



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

Staff:  
 Interim City Clerk-Administrator  
 Mitch Berg  
 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)

October, 2014

Issue No. 502

# 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.

## **October Calendar**

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

Wednesday, October 1  
 Planning Commission

Wednesday, October 8  
 LSCV Fire District at Fire Hall

Thursday, October 9  
 Recycle Day

Thursday, October 9  
 Middle SCV WMO meeting at Washington Conservation District Office

Tuesday, October 14  
 Park Commission

Monday, October 20  
 Regular City Council Meeting

Thursday, October 23  
 Recycle Day

Monday, October 27  
 LSCV Alliance – 4:30 p.m. at Fire Hall

## City Council Seats On November 4<sup>th</sup> Ballot:

**MAYOR**  
 Two-Year Term  
**(Vote For One)**

Jim Unker

Tom McCarthy

Write In:

**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
 Four-Year Term  
**(Vote For Up To Two)**

Cindie J. Reiter

Michelle Kline

Renee J. Godbout

Mildred J. Brown

Write In:

## **Automatic Payments – Water Billing**

Automatic payments are now being offered by the Lakeland Water Utility for monthly water bills. An application needs to be 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 the website ([ci.lakeland.mn.us](http://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.

Swim buoys are removed from the river, and the summer is winding down. Just a reminder to all boat permit holders that your boats, moorings, and docks must be removed by November 1.

To help keep taxes low, the city relies on residents to help keep corners and rights-of-way clear of vegetation for visibility and line-of-sight issues. Please help us by ensuring that your right-of-way is clear of vegetation at least 6 feet from the edge of the paved street. This will also help with snowplowing. The snowplows need the right-of-way to push the snow off the roads. Otherwise, our streets become too narrow. Brush day is Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Aggregate Industries on the frontage road north of I-94.

Have a Safe & Happy Halloween!

-Mayor Tom McCarthy

**See Pages 2 – 4 for Mayor and City Council Candidate Statements**

## *Candidate Statements - Mayor*

### **Mayor Candidate Jim Unker**

Hello everyone,

Please consider me the quiet candidate as I believe this election is about ideas, leadership and vision, not about how many lawn signs I can get onto street corners and into your face.

I'm a LSCB homeowner for eight years, council member for two. I'm not part of the good ol boys/girls establishment and I may be a relative newcomer but make no mistake, I've been around the block a few times.

Let's lower taxes by increasing revenues from boat permits, something I tried but was blocked by three council members who have slips/boats. The current waiting list system is unfair.

Lets increase beach parking fees which should allow our new electronic pay system to pay for itself more rapidly. Lets rent the extra City Hall space but please no more 20 year free rent deals. Lets investigate a Citywide WIFI system. Plus with the DNR's help, lets maintain relative building control over our riverfront re-development.

And last but not least, let's stop Afton's septic system and advocate a regional solution. Do we really want waste tank trucks dumping into a system on our eastwardly-aquafer-flowing west side?

Please vote for me if you share my vision.

Jim Unker

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### **Mayor Candidate Tom McCarthy**

Tom McCarthy

As your incumbent Mayor, I have resided in Lake St. Croix Beach for over 33 years with my wife Jean of 29 years. We have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. I moved here to take advantage of the relaxed lifestyle and the quaint river community. LSCB is a safe community to walk your dog or visit sitting around a campfire and my commitment is to keep the friendly, charming nature of our city in tact while keeping it clean and safe for its you, its residents.

In my 6 years as mayor, my accomplishments have included, among many others, the purchase and remodel of a new city hall to replace our failing previous city hall; coordinated the flood activities in 2011, including acquiring cement barriers for all future flood activities, saving the community money, and working with the Army Corp of Engineers on the improvement of our levy systems. We have many ongoing efforts to beautify the city through city parks, streets, the mile of city beach, and bluff restoration. I am a hands-on mayor, driving our community daily to identify needed work or projects. When re-elected, I will continue to diligently pursue all these efforts.

