



January 2024 Newsletter

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. Tues. Thurs.
9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Wed. and Fri.
closed, but residents may
call for an appointment.

OFFICE CLOSED
MON, JANUARY 1,
MON, JANUARY
15TH, MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR
DAY

CITY COUNCIL

Tom McCarthy, Mayor
651-436-7031
lscbmayor@gmail.com

JP Armstrong, Council
612-787-5113
jparmstrong@rocketmail.com

Noah Bluesky, Council
651-734-8400
noah.bluesky@yahoo.com

Cindie Reiter, Council
651-436-8244
cindie55043@gmail.com

Tim Schneider, Council
608-317-7422
schneitm12@gmail.com

Dave Engstrom, City Clerk/
Administrator
651-436-7031
dengstromlscb@comcast.net

Carol Billig, Deputy Clerk/
Treasurer 651.436.7031
cbilliglscbmn@comcast.net

Tammy Martin, Deputy Clerk
651.436.7031
tmartinlscbmn@comcast.net



The Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff wish everyone a very Safe & Happy New Year 2024

Mayor's Message

During the snowy winter months we get asked from time to time why salt is not used on our city streets. There are a number of reasons why salt is not used. Chemicals used on City Streets eventually ends up in the St. Croix River. As good stewards of the river we strive to avoid contaminating local waters. Also, chemicals add to the breakdown of city streets and cause additional maintenance work during warmer months.

With the New Year just around the corner, Residents can expect to get Boat/Dock renewal applications in January. The deadline to renew is March 15, 2024 but don't wait until the last minute. If you have any questions, be sure to contact City Hall. Additionally ATV and Golf Cart permits will be available at City Hall so come on in and get your 2024 permit and stickers.

It's wonderful to see all the beautiful Christmas lights decorating the homes and the yards throughout town. Great job residents!!

Happy New Year and Be Safe!

~ Mayor Tom

Contacts

Animal Control
715.220.1332

Building Inspector
651.208.4684

Burning Permits
651.248.5103

Environmental Center
651.275.7475

LSCV Fire Department
651.436.7033

Sheriff's Department
651.439.9381

Lakeland Water Utility
651.436.8044
swirth@peopleservice.com

Well Water Test Kits (WA
County) 651.403.6655

US Post Office (Lakeland)
651.436.5469

EMERGENCY
911

Helping Hands—If you or a neighbor needs help shoveling or have other needs this winter, the City has residents who can help.

Call City Hall at 651.436.7031 or email lscb@comcast.net.

City of Lake St. Croix Beach City Truth in Taxation and Council Meeting December 18th, 2023 6:00 PM

Unapproved Minutes

The City of Lake St. Croix Beach City Council met in regular session on Monday December 18th, at 6:03 pm. Said meeting was held in council chambers and via teleconference call, in said City.

CALL TO ORDER – 6:03 pm ~ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor McCarthy - (via interactive technology), Council Member Bluesky, Council Member Reiter, Council Member Schneider, Council Member Armstrong, Administrator Dave Engstrom. Also present: City Attorney Kevin Sandstrom, City Engineer John Parotti, City Accountant Kim Guyer, and Deputy Clerk Tammy Martin.

TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING called to order; Resident Patrice Nerad (via interactive technology) shared her concerns regarding Staff wages. City Accountant Kim Guyer presented an overview of the 2024 Budget notes and answered questions from the Council members. After some discussion, **Council Member Reiter motioned to close the Truth in Taxation Meeting; Council Member Bluesky seconded. All voted, Aye. Carried 5/0.**

APPROVE AGENDA for the City Council Meeting of December 18, 2023 ~ **Mayor McCarthy motioned to approve Agenda with a change to move Commander Harris, item 7D3 move to 7A2; Council Member Reiter seconded. All voted Aye, carried 5/0.**

APPROVE MINUTES from the City Council meeting of October 16, 2023 ~ **Mayor McCarthy motioned to approve the minutes; Council Member Reiter seconded. All voted Aye, carried 5/0.**

APPROVE MINUTES from the City Council meeting of November 20, 2023 ~ **Mayor McCarthy motioned to table the minutes until the January 2024 meeting; Council Member Reiter seconded. All voted Aye, carried 5/0.**

