

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

Staff:  
City Clerk-Administrator  
Angel Smith  
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](mailto:lscb@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.lscb.govoffice.com](http://www.lscb.govoffice.com)

March, 2014  
Issue No. 495

# 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.

## **March Calendar**

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

Wednesday, March 5  
Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 11  
Park Commission

Wednesday, March 12  
LSCV Fire District at Fire Hall

Thursday, March 13  
Recycle Day

Thursday, March 13  
Middle SCV WMO meeting at Washington Conservation District Office

Monday, March 17  
Regular City Council Meeting

Monday, March 24  
LSCV Alliance – 4:30 at Fire Hall

Thursday, March 27  
Recycle Day

## **Unlawful Placement of Snow**

Property owners need to be aware that state law prohibits snow from being plowed from your driveway and deposited onto public streets or rights-of-way (MN Statute 169.42 Sub 1). It states:

“No person shall throw, deposit, place, or dump, or cause to be thrown, deposited, placed, or dumped upon any street or highway or upon any public or privately owned land adjacent thereto without the owner’s consent...”

Violations are a misdemeanor, but civil penalties can also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow. Other hazards created by improper placement of snow on or near a public roadway include drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction and safe accessibility. Ensuring a safe roadway, free of snow and ice is the city’s goal during the winter months.

## **Did You Know**

Starting Jan. 1, 2014, cities and counties are exempt from sales and use tax on purchases used to provide certain government services.

To qualify for this exemption, purchases must meet the following requirements:

- The purchases are “inputs,” used to provide government services.
- The purchases are not used as inputs to services that are generally provided by a private business.
- The purchases are billed to, and paid directly by, the local government.

## **Winter Parking**

### **Restrictions** ❄️

On street parking is prohibited throughout the city:

- For more than 24 consecutive hours from Nov. 1 thru April 1
- After snowfall, for 48 hours or until 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.

Spring is almost here, and daylight savings time is just around the corner on March 9. Spring also brings our annual boat permit renewal, which has a deadline of March 15<sup>th</sup>, and the festive St. Patrick's Day celebration is on a Monday this year! Have fun and be safe.

Spring begins March 20<sup>th</sup>. Here are a couple of reminders to make sure we all stay safe. The fire department recommends that you check the batteries in your smoke detectors every year in March to make sure they are working properly and that we make sure that our house numbers are visible from the street.

Thanks,  
Mayor Tom

.....  
Greetings,

It's been a while since I have made the deadline for the newsletter – so forgive the delay and best wishes for 2014.

Snow Plowing....have heard from many that the streets are much wider and that seems to be a good thing. However our streets by the character of our neighborhood are narrow which can make for inaccessibility of emergency vehicles when vehicles park along some of our streets. Please use caution when parking several vehicles along the city streets.

Boat Permitting – LSCB has a program to allow its residents the opportunity to place a power or sail boat along our shoreline. This privilege is the result of the LSCB homeowners association (circa 1930) donating the land to the city for its residents use. We as taxpayers *all own our shoreland* and should be allowed to use it within the constraints of the agencies that control use of the river. Some may say that the city could capture revenue by increasing the rates closer to levels similar to private mooring or docking facilities. The reality of this would be that; it would allow only those with the ability to pay a sizeable fee to have access to our city's recreational use of the river. Yes the waiting list is long – but if the cost is prohibitive to many of us..... the list will be short *and for only those that can afford the cost of the fee.* I have worked with the city's permitting program for 13 years (the last 7 years I have been a sail boat permit holder) – the program's ultimate goal is fairness for all residents to be able to gain access to a boat permit. I would support a change to the program to allow more residents to have the opportunity to have a boat permit.....but *I cannot in good conscience support a substantial increase in fees that would exclude any of our residents financially from the privilege we have been given by our city forefathers.* The cost of the boat, the mooring &/or the dock itself is, or can be financially prohibitive on its own.

**Recycle – Reduce – Re-Use.** The federal and state government is pushing for more....and so at our municipal level we need to also. This year I am the council liaison to the Environmental Advisory Committee (aka: Recycle Committee). We are looking for LSCB volunteers and also extend an invitation to get involved to our other 4 cities in our group – of two. Yes just 2 members.....we need to reactivate, recharge and get to our goal of increasing recycle materials of 2.7 lbs per household. We present recycle information and goals at the AL School carnival with help from the county and at our LSCB Heritage Day. We could use fresh ideas and HELP. Please contact me (info on back page) – to get involved.

With Best Regards,  
Cindie J Reiter  
LSCB City Councilmember

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**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.

