

Breezy Point City Council
February 20, 2024 – 5:00 pm
City Council Workshop Minutes

A workshop of the Breezy Point City Council began at 5:07pm. Councilmembers present were Rebecca Ball, Steve Jensen, Michael Moroni, Brad Scott, and Mayor Angel Zierden. Staff present included City Administrator David Chanski, Assistant City Administrator Daniel Eick, Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden, and Police Chief Brian Sandell.

Golf Cart Regulations Discussion

This topic of discussion came from a request by Councilmember Jensen. He said the discussion is not about eliminating golf carts but reviewing the rules around their use, especially with the development of the new mini golf course on CSAH 11. Councilmember Scott asked if there is something specific Councilmember Jensen would like to see changed.

Councilmember Jensen said that one of his concerns is underage drivers and golf carts with too many passengers. He shared that Nisswa requires drivers to have a drivers license or, in the case of 15-year-olds, have a valid learners permit and be accompanied by a person 18 years or older. Additionally, Nisswa's rules state that no one can sit on the driver's lap, and no one can stand on or hang on to a golf cart while it is in motion. Breezy Point, on the other hand, only requires drivers to be at least 15 years old, does not require a learner's permit, and while the regulations do require an accompanying adult be present, they do not mention anything regarding sitting on the driver's lap.

Police Chief Sandell stated that Breezy Point rules do limit riders to the seating capacity of the golf cart and golf carts driving on the road must obey all traffic safety laws. He also stated officers cannot pull over a driver because of their perceived age, and officers always attempt to educate drivers before issuing citations.

Councilmember Moroni provided a brief history of the City's golf cart regulations.

Additional Discussion occurred among the Council on allowing golf carts to drive on Buschmann Road, where they are currently prohibited, due to safety concerns. City Administrator Chanski and Police Chief Sandell expressed concern that allowing golf carts to drive on Buschmann was dangerous due to numerous safety concerns, at least until Buschmann is reconstructed.

Ultimately, the City Council agreed regulations should be amended to allow golf carts to drive on Buschmann Road but only between CSAH 11 and Castlewood Court where the road is flatter and sightlines are adequate. The City Council did not come to consensus on any other amendments to current regulations.

Communications

This topic of discussion came from a request by Councilmember Jensen. He acknowledged while staff has done a great job on communications, and the City has come a long way, they are still a work in progress. Furthermore, he noted his belief the City needs to continue to improve how content is presented. Additionally, he's received complaints about not being able to find information. Other comments provided by the Council included:

- The top category bars on the front page of the website are not intuitive.
- Staff should review document and webpage naming conventions.
- Consider making additional "master" documentation.
- Consider surveying the community as to how the City can communicate better.

City Administrator Chanski and Assistant City Administrator Eick also explained buy in to the website's subscription service may be lacking as most posted content is replicated across the City's social media pages, which currently reach close to 2,000 people.

March Agenda Review

City Administrator Chanski walked the City Council through a draft of the March City Council meeting agenda.

Members of the public who spoke during the workshop were:

- Bob Gastecki, 31902 Castlewood Court
- Mike & Jessica Scott, 29784 Lakeshore Drive

The workshop was adjourned at 6:43pm.

David Chanski, City Administrator/Clerk