# *Candidate Statements - City Council*

## **City Council Candidate Cindie J. Reiter**

Dear LSCB Residents

Campaign 2014 is in full swing, it's that time again when campaign signs pop up, people literature drop and candidates door knock to tell you why to vote for them.

Why I ask you to vote for me;

Love of my/our community. Having lived here for nearly 25 years and have been a PUBLIC SERVANT for about 12 years I understand the challenges of our small city. Budgeting, planning, zoning, and environmental concerns, all facets in trying to support our community standards, yet still be able to greet and wave to the people (maintaining that sense of community) that may not agree with the way I voted on a certain issues.

It's a difficult seat at times to be in – but I believe in civics and being Civic minded. I support the challenge that goes along with being one of five independent, open minded people; chosen by the members of the community we live in, to address a problem and to arrive at a solution best for the community.

My attributes (I have been told) are; \*fair minded \* objective \* loyal \* honest

Please vote for me.

**Cindie J Reiter**

Wife, Mother, Candidate for City Council 2015 – 2018

651-436-8244

[Vote4Cindie@gmail.com](mailto:Vote4Cindie@gmail.com)

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## **City Council Candidate Michelle Kline**

Michelle Kline

I have been living in Lake St. Croix Beach for the past 8 years with my husband Bill and our dog Dixie. We were attracted to this city because of the beauty and character that it holds, and since we have been living here that continues to be true.

For more than 15 years I have been in the medical industry, my degree in marketing and RN degree landed me a career in the hearing industry. Various territories and different positions over the years have always had me on the road traveling. Until, two years ago when I started working for a hearing company as Managing Director of the USA and have been able to work out of my home.

Now being able to be home on an everyday basis has made me want to be more a part of this beautiful community and continue to make it even more beautiful. I have spent over the last 15 years helping individuals HEAR and empower them to be part of their daily lives, now I want to help individuals be HEARD and empower them to be part of our community. I am your neighbor; let me be your voice!

## *Candidate Statements - City Council*

### **City Council Candidate Renee J. Godbout**

Renée Godbout-1880 Riviera Ave. So.

Resident since 1994

Background- Graphic and Interior Design

Built or renovated 13 homes

Served on the Planning Commission

We live in a unique and naturally beautiful riverfront community with the potential to be so much more. In order to reach that potential, I believe we need to do everything we can to encourage and assist any resident who is attempting to improve their property.

Since we do not have vacant land to be developed, updating and rebuilding our homes is our only option. We are in a transition from timeworn summer cottages to well-built, up-to-current standards healthy homes. Achieving that can be difficult in the riverway district or on a substandard lot, and willing homeowners need a helpful partner (not an adversary) in the city council.

My goal, if elected, would be to be that partner for positive change in our community. In so doing, making our city a more desirable and attractive place to live.

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### **City Council Candidate Mildred J. Brown**

Hi LSCB'ers,

I am running for a seat on city council because I believe that the elderly community deserve a vote. I am 81 years old and a retired Physicians Assistant/Nurse. I lived with my husband in St Mary's Point for 28 years. He passed 2 years ago and then with every last dime I had, I purchased a nice house in LSCB.

I want to join Jim Unker in the fight against the Afton Septic System. He and Councilperson Kopp seem to be the only two councilors actively fighting/attending meetings against Afton's Septic System. This land purchase by Afton for a septic system, right next to our homeowners is a real face slap. Afton's septic system (if approved) will lower all our property values!

I want lower taxes. For the elderly, taxes take a big percentage of our limited income. We should explore options to bring in more income from our city's natural assets and buildings. Many cities make money to offset taxes. Cities should not just run to break even and then raise taxes. Cities need non-tax income, lower taxes and vigilance to keep our property values up.

Please vote for me.

Millie Brown

# IMPORTANT 2014 ELECTION INFORMATION

## Polling Place

The polling place for the City of Lake St. Croix Beach is **City Hall**, 16455 20<sup>th</sup> Street South, Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043.

## Absentee Ballots

If you will be away from the city on Election Day and need an absentee ballot, contact Washington County at 430-6175.