## **Annual Washington Conservation District Tree Sale – Order today!**

Winter weather got you down? Make plans to plant a tree (or many!) in your yard come spring to improve your local habitat. Trees are both beautiful and functional. They shade your house from scorching sun in the summer and block it from icy winds in the winter. A mature tree canopy can intercept 1600 gallons of rainwater per year; this is stormwater that may otherwise run off of roofs and streets, causing pollution to be carried into local water bodies. Trees improve air quality by catching dust in the air and provide valuable habitat for birds and other wildlife.

When selecting trees for your yard, it is best to plant a variety of natives to prevent the spread of disease. By interspersing conifers and deciduous trees, you will ensure that your landscape is verdant throughout the year. Choose a fruiting tree, such as a chokecherry or plum, to attract birds and maybe even give yourself a canning project come fall.

The Washington Conservation District is currently taking orders for their annual tree sale. Trees can be ordered in bundles of 25 for only \$35, and the selection includes conifers, hardwoods and shrubs. In addition we are offering a special bird pack of trees – 30 bird friendly trees for \$50 that include Bur Oak, White Oak, Black Cherry, White Pine, Chokecherry, and Wild plum. Conservation District staff can also help you to plan your planting project and have tree bars available for rental. To order trees, check for sold out trees, or to learn more about the program, call Wendy at (651) 275-1136 x24 or visit [www.mnwcd.org](http://www.mnwcd.org).

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## **Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water Bayport Garden Design Workshops**

What could you do with a \$250\* plant grant?

Join us at this FREE presentation to see how homeowners added beauty to their yard using native plants, raingardens and creek side plantings. If you are inspired to install a new garden this year you can sit down with landscape designers from the Washington Conservation District to plan a raingarden or native planting for your own home. Best of all, you can use our \$250 plant grant to make your garden design come to life!

Landscape designers will help you plan a garden using an aerial photo of your property - but only if you pre-register by April 23! We'll also discuss how to build your garden and where to find plants and materials for your project. If you have already attended a Blue Thumb workshop or presentation in the past, you can register for just Parts 2 & 3.

Contact Angie Hong for more info:  
651-275-1136 x.35 or [angie.hong@mnwcd.org](mailto:angie.hong@mnwcd.org)

\*The \$250 plant grant is available to residents of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (which includes LSCB!).

Register Here: <http://tinyurl.com/2014BayportGardens> or call

Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water  
Garden Design Workshops  
Part 1 (Get Inspired!) - Thu., April 24, 6-7:30pm  
Part 2 (Start Designing!) - Tue., April 29, 6-8pm  
Part 3 (Ready, Set, Plant!) - Thu., May 1, 6-8pm  
Bayport Library, 582 4th St. N., Bayport

## Calendar of Events for Valley Library in Lakeland – March 2014

Valley Library

380 St. Croix Trail South

Website: [www.washington.lib.mn.us](http://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.

### **Storytime**

March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 10:30 a.m.

### **A Craft Workshop for Adults: Make a Civil War Sewing Kit**

Saturday, March 8, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Portable sewing kits were an essential accessory for everyone from soldiers to housewives during the Civil War. During this workshop, participants will create modern version of these popular historical kits. Workshop is FREE, but registration is required. Register at the Information Desk or call the library.

### **Dog Gone Reading**

Tuesday, March 25, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Children in grades K-7 practice reading by reading aloud to a certified therapy dog and its owner. Reading sessions are 15 minutes in length. Sign up to read at the Information Desk or call the library.

### **Valley Book Club**

Thursday, March 27, 5:00 p.m.

Book selected for discussion at this meeting is "Maisie Dobbs" by Jacqueline Winspear. Just read the book, come, and discuss.

## **Public Safety**

(Including Reports)



## **Law Enforcement Report**

November, 2013

### Complaints Investigated

4 Medical	1 Threats Report
4 Suspicious Vehicle/Activity/Situation	
3 Concern, Check Welfare	1 Fraud Report
2 Parking Complaint	1 Extra Patrol Request
2 Public Assist	1 Scam Report
2 Snowmobile Complaint	
2 Animal Concern/Barking Dog	

Citations Issued: 0

### • **Sheriff's TIPLine**

A quick, simple way to forward information to Washington County Investigators anonymously.

E-mail: [sheriff@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:sheriff@co.washington.mn.us)

Or Phone 651-430-7850

*Crime in progress – call 911*

## **Fire Department Report**



The Fire Department reported 43 runs in January, 5 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach.

The Fire Department's Website is [www.lscvfd.com](http://www.lscvfd.com).



### **Animal Control**

In the month of January, no animals 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 can be purchased at City Hall during normal business hours or by mail. **Application, payment, and proof of current rabies vaccination required.**

### **2013 – 2015 Animal License Application**

Fee: \$10 neutered/spayed, \$25 not neutered/spayed

**Proof of current rabies vaccination must accompany application.**

Animal's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Sex Male or Female Spayed/Neutered Yes or No

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to: City of Lake St. Croix Beach, 16455 20<sup>th</sup> Street South,  
Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043*

## **Building Permits**



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

The Building Inspector, is located at  
Lakeland Water Department Plant No. 2  
1190 St. Croix Trail South

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 321, Lakeland, MN 55043,  
Phone: 651-436-1405

**Please note: The Building Department Office  
Hours**

**Mondays 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Thursdays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

## Solid Waste and Recycling

### 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 651-437-9201

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.

