



MINUTES

Emergency City Council Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, May 26, 2020

City Hall, 8 Summit Drive, Blackduck MN

The Council of the City of Blackduck was called to order on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 6:04pm, in the City Hall, 8 Summit Drive, Blackduck MN, with the following members present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Mayor Rudy Patch, Councilor Paige Moore, Councilor Jason Kolb, and Councilor Maxwell Gullette

COUNCILORS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Christina Regas

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Parker, Blackduck American

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Roll Call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
Mayor Patch dispensed with the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a.

Maxwell Gullette moved to approve the agenda as presented Jason Kolb seconded the motion.

Carried 4 to 0

Rudy Patch	For
Paige Moore	For
Jason Kolb	For
Maxwell Gullette	For

3. LETTER TO GOVERNOR WALZ

- a. Letter to Governor Walz
Administrator Regas read the letter into the record:
May 26, 2020
Governor Tim Walz
Office of Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

The City of Blackduck would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your administration in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we understand these decisions are not easy to make, we believe you are taking the health and welfare of all Minnesotans into high regard during your decision-making processes.

Our City and local Chamber have worked tirelessly to encourage local businesses to apply for emergency small business loans and payroll protection but to some extent it may not be 'enough'. Our community of just over 800+ residents thrives on the tourism and service industry with just over a dozen local resort owners, dental office, school district #32, salons, restaurants, municipal bar, golf course, and campground, lumberyard, grocery store, theater, popular quilt store at Anderson Fabrics Outlet, and service stations, to provide everything a small town can offer. The median age of the City of Blackduck is 33 years old, indicating many of our population is not in a high risk category. We have multiple areas of outdoor recreation and Blackduck Lake is a very popular fishing lake in Beltrami County. Visitors make Blackduck a destination stop before heading to Lake of the Woods and Upper Red Lake for their family fishing vacations. After an early ice fishing season came to a close, several businesses looked forward to the annual May Walleye Opener and the business it brings to our area. The COVID-19 put a sudden halt to all of those hopes.

Thanks to Executive Order 20-56, the "Stay at Home" order has lifted and has turned the dial to allow more retail businesses to reopen safely and attempt to regain some lost revenue. But the dial is still not turned up high enough to provide those businesses with what is truly needed to survive. The City of Blackduck supports the community and business owners and all it offers to the public. As a small town in northern Minnesota, it must be able to look out for itself to survive and not lose its residents to other larger cities. Small businesses must be able to compete with the larger 'big box' stores that are just a quick drive away and our businesses must be able to offer the smaller cities in our rural area the opportunity to shop closer to home to abide by your orders.

The Blackduck City Council encourages you and your administration to consider the fate of smaller cities in Minnesota when continuing your fight against COVID-19. We strongly believe that 'one-size does not fit all' in this pandemic. The City of Blackduck is a rural community, and that benefits our residents during the pandemic because we already by nature social distance. This is just another reason why we love to live here.

President Trump has allowed our Nation's Governors to make decisions on behalf of their individual states. The time has come to allow local governments, such as the Mayors and City Councils within our great State of Minnesota to act on behalf of what is best for our own local communities. Minnesota is broken into districts with Representatives to meet the different needs of the areas they serve. The City of Blackduck has its own unique needs that differ from those of the City of Minneapolis, St. Paul or St. Cloud.

In closing, the Blackduck City Council has the full support of its local business owners with this request. We have heard from several of them over the past weeks and they are doing all they can to survive, but many may never open their doors again. We encourage you and your administration to reopen all businesses including bars, restaurants, salons, theaters, and campgrounds on June 1 and NOT extend the deadline any further.

We appreciate your continued efforts and your consideration of our request.

Paige Moore moved to approve to send the written letter to Governor Walz Rudy Patch seconded the motion.

Carried 4 to 0

Rudy Patch	For
Paige Moore	For
Jason Kolb	For
Maxwell Gullette	For

4. ADJOURNMENT

a.

Maxwell Gullette moved to adjourn the emergency meeting at 6:11pm. Jason Kolb seconded the motion.

Carried 4 to 0

Rudy Patch	For
Paige Moore	For
Jason Kolb	For
Maxwell Gullette	For

City Administrator, Christina Regas

Mayor, Rudy Patch