PUBLIC INPUT ~ Resident Dawn Bulera expressed concerns about residents doing unauthorized tree cutting along the bluffs and concerns about the residence at 1589 Racine Ave and the fence on same property.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS – Council Member Armstrong
Law Enforcement – 7 incidents
Emergency Response and Fire – 50 runs in November
Animal Control – 1

WSCO Contract- Commander Harris attended the meeting to answer questions regarding the WSCO Contract. After some discussion, **Council Member Bluesky motioned to accept the contract; Council Member Armstrong seconded. All voted, Aye. Carried 5/0.**

CITY STAFF REPORTS

City Accountant Report; **1. State of Operations October, 2023, 2. Claims to be Approved – December 18, 2023. Council Member Reiter motioned to approve bills, payments and claims as follows: Checks: 19897, 19949-19971, and EFT/DD: 231201-231227. Total amount of \$34,525.74. Council Member Bluesky seconded. All voted, Aye. Carried 5/0.**

Council Member Bluesky motioned to accept Resolution 2023-13, a Resolution adopting the Final Budget in the amount of \$991,847.00 and the Final Property Tax Levies in the amount of \$603,216.00 for 2024. Council Member Schneider seconded. All voted. Carried 4/1. (Council Member Reiter voted nay)

City Engineer John Parotti – Presented updates on some street maintenance planned for 2024. With the mild start to winter, the City will be watching water mains as the frost can go deep without snow cover.

City Attorney Kevin Sandstrom – Presented the Personnel Policy which incorporated new changes required by state law and incorporated the LSCB plan that was already in place. City Attorney Christina Bensen put this together working with Dave Engstrom. We are required to have the new plan in place by January 1st, 2024. **Mayor McCarthy made a motion to accept the revised Personnel Policy; Council Member Bluesky seconded. All voted, Aye. Carried 5/0.**

Administration Dave Engstrom –

~ Building Inspector Dewey Stensland submitted his intent to semi retire as of January 1, 2024.

Stensland Inspections, Isaac Stensland (Building Official) will continue to be the Inspector for the City.

~ Per Diem reports were handed out to Council members

~ Beach Bar Liquor License was up for renewal. **Council Member Armstrong motioned to renew the Liquor License. Council Member Reiter seconded. All voted, Aye. Carried 5/0.**

Building Permit Activity – report was submitted

NEW BUSINESS – none. *OLD BUSINESS* – none

COUNCIL REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Council Member Armstrong – no comments

Council Member Bluesky – commented that he felt it was a good year for the City, the Council worked well together. The beach activity went well over the summer. Thank you again to Josh Jensen for the donation to Pettit Park. And thank you to Dewey Stensland for his years of service to the City.

Council Member Schneider – **made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-12; A Resolution requesting the installation of push-button flashing pedestrian crossing signs at the roundabout intersection on County Road 18 at the Afton-Lakeland School. Council Member Reiter seconded. All voted, Aye. Carried 5/0.** Council Member Schneider also thanked the other Council Members for helping him with his transition onto the Council.

Council Member Reiter – asked for an update on the home on Racine Ave. that has dug out the yard and put in large boulders and several “junk cars” parked at the residence at 1585 Queens. Administrator Dave Engstrom answered that he and City Engineer Parotti are looking at the boulders. Also, the residence on Queens with the junk cars in the yard has been sent letters from the Attorney.

Mayor McCarthy – wished everyone Happy Holidays and a safe New Year.

ADJOURN – Mayor McCarthy motioned to adjourn. Council Member Reiter seconded. All voted, Aye. Carried 5/0. Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Building Permits

City Building Inspector is:

Stensland Inspections

651-505-9985

Are you doing a bit of Renovation? Restoration? Reconstruction to your home?

Before you begin ANY PROJECT, call the City Office to determine whether a permit will be required.

Doing work without a permit is a risky undertaking and the building inspector could 'red tag' your project which puts an immediate halt to your renovation.

Not only that, but now the permit will cost you double what it would have had you just gotten a permit in the first place.

Call City Hall with questions 651.436.7031.

ATV / Golf Cart Permits – Now available at City Hall. Numbered stickers will be provided upon receipt of completed permit and fee of \$30.00.

Valley Library News and Events

oDates
The Library is closed Monday, January 1st (observed) and Monday, January 15th (Martin Luther King Jr. Day).