### 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

### 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 replaces the Hazardous Materials Collection Site in Oakdale, which permanently closed in 2009.

The Environmental Center is open:

Tuesdays Noon – 7:00 p.m.  
Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Saturdays 9:00 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](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter) or call 430-6655.

### Yard Waste Dropoff & Compost

#### Site

**Bayport:** RSI

Location: 201 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.

Also accept appliances and household junk

Phone: 651-430-2809

**Woodbury:** Compost Concepts

Location: 4600 Cottage Grove Drive

Phone: 651-436-1213

**Cottage Grove:** Cottage Grove Compost Site

9600 Glendenning Rd.

Phone: 651-459-1556

## Community News

### XYZ Club (Extra Years of Zest)

XYZ Club, for seniors 55 years and older, meets every Tuesday morning at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton. Cards will be played at 9:00 a.m. with a coffee break at 10:00 a.m., followed by more card playing until noon. Programs will be announced as they develop. For information, registration, or cancellation, call Marian Glasbergenner at 651-436-7742 on Mondays.



The Lake St. Croix Beach City Council Meetings may be viewed on Channel 16.

**Schedule:**

Mar. 5	at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Mar. 6	at 9 a.m.
Mar. 12	at 4 p.m. and midnight
Mar. 13	at 7 a.m.
Mar. 19	at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Mar. 20	at 9 a.m.
Mar. 26	at 4 p.m. and midnight
Mar. 27	at 7 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](http://www.vactv.org)



## HIGHLIGHTS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL

The following are unapproved minutes from the February 10, 2014 City Council meeting. *Minutes may at times be condensed to fit space. (Complete minutes on file at City Hall.)*

**Members Present** Tom McCarthy, Charles W. Brown, Cindie Reiter, Jim Unker

**Members Absent** Cheryl Kopp

**Staff Present** John Parotti, Kevin Sandstrom, Angel Smith, Amy Truhlar

**Others Present** Mary Parr, John Place, Jim Stanley, Deputy Sullivan, Matt Kline

### EDA Meeting

**Call To Order** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:05 p.m.

### APPROVE AGENDA

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Resolution EDA 2014-01

The City Council discussed which members would perform the duties of the EDA officers.

President	Thomas McCarthy
Vice-President	Jim Unker
Secretary	City Clerk
Treasurer	Cindie Reiter
Assistant Treasurer	Charles W. Brown

M/S/P (McCarthy, Reiter) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION EDA 2013-01, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING OFFICERS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR 2013. THE FOLLOWING ROLL

CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, KOPP – ABSENT, BROWN - AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

M/S/P (Brown, Reiter) TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING AT 7:05 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **City Council Meeting**

**Call To Order** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:05 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was said.

- **Approve Agenda**

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF "SHERIFF SUBSTATION" AS ITEM B UNDER UNFINISHED BUSINESS. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

- **Consent Agenda**

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, KOPP – ABSENT, BROWN – AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 13, 2014 AS CORRECTED. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING AUGUST 5, 2014 TO BE ARBOR DAY IN THE CITY OF LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

- **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jon Place noted that the Sheriff substation had been placed on the City Council agenda as a last minute addition. He then asked whether the City had a facilities manager, explaining that a facilities manager could make decisions regarding the lifetime of items in a building such as the roof or furnaces/air conditioners. He noted that a flat roof needs extra maintenance and the City Hall air conditioner has not been upgraded in a long time. He suggested that the City Council needs to pay close attention to maintenance issues in City Hall.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

Matt Kline, director of public works for the City of Lakeland and lead water operator for Lakeland Water Utility, reported that there have been 8 – 10 locations with frozen water lines in the past two weeks. Five locations are still not thawed, including the Lake St. Croix Beach City Hall. The problem is that the frost under the roads is 6-7 feet deep. Many of the lines are freezing between the curb stop and the water main when the water main is on the other side of the street. Any time the water lines are being driven over, there is more chance of the lines becoming frozen. This happened at another location where the water line ran under the driveway, and the water line froze. The issues are all occurring south of 18<sup>th</sup> Street South. There has been talk of having people run their water. However, this could cause problems with septic systems, and the water cannot be run outside due to the housing density of the area. Therefore, Lakeland Water Utility is not recommending constantly running water at this time. Mr. Kline reminded resi-

dents that they own everything from inside their house to the water main. Therefore, while Lakeland Water Utility is helping out, homeowners will be billed for many of these issues.