## Voter Registration

If you have voted in this city during the past four years and have not changed residence within the city, you need not register again. If you are **not a registered voter**, you can register with the Washington County Auditor's Office (see applicable dates below) or you may register at the polling place on Election Day. Please bring one of the following when you register:

- Driver's license/permit or receipt
- MN identification card or receipt
- Registration in the same precinct
- Notice of late registration
- A registered voter from this precinct who will sign an oath as to your eligibility.
- Utility bill with a photo ID. The bill must show the current address and be due within 30 days of the election.

## Electronic Voting System

The City will conduct the 2014 elections on an electronic voting system. The optical scan ballot will be easy to use. The voter simply fills in an oval corresponding to his/her choice for each office. A blank space is provided for each office for write-in candidates; write the candidate's name in the blank and then fill in the oval pertaining to that choice. Also available is the Automark system, which is a machine that can provide a large font ballot, as well as earphones for audio reading of the ballot. This machine is provided through HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA) funding. After completing the ballot, insert the ballot into the counting machine. In less than one second, each vote is counted and stored in a memory pack. When the polls close, precinct totals are printed out by the counting machine. Please stop at City Hall during regular hours to view the ballot.

## Employees Time Off to Vote

Every employee who is eligible to vote in a state primary and general election has the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting during the morning of the day of that election, without penalty or deduction from salary or wages because of the absence.

## Assistance to Voters

Any voter with concerns about access to the polling place may contact the City Clerk's office at 651-436-7031 for assistance.

## Election Phone Numbers

651-436-7031 Lake St. Croix Beach City Clerk's Office  
651-430-6175 Washington County Auditor's Office  
651-215-1440 State of Minnesota Election Division

## Election Calendar

9/19 First day to apply for and/or return absentee ballots to county auditor for General Election  
11/3 Last day to apply for and/or return absentee ballots to county auditor for General Election  
11/4 **General Election**  
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

No public meetings or school events between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (M.S. 204C.03, Subd. 1) on date of election.

## *Public Safety*

*(Including Reports)*



## Law Enforcement Report

August, 2014

### Complaints Investigated

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 911 Open Line/Hangup       | 2 Parking Complaints       |
| 3 Driving Complaints         | 2 Property Found/Retrieval |
| 3 Medical                    | 1 Harassment Report        |
| 2 Animal Concern/Complaint   | 1 Theft Report             |
| 2 Lift Assist                | 1 Child Custody Issue      |
| 2 Burning Complaint/Concern  | 1 Check Welfare            |
| 2 Suspicious Vehicle         | 1 Property Damage          |
| 2 Possible Shots Fired/Heard | 1 Loose Sailboat           |

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 41 runs in August, 8 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 August, 7 dogs and 2 cats 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.**

## 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

### Sites

**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

### Brush Site

Thanks to Aggregate Industries who has agreed to provide a disposal site for brush from Lake St. Croix Beach residents again this year.

Aggregate Industries does not accept any construction materials. They will accept only brush such as limbs, trees, and shrub trimmings. No leaves or grass.

The site will be open from 8:00 to 11:00 am on the following Saturdays (first Saturday of the month, excluding holidays):

October 4                      November 1

### Calendar of Events for

### Valley Library in Lakeland – October 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.



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

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Schedule:</b> | <b>Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.</b>    |
|                  | <b>Oct. 2 at 9 a.m.</b>               |
|                  | <b>Oct. 8 at 4 p.m. and midnight</b>  |
|                  | <b>Oct. 9 at 7 a.m.</b>               |
|                  | <b>Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.</b>   |
|                  | <b>Oct. 16 at 9 a.m.</b>              |
|                  | <b>Oct. 22 at 4 p.m. and midnight</b> |
|                  | <b>Oct. 23 at 7 a.m.</b>              |
|                  | <b>Oct. 29 at 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.</b>   |
|                  | <b>Oct. 30 at 9 a.m.</b>              |

*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 September 15, 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, Cheryl Kopp, Cindie Reiter, Jim Unker

**Staff Present** Mitchell Berg, Kevin Sandstrom, Amy Truhlar

**Others Present** Bill Glampe, Michelle Kline, Cathy Chavez, Jim Golden, Kris Peterson, Steve Hesse, Kevin Wall, Deputy Sullivan