Did you know Washington County Library celebrates adult readers in January and February with our Winter Reads program? Submit a written review to the library or online to win an instant prize. Every review makes you eligible for grand prizes. For more information go to <https://www.washcolib.org/397/Winter-Reads>

The Valley Library community is swapping recipes! Help us build the recipe swap by providing recipes in person or online <https://bit.ly/40VZyXJ> through February 15th. Blank recipe forms are available in the library to fill out and return. All submitted recipes will be available to copy or photograph **January 2nd through February 29th**. No registration necessary. All ages are welcome to participate. There is no limit to the number of recipes that can be submitted.

It's time for the annual Washington County Library **Write in Our Midst** author Series. **Saturday January 20th** at 2:00 at the Hardwood Creek Library, Patrice Johnson author of Land of 10,000 Plates <https://washcolib.libcal.com/event/11565668>

Washington County Library goes to the Movies! Reel Talk Movie Series: **Monday January 8** 5:00-7:30pm watch A Haunting in Venice at the Oakdale Branch <https://washcolib.libcal.com/event/10536939> . **Sunday January 28th** 2:00-4:00pm watch Belfast the RH Stafford Woodbury Branch <https://washcolib.libcal.com/event/11420077> .

For Adults: The Valley Library Book Club meets 5:00-6:00pm on the 4th Thursday of every month. This book club meets in person in the Valley Library conference room but a Microsoft Teams link can be provided for those who wish to join virtually. The title selection for the **Thursday January 25th** meeting is "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nahisi Coates. <https://washcolib.libcal.com/event/11647294>

Saturday January 20th 3:00-4:30 at the Wildwood Branch learn about Winter Sowing Native Plants with the Washington County Master Gardeners. Registration is appreciated but not required. For more information go to: <https://washcolib.libcal.com/event/11659904>

For Kids: Every Monday 10:30-11:00 am Storytime. Join us at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays for Storytime at Valley Library. Each week we'll read stories and sing songs that focus on strengthening early literacy skills. Meet new friends and spend time together as we sing, talk, read, write, and play ...at storytime! This storytime is for children of all ages and their caregivers.

Super Storytime on **Monday, January 22** 10:30-11:30 – Storytime plus a fun craft activity. The January theme is: Antarctica

Thursday, January 11 3:30-5:30 Brick Builder's Club. Drop by to design, build and create with LEGO bricks. No registration required. This program is recommended for ages 5-12. Ongoing: Scavenger Hunt –theme: Woods in Winter Find 10 images throughout the library and win a prize.

Beach BAR

Originally built as a City Municipal Bar in 1954, legally referred to as the Bottle House.

We proudly Support this Community. Thank You.



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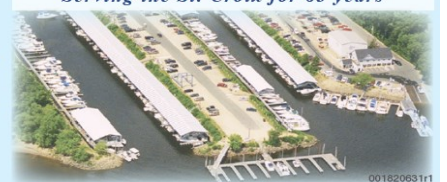
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Alec Vijovich
Owner/Operator
Low Overhead

Phone: (651) 829-4556
alecsauto@gmail.com

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LAKELAND, MN 55043

City of Lake St. Croix Beach

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

Phone: 651-436-7031
Fax: 651-483-8310



LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH
POSTAL PATRON
LAKELAND, MN 55043

2024 City Council Meeting Dates

(all meetings are held at 6 p.m.
unless otherwise noted)

January 8	July 15
February 12	August 19
March 20	Septemb6
April 15	October 21
May 20	November 18
June 17	December 16

County and State Contact Information

Washington County Commissioner Gary Kriesel: 651.430.6213
MN Senator Judy Seeberger: 651.297.8060 sen.judy.seeberger@senate
MN Representative Mark Wiens: 651.296.4244
rep.mark.wiens@house.mn.gov
MN Governor Tim Walz: 651.201.3400 tim.walz@state.mn.us



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LAKELAND
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Fax: 651-436-2257
2070 Racine Avenue South
Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043
lakelandheating@gmail.com
www.lakelandheatingandac.com

Alec's Auto

Alec Vujovich
Owner/Operator
Low Overhead

Phone: (651) 829-4556 1770 St. Croix Trail South #E5
alecsauto@gmail.com Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043

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