

**Adopted Minutes  
Special Council Meeting  
May 5, 2015**

Mayor Slavik called a Special Meeting of the Plymouth City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Parkers Lake Room of City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, on May 5, 2015.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Slavik, Councilmembers Beard, Carroll, Johnson, Prom, Willis, and Wosje.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrative Services Director Fischer and City Clerk Engdahl.

**Housing and Redevelopment Authority Interviews**

The Council interviewed applicants for the vacant seat on the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Following the interviews, the Council directed staff to prepare a resolution appointing Kira Vanderlan to this seat for the May 12th Council meeting agenda.

**Medicine Lake Water Level Study**

Immediately following the interviews, the Council proceeded to the Medicine Lake Conference Room to continue their study session.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Slavik, Councilmembers Beard, Carroll, Johnson, Prom, Willis, and Wosje.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF/STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT: Administrative Services Director Fischer, Public Works Director Cote, Water Resources Manager Asche, City Clerk Engdahl, Ed Matthiesen, Wenck Associates, John Barten and Rick Brasch, Three Rivers Park District, Karen Chandler, Laura Jester and Ginny Black, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Randy Anhorn, Hennepin County, and Kate Drewry, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Water Resources Manager Asche provided a presentation on investigating the low water level of Medicine Lake during the months of July, August, and September, which has an impact on the recreation opportunities. He stated a proposal was developed by the cities of Plymouth and

Medicine Lake to investigate options to improve the recreational opportunities during those months. The options for investigation are:

- Medicine Lake outlet modification
- Modification of upstream structures
- Sprinkling/water appropriation review
- Dredging
- Effect of private well use
- Effect of late season (July, August, September) evaporation

He mentioned the current fixed weir system that was installed in 1996 or going to a variable/adjustable weir system.

He stated the cost of the study would be \$45,012 which would be split evenly between the cities of Plymouth and Medicine Lake. The City of Medicine Lake has approved their portion of the funding, but for Plymouth, this expenditure isn't identified in either the 2015 recreation or water sources budgets and would need approval by the Council.

A number of Councilmembers voiced their frustration in the process by which this came before them this evening. Typically, before any project would get to this point, study session(s) would've been held by the Council to receive and discuss the issues (goals, who's involved, current policy, cost, etc.). This item is already at the point of allocating funding for the study or there is an expectation for the City to do so. This is a policy issue as the storm water utility fee collected by the City is used only for water quality improvements not for recreation. It appears to be more of a watershed issue as other bodies of water empty into Medicine Lake. This is also an equality issue as the City has a number of lakes in the community. Lastly, after the study is completed, there will be an expectation to fund improvements.

The Council received the following comments from the stakeholders:

John Barten, Three Rivers Park District: The recreation needs from the park area are being met. Challenges have increased due to the increased size of boats. Their goal is to preserve the natural resources while taking care of recreation.

Kate Drewry, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: In order to change runout elevations (lake outlet dams), it will take 51% of the property owners to submit the petition for the project. However, no project will be completed unless there is 100% of the property owners in support for the entire project area (upstream, downstream, and water body itself).

Randy Anhorn, Hennepin County: No comment.

Laura Jester, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission: The commission isn't interested in funding the study as it's a recreational issue, but would be interested in the results.

A majority of the Council stated that they don't support funding the study for the reasons noted above.

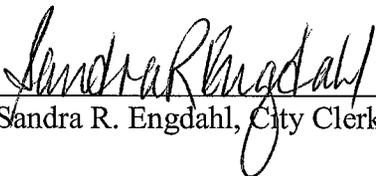
Pat Anderson, 267 Peninsula Road, Medicine Lake, and President of AMLAC, requested this item be placed on a City of Plymouth's regular meeting agenda in order to receive public input. He voiced his frustration that the information they received regarding process for this study and any improvements to the dam prior to this evening, conflicts with the information presented by the stakeholders.

The Council suggested to Mr. Anderson that he discuss the information he received this evening with the City of Medicine Lake and AMLAC. Following those discussions, he can come back to the City.

Mayor Slavik stated this item isn't scheduled to come back to the Council at any point in the future.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Slavik adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

  
Sandra R. Engdahl, City Clerk