- **Call To Order** by Mayor McCarthy at 7:05 p.m.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** was said.
- **Approve Agenda** Agenda Item 3  
M/S/P (Brown, Unker) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (KOPP).
- **Consent Agenda** Agenda Item 6  
Mayor McCarthy read the list of Consent Agenda Items: approve minutes of Regular City Council meeting on August 18, 2014, adopt the 2014 preliminary pay equity report, and schedule to Truth-In-Taxation Hearing for Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. during the December Regular City Council meeting.  
M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, BROWN – AYE, KOPP – ABSENT, MCCARTHY – AYE.  
  
M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 18, 2014 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (KOPP).  
  
M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO ADOPT THE 2014 PRELIMINARY PAY EQUITY REPORT. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (KOPP).  
  
M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO SCHEDULE THE TRUTH-IN-TAXATION HEARING FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. DURING THE DECEMBER REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION PASSED, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (KOPP).

- **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jim Golden, 1920 Quarry Avenue South, reported that he had not heard anything new regarding the Afton cluster septic system in the past few weeks. He got a letter informing him that his petition for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), which had previously been denied, will be considered again because of new information. City Attorney Sandstrom noted that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is not mandating the EAW yet, but rather than deny the petition, they are re-evaluating it. They may deny it again, but for now the petition is re-opened.

Councilmember Reiter noted that she also submitted something to the MPCA, and she has not yet heard back anything regarding her submissions.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

Presented by Councilmember Brown and Deputy Sullivan Law Enforcement

- 43 calls, 0 citations
- Animal Control
  - no calls
  - 7 dogs lost, 2 cats lost, no animals found

Councilmember Brown read the code enforcement report. 10 letters were sent regarding code violations, 1 administrative citation was issued, and 11 complaints have been resolved or rescinded. The complaint process was clarified and is working well.

Kris Peterson, Fire Chief of the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department, reported 41 calls in August, 8 of which were in Lake St. Croix Beach. The Fire Department receives on average 440 calls per year, but this year they are on pace for 500 calls. A burn permit will be issued for 1780 Quentin Avenue South. There were no objections or concerns from the City Council. The first CPR class will be held on September 30 for employees of the Fire Department's families to give the instructors their first training before they can begin teaching on their own.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- o **Fire Relief Association Annual Presentation**  
Kevin Wall, president of the Lower St. Croix Valley Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association, reported he had three items he wanted to discuss with the City Council: the annual audit of the Relief Association, the benefit increase policy, and GASB 67. Mr. Wall presented the balance sheet comparing the pension fund from 2013 with 2012. He noted that on December 31, 2013, there was a fund balance of

\$1,418,942, which was an increase of \$203,593 over the balance on January 1, 2013. 2013 was the last year of the deficit payments from the 5 cities (Afton, Lake St. Croix Beach, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, St. Mary's Point). The funding ratio on December 31, 2013 was 130.8%, which is 30.8% overfunded from what would have to be paid out at the \$3,100 per year of service benefit.

Mr. Wall explained that as the Board of Trustees, by State Statute, they have a fiduciary responsibility to the general membership to provide the highest pension benefit possible without sending the fund into a deficit. There are different thresholds that they cannot go beyond due to state laws and statutes. The fund cannot go into deficit due to an increase in the benefit unless the 5 cities approve the increase. He stated that the Board would like more involvement in a proposed benefit increase from the City Councils. A meeting will be held in October where all members of the City Councils from Afton, Lake St. Croix Beach, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, and St. Mary's Point will be invited. This meeting will focus on creating a Benefit Increase Policy that will find the balance point between providing the highest benefit and the needs of the City Councils to manage taxpayer's money properly.

GASB-67 is an accounting policy that will take effect in 2015 for cities that have an annual audit. Mr. Wall explained that this will require establishing communications between the city's auditor and the Fire Relief Association's accountant. He noted that this will only affect Afton and Lake St. Croix Beach as they are the only two cities in the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that undergo an annual audit. It will not affect cities that do not undergo an annual audit.