There was discussion that forecasts call for warmer temperatures in the next 1-2 weeks. Mr. Kline pointed out that when the thaw first starts, it pushes the frost deeper while the top of the soil thaws out. He noted that with the frost so deep, once it thaws, it can cause a lot of shifting to occur, which can cause problems with the water mains and lines to people's homes. Councilmember Unker asked if there was anything a homeowner could do to prevent the freezing of lines. Mr. Kline explained that once the line has become unfrozen, it is usually recommended that they keep water running slowly to keep the line from refreezing, which is what happened at the Freedom on 20<sup>th</sup> Street South and CSAH 18. It was noted that the frost will not be gone from the ground until April at the earliest. Councilmember Rieter reported that she has heard of multiple cities asking residents to run water as this is an issue all over the area.

Councilmember Reiter asked whether the frost being so deep will affect septic systems. Mr. Kline explained that the thick layer of snow is helping by providing insulation, and the frost under the snow is only 2-3 feet deep. Therefore the frost this year may not be affecting septic systems the way it did several years ago when there was very little snow and very cold temperatures. Mary Parr noted that it seems the coldest of the winter temperatures may be over, and she wondered if people should still be worried if they have not had issues yet. Mr. Kline pointed out that problems can still arise. He also stated that if water meters are in the basement or in a location where it is drafty or cold temperatures can hit it, the water meter should have heat directed at it to prevent the meter itself from freezing.

Law Enforcement

- 33 calls, 0 citations issued

Animal Control

- No animals reported lost; no animals reported found

Deputy Sullivan reported that Deputy Staffney is the water parks and trail deputy and handles all snowmobile complaints. He has been in the city many times this year as there have been multiple complaints regarding snowmobiles on Quentin Avenue South. He stated there is a new deputy who will be working in the lower valley area. She is active duty military and a former police officer from a reservation up north. She will be in the area on the days Deputy Sullivan is off-duty. She will attend the next City Council meeting with Deputy Sullivan for introductions.

Jim Stanley, deputy chief of the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Protection District, reminded the City Council that there will be a 5-city meeting with the fire department on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will be sent out to cities after it has been approved at the fire district meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. Mr. Stanley noted that a long-range plan and budget explanation will be discussed at the meeting. There were 43 runs in the month of January, 5 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach. It was a busy month for the I-94 corridor. There have been 12 calls for the corridor this month, 5 of which were on the same night due to road conditions.

The fire department has been maintaining contact with the water department regarding the water issue as it will affect hydrants if the water mains are freezing. He noted that residents and have been doing a good job this year of keeping the hydrants clear of snow. He has stopped a few times to shovel them out himself. It was noted that Sentence-To-Service crews were in Lake St. Croix Beach on February 4, 2014 and shoveled out many hydrants in the city that were not already done. He noted that homeowners and the plow drivers have been doing a good job this year keeping the hydrants clear.

He pointed out that if hydrants are blocked, he will notify the water department as they are the owners of the hydrants.

It was noted that there were no calls for animal control in the month of January. There were no animals reported lost, and no animals reported found.

- **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- **Annual Street Sweeping**

John Parotti, City Engineer with SEH, reported that this is the time of year that the City Council usually directs the city engineer to obtain quotes for street sweeping. He will once again be coordinating the quotes for this service with the City of St. Mary's Point. The city has used the same contractor for the last two years. The City Council directed Mr. Parotti to obtain quotes for street sweeping for 2014. He will provide the quote from Mike McPhillips, the contractor who performed the work for the last two years, to the City Council at the March City Council meeting.

Mayor McCarthy reported that the city is very close to hits allotment from Washington County for the salt/sand mix. The plow contractor will be able to obtain sand, but no more salt. He asked what the solution would be. Mr. Parotti noted that if the city is cut off and can no longer get the salt/sand mix, they would need to go to an alternative plan such as a straight sand mixture.

- **Capital Improvement Plan For Streets**

John Parotti explained that the city's Streets Capital Improvement Plan (Streets CIP) was updated every one or two years in order bring the previous year's construction costs into the plan. He asked that a meeting be scheduled with City Clerk-Administrator Smith, the two members of the City Council who were assigned the responsibility of the streets (Councilmember Reiter and Mayor McCarthy), and himself to discuss the priorities for 2014. He noted that for 2014, the only item on the Streets CIP was patching. \$30,000 has been estimated as the cost for this work. No crack sealing, seal coating, or street reconstructions are planned for 2014. Reconstruct projects have been planned for 2015 with an estimated cost of \$160,000. The City Council will need to need to budget for this or make plans to save and perform this work within two years. More reconstruction plans are in place for 2017, but not for 2016. Mr. Parotti stated that there are projects coming that will be hard to put off for very long. He pointed out that based on the plan, the average costs per year have been budgeted at \$143,000. That is the amount that he recommended budgeting for every year to complete the planned projects in a timely manner.

