

## **SPECIAL BIRCHWOOD CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MAY 15, 2021**

The Special Meeting of the Birchwood City Council was called to order by Mayor Mary Wingfield at 7 p.m.

Present: Wingfield, Fleck, McCarthy, and Foster, and city attorney Alan Kantrud.

The meeting was audio recorded.

The mayor and council members presented an overview of the events leading up to the Hall Av/Birchwood Road closure including the issues of road safety, lack of law enforcement and traffic control, including speeding, stop sign violations, passing on double yellow lines, talking on cell phones, and substantial increase in traffic volume and commercial trucks and semis, tankers and dump trucks. The cost of wear and tear by heavy trucks exposes the city to substantial repair costs. Information was also provided on the coordination between the county commissioner, sheriff and public works department. Emergency fire and rescue are provided by White Bear Lake and are unaffected by the closure.

Members of the audience were heard, including Julie Molitor, Trilby White, Chris Rollinger, Andrea Evans. Gina Loosbrock, Sara Nephew, Ron Malles. Megan Malvey, Mark McGibbon, Torie Wormwood, William Merrill, Linea Pratt, Dyanne Ross-Hanson, Cassie Potter, David Drew, and Mike McKenzie. The comments were similar to the issues the council discussed.

MOTION (Wingfield)/S (Fleck): Starting tomorrow, open east-bound traffic lane from 7-9 am to allow busses and families to get to school. The schedule will remain in place through June 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Pass 4-0

MOTION: (Wingfield)/S (Fleck): Starting tomorrow, open east-bound traffic lane from 2:30-4:30 pm to allow busses and families to get to school. The schedule will remain in place through June 9<sup>th</sup>. Pass 4-0

Wingfield informed everyone that Jennifer Tell has offered and will be coordinating a spreadsheet for volunteers to staff the barricade opening and closing times. Wingfield will call the Mahtomedi School Bus transit coordinator to update him on the council's action.

MOTION (Wingfield)/S (McCarthy): Move signs/barricades to eastern Birchwood Village city line as soon as practicable to allow Birchwood services for fire, rescue, refuse and recycling to the entire community. Pass 4-0. The city attorney informed the council that the county must move the signs.

MOTION (McCarthy)/ S to re-open Hall Avenue at Jay Street subject to the following: Local traffic only signs; Speed humps on Wildwood and Hall/Cedar (all the County can provide); Stop signs on every intersection and every direction on Hall/Cedar and Wildwood; Get the speed limit display truck from the county; 20 mph throughout Birchwood; and Temporary chicanes on both wildwood and hall/cedar as indicated by the traffic engineer.

Failed for lack of a Second

Councilmember Woolstencroft arrived at 8:20 pm

MOTION(Wingfield)/S (McCarthy) City council to work with Mahtomedi to facilitate access for Lost Lake Court and other Mahtomedi residents who have been constrained as a result of Mahtomedi's ongoing flooding problem on Birchwood Road. Passed 5-0.

Wingfield will contact Mahtomedi regarding this. She will also update our county commissioner, sheriff's department and public works department of the council's actions tonight.

MOTION (Fleck)/S (McCarthy) to adjourn. Passed 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm



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Mayor Mary Wingfield

6/14/22

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Date



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City Administrator Rebecca Kellen

6/14/22

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Date