Councilmember Reiter asked how it would affect the balance and the fund-balance ratio if any firefighters were to leave. Mr. Wall explained that the balance would decrease if disbursement was made. At the same that is lost on the asset side, it is also lost on the liability side, so the two sides would still balance and the fund-balance ratio would not be changed. Councilmember Reiter asked what the payout would be if the 5 longest-term Fire Department employees all left. Mr. Wall noted that would cost the fund \$100,000 per individual. Therefore the assets would decrease by half a million dollars if they all left, the liabilities would also decrease by half a million dollars but the ratio would not change. Councilmember Reiter asked how the payment was calculated for the long-term employees when they get the retirement payout. Mr. Wall explained that whatever the rate is at the time of retirement is the rate for every year of service. So the previous rates do not matter. All that matters is the rate at the time of retirement.

There was discussion regarding whether a higher amount of retirement benefit could be used as a recruitment tool as the Fire Department is having a hard time getting younger volunteers to join. Mr. Wall noted that according to state statutes, a level benefit must be offered. Different rates for different employees are not allowed. He added that the retirement benefit is more of a retention tool than a recruitment tool.

- o **Resolution 2014-13, A Resolution To Terminate The Local State of Emergency**

M/S/P (Brown, McCarthy) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2014-13, A RESOLUTION TO TERMINATE THE LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, BROWN – AYE, KOPP – AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

- o **Street Repairs On Quinlan Avenue South in Park Elm Development**

Steve Hesse, 1261 Quinlan Avenue South and secretary of the Park Elm Association, reported that the road leading into their development had been deteriorating, and when the city was completing some patch work on the roads in the spring, this area was not fixed. He explained that one of the members of the association came to City Hall and talked to staff regarding whose responsibility that portion of the road was. Another member of the association was having blacktop work done on their driveway and had obtained a quote for the street work while he was in the area. After receiving no response from the city, the association obtained a second quote and went with the lower of the two bids. Mr. Hesse provided pictures of the area before the patch work was done and after it was completed. He stated that the association has already paid for the work, but they are asking that the city determine who is responsible for this and that the city pay a portion of the total bill.

Mr. Hesse noted that he does not know where the ownership starts and ends and whether this section was in the right-of-way (ROW) on Quinlan Avenue South. Councilmember Reiter suggested that City

Engineer John Parotti may need to answer the question and determine where the ROW starts and ends. Interim City Clerk-Administrator Mitch Berg stated that he was reluctant to recommend full or partial payment because the project was not done through the city's engineering process.

Councilmember Reiter expressed concern that the portion that was repaired around the corners will get worn down again within a few years as there are many corners like this throughout the city. She suggested that the City Council could get an estimate from City Engineer Parotti and pay that amount. She was not inclined to the reimburse for the corner due to the fact that there are numerous other corners damaged as this one was. City Attorney Kevin Sandstrom pointed out that it is unclear who owns this portion of the roadway, and he compared the private road to the association to driveways. Typically, a portion of the driveway is in the city ROW, but the homeowner is still responsible for damage to the driveway. The City Council asked for additional time to research this issue further with the City Engineer.

o **Vacant Building Registration Ordinance**

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg noted that this ordinance would be a way for the city to determine which properties were vacant, and it provides a way to monitor those properties. The ordinance would require property owners to pay \$300 - \$500 per property per year. This fee helps to augment the city's code enforcement and building inspection costs on the property. He noted that Washington County provides lists to cities on a monthly basis of properties that are going into foreclosure. The city can also obtain information by requesting that the utility companies provide the city with a list each month of any properties who have requested to cancel their utility services.

Councilmember Reiter asked how the city would get the money from the property owner. Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg explained that once the city determined that a property was vacant, a letter get sent to the owner notifying them they have 30 days to pay the fee. If they do not pay, it would be assessed to the taxes. Councilmember Reiter noted that many of the properties may be listed as Lakeland on the foreclosure list, so it would need to be checked carefully. She also wondered how long a foreclosure took to show up on Washington County's list.