Councilmember Reiter asked whether there was any correlation between the depth of the frost level and flooding. Mr. Parotti responded that yes, there is a relationship, but the data is hard to use for flood predictions. The threat of flooding will still depend mainly upon the rate of the snow melt. He stated that low areas of the city would be affected the most, especially if there is a fast melt, as the water will not be able to go into the ground. There may be some flooding in the low areas that will not be from high water levels in the river.

Mr. Parotti reported that he has been working with the water department on the issues with frozen pipes. He noted that the water department has been working very hard to help people resolve the issues with frozen pipes.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Lawful Gambling Permits**

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar explained that the Flood Run is applying for two lawful gambling permits. One is for their annual raffle in the spring. The second application is for a jet ski they will be raffling off in the fall. They will begin ticket sales for the jet ski raffle as soon as the permit is approved by the State of Minnesota Gambling Control Board.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR EXEMPT PERMIT FOR LAWFUL GAMBLING FOR THE FLOOD RUN, INC. EVENT AT THE BEACH BAR. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

- **Humane Society Contract**

City Clerk-Administrator Angel Smith explained that the canine and feline standard stray holding fee is increasing from \$130 to \$135, and the "other" domestic animal fee is increasing from \$40 to \$41.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

Councilmember Reiter explained that the Animal Humane Society will be implementing a new program for un-owned cats or community cats. Historically, these cats have been brought to the facility and held for the mandated stray period. After this stray period, if the cats are not claimed by their owners, they are either sterilized and moved to the adoption center, or they are euthanized for health and/or behavior reasons. Only 3.7% of these cats are returned to their original owners. Many cats that would be euthanized for behavior reasons are able to survive comfortably in the community because they are healthy cats who have established a successfully strategy for living outdoors. Cats will continue to be evaluated for placement through the adoption center, but healthy cats will be considered to release back into the community they are found if they exhibit behavior that makes them not adoptable by the Animal Humane Society's standards. The cats released back into communities will have the tip of their ear removed during sterilization surgery to clearly designate the cat has been spayed or neutered. This new program is intended to prevent euthanizing cats that do not need to be.

- **Tree Trust Community Engagement and Preparedness Program**

It was noted that Dave Witzel, tree inspector, was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor McCarthy reported that he had discussed this issue with Mr. Witzel. Mr. Witzel did not feel it would be necessary for the city to apply for the program since the city had already performed a tree inventory. Mr. Witzel offered to gather more information, but in his opinion, he did not feel it would be a worthwhile program for the city. Councilmember Reiter noted that since the deadline for the application was Friday, February 14, 2014 there was not enough time to gather more information and review the issues further.

- **Liability Coverage Waiver Form**

City Attorney Kevin Sandstrom explained that under Minnesota State statutes, there are limitations in place for personal injury claims brought against a city. The law limits the amount of liability that a city will face in those cases to \$500,000. This protects cities from large lawsuits and bankruptcy from personal injury claims. The law also gives cities the right to waive that protection, and with additional insurance coverage, can allow people to sue the city for more than \$500,000. The limit will then be set by the insurance policy. Mr. Sandstrom recommended not waiving the liability limit.

This has been the past practice of the city.

M/S/P (McCarthy, Reiter) TO NOT WAIVE THE STATUTORY TORT LIMITS. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

- **Internship Program**

City Clerk-Administrator Smith asked the City Council for permission to gather information regarding a possible internship program. Many cities in the metropolitan area utilize interns and offer compensation of \$10 or more per hour. She noted that these interns could work on a variety of projects such as organizing the city's files, social me-

dia/communication projects, and/or planning and zoning projects. Councilmember Reiter noted that the City of Oakdale has a significant and long-running internship program, and the Oakdale City Administrator would be a good resource for information on establishing a program for interns. City Clerk-Administrator Smith also offered that in some locations, neighboring cities have partnered together to share the costs and time of the intern. Councilmember Unker offered his tepid support, but noted that the budget is a concern. Councilmember Reiter noted that as long as there was time to gather the information while still completing the city clerk-administrator job duties such as the large data practice request received by the city, she could think of no reason not to explore the idea. The City Council authorized City Clerk-Administrator to gather information and present it to them at a future City Council meeting.

o **Planning and Zoning**

Councilmember Reiter presented a letter from Dale Powers, who has significant experience in planning and zoning issues and is offering to help the city by working with City Clerk-Administrator Smith reviewing items for a flat fee of \$40 per hour. Councilmember Reiter noted that this may seem high, but for the planning and zoning experience Mr. Powers was offering, she was in favor of setting a budget for his assistance. In addition to a cover letter and resume, Mr. Powers also provided examples of projects he has worked on requiring variances and practical difficulties and shoreland/bluffland issues. Councilmember Reiter suggested it would be helpful for City Clerk-Administrator Smith to have planning and zoning assistance due to the extensive applications the city has received in the past few months, especially from someone as experienced as Mr. Powers, who is an AICP (American Institute Certified Planner). City Clerk-Administrator Smith stated that she would welcome assistance and training from Mr. Powers in planning and zoning as this was not one of her strongest areas and having someone with so much experience to assist her would be very beneficial. It was noted that extensive data practice requests have put additional strain on staff and resources.

