office
- Park Commission – 2nd Tuesday
- Recycle Committee – Varies
- LSCV Partnership Team – Varies
- City Council – 3rd Mon
- Land Use Review Committee – Varies
- LSCV Fire District – 2nd Wednesday at Fire Hall

Please call the City Hall at 651-436-7031 for the address of any meeting held outside of the City. Check the City's Posting Box for up to day information on City meetings.

Future Newsletter Articles should be submitted to: Newsletter Editor at the Lake St. Croix Beach City Hall.

"Choosing to save a river is more often an act of passion than of careful calculation. You make the choice because the river has touched your life in an intimate and irreversible way, because you are unwilling to accept its loss." - David Bolling, 1994

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