M/S/P (Brown, Reiter) TO DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED WITH DRAFTING AN ORDINANCE, POLICY, AND PROCEDURE TO BRING FORWARD AT THE OCTOBER CITY COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

o **Resolution 2014-14, A Resolution Approving the Proposed 2015 City Budget and Tax Levy**

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg explained that there was an error when certifying the 2014 tax levy to Washington County in September 2013. The City Council approved a tax levy of \$480,878. However \$466,500 was certified as the preliminary tax levy, which was the number on the spreadsheets for the budget before being changed by the City Council. The City Council adopted a tax levy of \$479,878 in December 2013. The final levy cannot be higher than the preliminary levy. Residents had a tax levy 3% lower than what the City Council had anticipated. Therefore, a 3% increase was recommended for the 2015 tax levy.

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg then reported that the City Council 2015 budget goals were to provide an orderly and efficient program for capital expenditures and to keep the need for public expenditures at the lowest level possible consistent with providing essential services. He noted that staff goals included recodifying the city's existing code book and to eliminate the city's dependency of Local Government Aid (LGA) to fund the city's day-to-day operations. Property taxes account for 67% of the city's revenues, and this is similar to other small cities. The three largest expenditure categories in Lake St. Croix Beach are streets, general government, and other services. The three largest expenditures for the average Minnesota city are public safety, general government, and streets.

It was noted that the property tax rate jumped in 2012. This was due to the switch from the market value homestead credit (MVHC) to a market value (MV) exclusion credit. He noted that this switch was a good deal for property owners, but while property owners get the credit, cities no longer get the reimbursement they used to get. This causes property taxes to increase because cities still need the same amount of money to operate, but they no longer receive a portion from the State of Minnesota.

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg explained that even with a 0% levy increase, the average property owner in Lake St. Croix Beach would see an increase to their property taxes of approximately \$30-\$40

per year. With a 3% levy increase, the average property owner in Lake St. Croix Beach would see an increase to their property taxes of approximately \$60-\$70 per year.

The City Council set the preliminary tax levy at \$480,500 and the preliminary budget of \$597,790.

M/S/P (Reiter, Kopp) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2014-14, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED 2015 CITY BUDGET AND TAX LEVY WITH A LEVY OF \$480,787 AND A BUDGET OF \$597,790. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, BROWN – AYE, KOPP – AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

o **Complaint Policy**

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg explained that has been no written policy regarding complaints. After receiving input from the Code Enforcement Officer, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, and City Attorney, he drafted a policy. The new policy allows for anonymous complaints. He noted that if there are questions about a complaint, it may not be resolved if the complainant has not left their name. This policy also allows discretionary authority to enforce additional code violations if in the course of performing his/her duties the code enforcement officer uncovers additional code violations. All complaints must be submitted to City Hall and entered into a log before an investigation can occur.

There was discussion regarding zoning issues versus nuisance issues. City Attorney Sandstrom noted that there are many codes outside of the zoning code, but there are things in the zoning code that could also be considered nuisances. He noted that the original draft of the complaint policy contained a statement that the city would only address issues if a complaint was filed, but he felt that the city may want to be able to address some concerns even if no complaint has been submitted. The City Council should direct staff regarding how aggressive they want them to be in finding and enforcing code violations. Councilmember Reiter noted that in the past only nuisance violations required a complaint, while zoning violations did not require a complaint.

City Attorney Sandstrom noted that the city could direct the enforcement officer to drive around looking for violations, but that will take up a lot of time and be more costly. It was noted that complaints about existing structures would require more investigation as a variance might have been granted or the structure made pre-date code restricting it. Councilmember Unker stated that he believed that once a complaint was filed against a property, the door should be open for the code enforcement officer to address other violations that are noted while investigating the original complaint.

Councilmember Unker asked that there also be closure for the person making the complaint. He asked that notification be sent to the complainant once the issue has been resolved.