Councilmember Unker stated he had recommended approval of \$2,400 for Brad Peters to assist with code enforcement issues. He suggested using \$1,200 of that money for Mr. Powers' assistance. This would allow for 30 hours of Mr. Powers' service as a consultant with no benefits.

M/S/P (Unker, McCarthy) TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1,200 TO DALE POWERS FOR PLANNING AND ZONING ASSISTANCE.

City Attorney Sandstrom advised that a consultant agreement be drawn up to specifically list the services that the city is expecting from Mr. Powers. He added that an agreement should also be drawn up for Mr. Peters' code enforcement services. Mr. Sandstrom noted that the planning and zoning assistance and code enforcement assistance were different from appointed positions.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT BY COUNCILMEMBER UNKER, AGREED TO BY MAYOR MCCARTHY, TO ALSO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1,200 TO BRAD PETERS FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES.

MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

• **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

o **Cleaning Service**

City Clerk-Administrator Smith reminded the City Council that at the January City Council meeting, staff was asked to gather information regarding the additional cost to add an individual to the city's insurance policy. This was to avoid the need to have an individual hired to perform cleaning services carry a worker's compensation insurance policy. She reported

that to add this individual to the city's policy would be an addition \$30 annually. Ms. Smith stated that the individual will charge \$60 per month for cleaning services. She noted that Sentenced-To-Service (STS) crews will be in the city 2-4 times each month in 2014, and another option would be to have the crew clean City Hall the weeks that they are in the city. Councilmember Reiter stated that she would prefer to have a regular service provider.

M/S/P (Unker, McCarthy) TO HIRE LEONA RAVEN TO PROVIDE CLEANING SERVICES TO CITY HALL AND ADD MS. RAVEN TO THE CITY'S INSURANCE POLICY. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

o **Sheriff Substation**

Councilmember Reiter explained that she felt the issue was left open and wanted the sheriff's substation issue resolved. She added that she did not think it was a good use of taxpayer's dollars to charge another government entity rent. She suggested assigning Councilmember Unker the task of obtaining the market rate for rent for the garage/warehouse space at the back of City Hall.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER REITER TO APPROVE THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF THE LEASE STATING THAT THE RENT CHARGE WOULD BE \$1 PER YEAR.

Councilmember Unker stated that according to Robert's Rules of Order, when a motion fails for lack of a second, the member that made the motion is not allowed to bring the matter up for six months. One of the councilmembers that did not make the motion or second it could bring it up for a vote, but not the councilmember that made the original motion.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

Councilmember Reiter stated she would ask continually for another councilmember to make the motion. She felt that the sheriff's office needed a definite answer regarding the issue. Mayor McCarthy stated he was under the impression that the sheriff's office had pulled out of the negotiations. Councilmember Reiter reported that she had spoken with an employee of the sheriff's department earlier in the day, and that was not the information she received. Therefore, she would continue to comment on the issue until it was resolved. Councilmember Brown felt there was too little information provided to the City Council and issues needed to be resolved other than just the lease details. Mayor McCarthy noted that he would be willing to offer them the space for \$1 per year for 10 years, but felt \$1 per year for 20 years was too long and not fair to the taxpayers of Lake St. Croix Beach. Councilmember Reiter stated that the sheriff's office would be making many improvements to the area that would then belong to the city.

M/S/P (Unker, Brown) TO SEND A LETTER TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INFORMING THEM THAT THE OFFER OF \$750 PER MONTH FOR YEARS 11-20 IS THE CITY'S FINAL OFFER, ASK THEM FOR A RESPONSE WITHIN 10 DAYS, AND IF NO RESPONSE IS RECEIVED, THE CITY WILL CONSIDER THE MATTER CLOSED AND THE CITY WILL AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE OTHER TENANTS FOR THE SPACE.

Councilmember Unker noted that this was besides the needs of the City Council for plans for the space, cost details, improvements, and project management. Mayor McCarthy pointed out that the city may be limited in the tenant that could be allowed in the space. Councilmember Reiter stated that information could be obtained by City Clerk-Administrator Smith from the city's bond counsel and Dave Bubany, of David Drown, who helped the city with the bond for the building.

MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

• **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS**

**Councilmember Brown's Report**

Councilmember Brown reported that the Park Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. He attended the Cable Commission on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. He has been elected as secretary of the commission. The meeting involved policy and procedure and reimbursements to the cities were discussed.

**Councilmember Kopp's Report**

Councilmember Kopp was absent, but Mary Parr reported that the Yellow Ribbon Alliance did not meet because their regular meeting night was the night of the political caucus. The meat raffles are continuing at the Bungalow, which are a good revenue generator.

**Councilmember Unker's Report**

Nothing further to report.

**Councilmember Reiter's Report**

Councilmember Reiter reported that the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization (WMO) has decided that some of the projects their money is spent on have reached the best water quality they can reach, so money will no longer be spent on those projects. She was unable to attend the Lower St. Croix Valley Partnership Plan due to illness. The Planning Commission has not yet met in 2014. She asked that the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Flood Advisory Commission meeting be scheduled.

Councilmember Reiter explained that the city has always had a booth at the Afton-Lakeland School Carnival, which will occur on April 26, 2014, staffed by the Environmental Advisory Commission/Recycle Committee. She pointed out that there are some by-laws or ordinances establishing the Environmental Advisory Commission which designate residents as members, but noting the low membership she wondered if the committee should be changed to a 4 or 5-city committee. She has heard of interest from a St. Mary's Point resident and would like to extend the invitation to join the committee to neighboring cities. Other councilmembers agreed this was a good idea.

There was a brief discussion regarding recycling service providers.

**Mayor McCarthy's Report**

Mayor McCarthy stated that he would like to schedule a workshop, and he suggested some topics of discussion. City Attorney Sandstrom noted that the mayor can request a special City Council meeting or worksession to be scheduled. There was a discussion of possible dates. Mayor McCarthy asked City Clerk-Administrator Smith to schedule a worksession in early March.

He thanked STS for digging out many of the city's fire hydrants. STS crews will be in the city again on Thursday, February 13, 2014.

**City Attorney's Report**

City Attorney Kevin Sandstrom reported that he had met with City Clerk-Administrator Smith and Marion Kaufmann, from the Bayport Legion to review the gambling ordinance. They will be meeting again after Ms. Kaufmann gathers some further information.

Mr. Sandstrom then noted that after reviewing the ordinance, it appears that the ordinance would also apply to the Flood Run. Historically the city has never looked at the Flood Run for charitable gambling donations. Councilmember Reiter noted that 50% of the gambling proceeds seemed high to her, and she remembered the City Council at the time discussing the issue. She thought the percentage had been lowered. City

Attorney Sandstrom suggesting amending the ordinance to make compliance easier for the Bayport Legion and to exempt the Flood Run. It was noted that this ordinance could also affect other events in the city such as the bingo game at the church's fall festival.

**City Clerk-Administrator Smith's Report**

City Clerk-Administrator Angel Smith reported that boat permit applications and waiting list renewal letters had been sent out. A recycling calendar provided by Waste Management was included in the February newsletter. Ms. Smith will be meeting with the insurance company representative to review list of items on the city insurance policy and ensure that all items/structures are insured properly. She noted that some cities insure everything (including city signs to park fences). Other cities only insure larger items such as city buildings or other structures.

Notices of a public hearing were sent out, but then a cancellation of that public hearing was sent. However, the variance application is still being completed and will be submitted in the near future.

Ms. Smith asked that newsletter articles be submitted by Friday, February 14, 2014 for inclusion in the March newsletter. City offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2014 in observance of Presidents' Day.

New voting equipment will be used in the upcoming elections. There will be service charges to municipalities as there has been in the past.

**Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar's Report**

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar presented the bills for the month of February totaling \$91,653.71, which included \$34,702.50 for the City Hall bond payment and \$30,032.33 for July-December 2013 police services. Jon Place pointed out that the financial reports posted to the city's website were sideways and difficult for people to read. It was noted that the direction was the only way the documents could be scanned in, and city staff did not have the software needed to turn the documents in the file. It was reported that payment to the WMO was the amount for the entire year rather than just the first half.

M/S/P (Brown, Reiter) TO APPROVE THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$91,653.71. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Truhlar asked that each City Councilmember fill out the conflict of interest letter for the audit and return to her as soon as possible.

• **ADJOURNMENT**

M/S/P (Brown, Unker) TO ADJOURN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 8:54 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

*Acronyms and abbreviations that may appear in this newsletter.*

CC	=	City Council
EAC	=	Environmental Advisory Commission/Recycle Committee
FAC	=	Floodplain Advisory Commission
FEMA	=	Federal Emergency Management Agency
LSCVA=		Lower St. Croix Valley Alliance
LSCVCC=		Lower St. Croix Valley Cable Commission
M/S/P	=	Moved, Seconded, and Passed
M/S/F	=	Moved, Seconded, and Failed
RFP	=	Request For Proposal
SEH	=	Short Elliott Hendrickson (City Engineer)

Ordinance 1801.010 Curfew for Minors . . . Between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the months of September through May and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the months of June through August, it shall be unlawful for any minor under the age of 16 years to idle, loiter, or be upon the public streets, boulevards, sidewalks, alleys, parks, beach or other public places in the City of Lake St. Croix Beach.

