

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023
5:30 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake met in a Special Session on Monday, March 20, 2023. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, Aaron Herzog, Sandy Farder, Jackson Purfeerst, and Marcia Seibert-Volz. Also in attendance were City Administrator Mike Lyonais, City Clerk Char Nelson, Park Director TJ Graumann, Zoning Administrator Pete Gansen, Public Works Director Pat Wehner, Fire Chief Chip Lohmiller, and Police Chief Erik Lee. Echo Publishing Reporter Nancy Vogt attended via Zoom. There were approximately twenty-five audience members on Zoom and in the audience.

Dave Nevin called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

The Council reviewed the revised ordinance regarding short-term rentals. Sandy Farder stated that she was not in favor of not counting children 12 and under as occupants. Jackson Purfeerst agreed. Pete Gansen stated that the County's ordinance allows two persons per bedroom plus one and the City's only allows two per bedroom. Dave Nevin stated that there should not be a limit on the number of children that stay at a rental. Erik Lee stated that it would be difficult to enforce such language because if there were a complaint, the police would not go in and count how many bodies were sleeping there.

Jane Trent stated that she has operated a short-term rental on Wolf Trail for two year and has received no complaints from neighbors. The majority of her renters are families and many have several children. Ms. Trent has upgraded her septic and under the County ordinance can have up to 21 occupants.

MOTION 03SP3-01-23 WAS MADE BY MARCIA SEIBERT-VOLZ AND SECONDED BY JACKSON PURFEERST TO ALLOW CROW WING COUNTY TO REGULATE SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN THE CITY OF CROSSLAKE FOR THIS YEAR.

Joyce Etter of 35318 Riverwood Trail stated that the majority of residents in Crosslake do not want short-term rentals in their neighborhoods. Ms. Etter asked how the Council will hold owners accountable if they don't have a license and if they cause problems.

Mark Wessels of Adney Lake Road in Crosby suggested that the Council ask other communities how they enforce rules and suggested that the Council form a committee to complete the ordinance by year end. Aaron Herzog agreed.

Chad Dixon of 34970 East Shore Boulevard stated that he manages VRBO's and would like to help the Council develop the ordinance. Mr. Dixon stated that the County has done enforcement and contacted him to let him know he needed to get a license when he started renting property. Mr. Dixon suggested that the fines for violations be high enough to deter repeat offenders.

Erik Lee stated that he did not think the City could have this ordinance ready by summer. Chief Lee suggested that the Police Department hire an assistant that could manage the process.

MOTION CARRIED 4-1 WITH NEVIN OPPOSED.

Chip Lohmiller stated that no ordinance is going to make everyone happy and not adopting this ordinance means there will be no life safety regulations for the rest of the year.

MOTION 03SP3-02-23 WAS MADE BY AARON HERZOG AND SECONDED BY JACKSON PURFEERST TO DIRECT MIKE LYONAI TO CONTACT CROW WING COUNTY TO ASK IF COUNTY WILL REGULATE SHORT-TERM RENTALS FOR CITY OF CROSSLAKE FOR REMAINDER OF THE YEAR, TO FIND OUT STEPS NECESSARY TO HAVE COUNTY TAKE OVER REGULATION, AND TO BRING INFORMATION TO APRIL COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 4-1 WITH NEVIN OPPOSED.

MOTION 03SP3-03-23 WAS MADE BY AARON HERZOG AND SECONDED BY JACKSON PURFEERST TO DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A PERSON TO MANAGE THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL LICENSE PROCESS FOR THE CITY OF CROSSLAKE. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

MOTION 03SP3-04-23 WAS MADE BY DAVE NEVIN AND SECONDED BY SANDY FARDER TO APPROVE THE CITY ORDINANCE REGARDING SHORT-TERM HOME RENTALS AS IS WITH A START DATE OF 6/15/2023. Chip Lohmiller stated that the instructions and applications are ready. Cindy Myogeto of the Chamber suggested using the same occupancy standards as the County so that they are the same for the entire area. MOTION FAILED 2-3 WITH SEIBERT-VOLZ, HERZOG AND PURFEERST OPPOSED.

A brief discussion ensued regarding possible changes to the occupancy limits in the ordinance. Cindy Myogeto of the Chamber stated that the Council should wait until they get the County's information at the April meeting and go from there.

MOTION 03SP3-05-23 WAS MADE BY SANDY FARDER AND SECONDED BY DAVE NEVIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:05 P.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charlene Nelson
City Clerk