Councilmember Kopp expressed concern that the job description for the code enforcement officer was very clear regarding their job duties. She acknowledged that while there are some properties that need some cleaning up, she did not want to see the city turn into a little Woodbury with strict enforcement and people driving around looking for violations.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER BROWN, SECONDED BY MAYOR MCCARTHY, TO APPROVE THE CITY OF LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH COMPLAINT POLICY AS WRITTEN.

Councilmember Unker wanted to ensure that while investigating one complaint, the code enforcement officer would have the authority to address other code violations that are observed. Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg explained that additional code violations could be addressed at the discretion of city staff.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

o **Schedule Special City Council Meeting – City Clerk-Administrator Interviews**

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg reported that the city received 11 applications. Three were rejected for being incomplete, and the remaining eight were scored. One applicant scored above 90, one applicant scored between 80 and 90, one applicant scored between 70 and 80, one applicant scored between 60 and 70, and the other four scored below 50. An additional application was received on September 15, 2014, but has not yet been scored as preference was to be given to those applications received by September 12, 2014. However this applicant also applied for the position in 2013 and scored 95. The applicant was interviewed by the Personnel Committee but not recommended for the second round with the City Council.

There was discussion regarding how to proceed with the process. Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg pointed out that the City Council has the option of interviewing the two candidates with the highest scores to determine if either of them would be a good fit or they could extend the application period. The City Council agreed that they would prefer to have more than two candidates and to extend the application period. Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg stated he would communicate with the two high scorers to inform them that the application period was being extended. A Personnel Committee meeting will be held to determine the new timeline for the process.

- **Monitor Equipment Quote**

At the August City Council meeting, the City Council asked videographer Don Fixmer to obtain quotes for monitors so audience members could see what Councilmembers saw on the monitors on the dais. He submitted a few different options for one or two monitors. The City Council discussed the options including where monitors could be set up. They agreed to have one 50" flat screen monitor with a wall mount. The total would be \$746.58.

M/S/P (McCarthy, Kopp) TO APPROVE THE EXPENSE OF UP TO \$800 TO B&H VIDEO FOR A 50 INCH FLAT SCREEN MONITOR AND WALL MOUNT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Resolution 2014-15, A Resolution Approving Summary Publication of Chapter 1103 Licensing and Regulating Lawful Gambling Activities Ordinance**

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2014-15, A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF CHAPTER 1103 LICENSING AND REGULATING LAWFUL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES ORDINANCE AND WAIVE THE READING. THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN: UNKER – AYE, REITER – AYE, BROWN – AYE, KOPP – AYE, MCCARTHY – AYE.

- **2014 – 2017 Snowplowing Contract**

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg noted that 10 Request For Proposals (RFPs) were sent, and only one response was received. Tri-County Service Inc., the city's current snowplow contractor submitted a proposal with a \$10 per hour increase over 2014 prices. This contract will be through 2017. Mr. Berg noted that the City Council could approve the proposal from Tri-County or they could try and get additional proposals.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM TRI-COUNTY SERVICE INC FOR SNOWPLOWING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95 PER HOUR PER PIECE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE 2014 – 2017 SNOWPLOWING SEASONS.

Councilmember Reiter pointed out that there are only 11.6 miles of narrow roads in the city, and it is hard to get a vendor down here to perform this service.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **City Newsletters**

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg noted that staff had been asked to examine the cost of sending out an e-newsletter versus a regular newsletter. He sent information to the City Council noting that it was unclear whether there would be a cost savings to do the newsletter in email format. State Statutes require City Council meeting minutes to be published, and it is uncertain whether an e-newsletter would comply with this statute. It was noted that the newsletter is available on the city's website.

If the option were given to residents to sign up to receive the newsletter via email, the cost of mailing the newsletters would go up as mailing by permit (labeled as postal patron when mailed) is less expensive. Also, there would be additional staff time as staff would then have to label each individual newsletter rather than leaving them as postal patron. Due to the increase in postage and/or staff time, the City Council opted to leave the newsletter sent through the mail.

- **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS**

- **Councilmember Brown's Report**

Nothing further to report.