## Exterior Storage

Trailers, Boats, RV's, Lawn Equipment, Utility Trailers, Etc...

- Should be stored in rear yard or side yard.
- Your yard might not be big enough! There are limits.
- Watercraft & Watercraft Trailers: Licensed & owned by resident occupying residential property.  
Boats -25 Feet  
Boat Trailers – 35 feet
- Vehicles – Current registration & operable.
- Other items may require that they be stored within a building or fully screened.

Ordinance 724.04 Outdoor Implements . . . any power lawn mower, snowblower, 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. . .



## 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.

## Beware Winter/Spring Threats to Septic Systems

Arctic cold and spring thaws can both present challenges to people who have individual septic treatment systems. People don't usually think about taking precautions with their septic systems until they have a problem at their own home. But by then the damage is done, and problems can be expensive to correct.

Even if you did not take precautions before the start of winter, it is not too late to do so now. You can do the following to help protect your septic systems from freezing and backing up into your home:

- Place a layer of straw, leaves, or hay over the pipes, tank and drain field for insulation.
- Use your water regularly. Regular water use, especially warm or hot water helps prevent a system from freezing.
- Do not drive any vehicles, snowmobiles, or ATVs over your system. This is particularly true when the ground is softened by spring thaws.
- Have your tank pumped if you plan to be gone for an extended period of time. Also have a neighbor come over and flush toilets or run warm water down your system periodically while you are gone.
- Fix any leaky plumbing fixtures that may send a constant drip of cold water into your system.

Contact a professional septic pumper if you have already experienced a problem or fear you may have one starting. They are qualified to pump your tank if needed and/or determine how best to thaw out any frozen areas. If one of the pipes is frozen, the pumper will need to use a steamer to clear the ice. The tank is usually not what freezes; it is the pipe between the house and the tank or the drain field that freezes.

If your drain field (the open area, or piping network in which the surrounding soil absorbs the liquids from a septic tank) is already frozen, there is little that can be done except to have a certified septic pumper check and pump the tank regularly until the weather warms.

Already had your tank pumped but are experiencing a back up in your home? Then it is even more likely that the pipe between the house and tank is frozen, and you should call a professional to assess the problem.

A number of fact sheets are available on the MPCA website for more information on how best to prepare and maintain your septic system throughout the year at [www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/lists/index.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/lists/index.html). Additional information about the proper care of septic systems is available on the University of Minnesota Extension Service's website at <http://septic.umn.edu/homeowner/index.html>.

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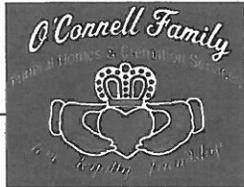
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## City Directory

### City Council

**Tom McCarthy**

Mayor, 436-5686

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**Charles Brown**

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**Cheryl Kopp**

Councilmember, 214-9665

E-Mail: [ck66575@gmail.com](mailto:ck66575@gmail.com)

**Cindie Reiter**

Councilmember, 436-8244

E-Mail: [cindie55043@gmail.com](mailto:cindie55043@gmail.com)

**Jim Unker**

Councilmember, 340-5800

E-Mail: [C6513405800@gmail.com](mailto:C6513405800@gmail.com)

### Services

Animal Control 715-386-7789

Building Inspector 651-436-1405

City Hall 651-436-7031

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) 437-9201

***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.us](mailto:rep.kathy.lohmer@house.mn.us)

**Karin Housley**

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**Mark Dayton**

Minnesota Governor 651-201-3400

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**Betty McCollum**

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E-mail: [betty.mccollum@mail.house.gov](mailto:betty.mccollum@mail.house.gov)

**Amy Klobuchar**

U. S. Senator 612-727-5220 or 202-224-3244

E-mail: [klobuchar@senate.gov](mailto:klobuchar@senate.gov)

**Al Franken**

U. S. Senator 651-221-1016 or 202-224-5641

E-mail: [info@franken.senate.gov](mailto:info@franken.senate.gov)

### Meeting Schedule

- Planning Commission – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday
- LSCV Alliance – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at Fire Hall at 4:30
- Middle SCV WMO – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at Washington Conservation District Office
- Park Commission 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday
- Recycle Committee Varies
- LSCV Partnership Team – Varies
- City Council 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon in Jan & Feb)
- Land Use Review Committee Varies
- LSCV Fire District – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

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