

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
April 28, 2015

The Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order in the Council Chambers of the City of Detroit Lakes Administration Building, April 28, 2015 at 5:00 P.M., all members of the City Council having been notified of the meeting and the business to be transacted.

Present: Mayor Matt Brenk; City Administrator Robert Louiseau; City Clerk Glori French; City Engineer Jon Pratt; Public Works Director Brad Green; Community Development Director Larry Remmen; City Attorney Charlie Ramstad and Police Chief Tim Eggebraaten

Aldermen: Imholte, Marks Erickson, Schiller, Schurman, Sukke, Waller, Wenner and Zeman

Absent: Vacant Position WARD II

Mayor Brenk opened the meeting noting that the Special Council Meeting discussion would be limited only to the topics on the agenda.

Community Development Director Larry Remmen presented the second reading of Ordinance 388 amending Section 20 of the Zoning Ordinance Rezoning an area from "R-2" One and Two Family Residence District to "R-LB" Residential Lake Front Business District at 1329 through 1355 Lake Avenue. Remmen noted, no changes have been made from the first reading on April 14, 2015. With no discussion a motion was made by Alderman Imholte, seconded by Alderman Sukke and carried, with two dissenting votes, (Marks Erickson and Schiller), introducing for its second reading and adoption of Ordinance 388 amending Section 20 of the Zoning Ordinance Rezoning an area from "R-2" One and Two Family Residence District to "R-LB" Residential Lake Front Business District at 1329 through 1355 Lake Avenue.

Mayor Brenk announced Dave Aune has resigned effective April 15, 2015 from his position as Alderman Ward II. Pursuant to the recommendation of the City Council to accept Dave Aune's resignation, a resolution was introduced by Alderman Zeman, who moved its adoption, declaring a vacancy to exist on the City Council pursuant to Section 2.06 of the Charter of the City of Detroit Lakes. The motion for the adoption of the resolution was seconded by Alderman Marks Erickson and carried without a dissenting vote. Mayor Brenk declared Resolution 0428 adopted.

City Attorney Charlie Ramstad advised the City Council on the procedure used to fill a Council vacancy in the past. Ramstad noted the City placed an advertisement in the newspaper with a deadline to receive resumes. The entire City Council then reviewed the resumes and ranked the candidates. The top five candidates were then interviewed and the top candidate was recommended and appointed at the next Regular City Council Meeting. Mayor Brenk then asked for comments and questions.

Alderman Jay Schurman from Ward III advised the Council he might be interested in applying for the Ward II vacancy, since he and his wife have an opportunity to purchase

property in Ward II and were in the process of deciding whether to move to Ward II. City Attorney Charlie Ramstad advised Alderman Schurman and the rest of the Council that Alderman Schurman was under no obligation to resign from his Ward III seat before his current term was up, even if he moved to a home in Ward II, however, Schurman would be unable to run for re-election in Ward III if he no longer resided in WARD III. Ramstad also noted on the other hand if Schurman opted to apply for the Ward II vacancy, and was appointed, Schurman would have to resign from his position in Ward III. The City Council would then have to adopt a resolution declaring a vacancy in Ward III and the process would start to fill the Ward III vacancy.

City Attorney Ramstad clarified if Alderman Schurman was to be appointed to Ward II and someone else was appointed to Ward III, both appointees would need to stand for election in the next general city election in 2016 that elected term would be for only two years. Ramstad also noted that if Schurman moved to Ward II and remained the Ward III Alderman his position along with former Alderman's Aune's position would be up for election to fill the remaining two years of the respective terms at the next general city election in 2016.

Alderman Imholte strongly recommended that the City Council look at amending the City Charter to eliminate the ward system altogether, to eliminate situations like this. Alderman Zeman disagreed with eliminating the ward system, noting the City of Moorhead recently converted back to a ward system. Mayor Brenk advised the City Council that he will ask the Community Development Committee to look into reviewing the City Charter, stating the review may or may not involve amending the City's Election Process from a ward system into one where all seats are at-large.

Rick Johnson, 1127 Wilson Avenue appeared before the Council, stating he would like to be considered for the Ward II vacancy, since he previously ran against Alderman Aune in the 2014 election and had 40% of the votes. Johnson also stated if Alderman Schurman was applying for the Ward II vacancy, Johnson would withdraw to avoid any unnecessary delays in the appointment process.

A motion was made by Alderman Marks Erickson, seconded by Alderman Schiller and carried, without a dissenting vote, adopting a procedure for appointing a candidate to fill the vacancy in Ward II. Procedure: Place advertisement in the local newspaper with a deadline to receive resumes; entire City Council will review the resumes; candidates will be ranked; top candidates will be interviewed by the Council; top candidate will be recommended and appointed by the Council to fill the vacancy.

There being no further business to conduct, by general consent, the Mayor adjourned the meeting 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Glori French
City Clerk