- **Councilmember Kopp's Report**

The Veterans' Dinner will take place Monday, November 10 at St. Francis of Assisi Church. They are looking for volunteers to help out at the event. The Yellow Ribbon Alliance will also be a part of the meat raffle at The Bungalow.

- **Councilmember Unker's Report**

Nothing further to report.

- **Councilmember Reiter's Report**

Councilmember Reiter reported that she will leave her packet from the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization (WMO) with city staff if any of the candidates for City Council would like to look it over. She explained that the WMO approved the Prater raingarden project. The Praters received a grant of \$250. She urged residents to do all they could to reduce the amount of phosphorous entering the river.

- **Mayor McCarthy's Report**

Mayor McCarthy reported that Sentenced-To-Service (STS) crews were in the city the first week of September. They seeded the south bluff restoration area and have been working on many line-of-sight issues. The swim buoys will be removed soon. STS is coming again on September 16, 2014 and will clean the area on Quartz Avenue South between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Street South.

- **City Attorney's Report**

Nothing further to report.

- **Interim City Clerk-Administrator Mitchell Berg**

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg explained that the grading ordinance requires a conditional use permit (CUP) when depositing more than fifty cubic yards of material per acre. City Attorney Sandstrom interprets the ordinance to mean that if a person owns a 10,000 square foot lot, that person would need a CUP if they were to deposit a total of 11.47 cubic yards or more of materials. Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg stated that this seems excessive and burdensome and questioned whether this was the intent of the ordinance or if the language should be changed. City Engineer Parotti had pointed out that the ordinance does not state dirt, so it could be mulch or even rocks for landscaping. City Attorney Sandstrom stated that he would not consider mulch to be related to this ordinance as mulch does not typically alter the grade of the lot or the way in which water runs off the property. He pointed out that strict reading of the ordinance requires fractional amounts based on the size of the lot. The City Council referred the matter to the Planning Commission to consider a change to this ordinance as advised by City Attorney Sandstrom.

In the employment agreement for Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg, it stated that holidays would not be paid. However, the motion made by the City Council to offer the interim position to Mr. Berg only stated no sick or vacation time would be accrued or paid. He asked for clarification regarding holiday pay for the Interim City Clerk-Administrator position.

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO ALLOW ALL GOVERNMENT HOLIDAYS LISTED IN THE PERSONNEL POLICY TO BE PAID TO THE INTERIM CITY CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg reported that he received a letter from the City of Afton asking if the City of Lake St. Croix Beach wanted to receive and comment on their Facilities Plan for their waste water treatment system. He responded indicating that the city would like to receive and comment on the plan. He has not yet received a copy of the plan.

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

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Amy Truhlar presented the bills for the month of September totaling \$30,365.68.

M/S/P (Reiter, McCarthy) TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,365.68. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Interim City Clerk-Administrator Berg announced that absentee voting for the November election opens on Friday, September 19, 2014. Absentee voting is conducted at all of the Washington County Service Centers.

• **ADJOURNMENT**

M/S/P (Reiter, Brown) TO ADJOURN AT 9:29 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)           |

**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.

**Reminder:**

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.

***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.



***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.

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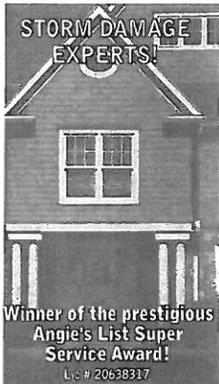
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## City Directory

### City Council

**Tom McCarthy**

Mayor, 436-5686

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

**Charles Brown**

Councilmember, 612-889-7588

E-Mail: [chazbrown@comcast.net](mailto:chazbrown@comcast.net)

**Cheryl Kopp**

Councilmember, 214-9665

E-Mail: [koppsigns@gmail.com](mailto:koppsigns@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***

*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

### 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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E-mail: [sen.karin.housley@senate.mn](mailto:sen.karin.housley@senate.mn)

**Mark Dayton**

Minnesota Governor 651-201-3400

E-mail: [mark.dayton@state.mn.us](mailto:mark.dayton@state.mn.us)

**Betty McCollum**

U. S. Representative (District 4) 202-225-6631

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.

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