

**MINUTES
Special Meeting
May 9th, 2023**

A special council meeting of the City of Wheaton, MN was held in the community room of the Wheaton Community Library with the following members present: Veldhouse, Rikimoto, Findlay and Larson. Absent: Wohlenhaus. Also present: Administrator Olson, Police Chief Berning, Sheriff Wright and Attorney Matt Franzese.

Mayor Veldhouse called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The council reviewed the resignation of Wheaton Police Chief Jason Berning. Berning has been employed with the City of Wheaton for 24 years. The council discussed the future status of the Wheaton Police Department due to only one officer remaining in the department. The council approved the Police Committee to work with Chief Berning, Sherriff Trevor Wright and Administrator Olson along with the Traverse County Commissioners Committee to construct an agreement for Traverse County to provide Law Enforcement for the City of Wheaton. The Police Dept. has been running with just two officers since September of 2022. This is due to lack of officers to hire. Several members of the public were present to share their comments and concerns to the council including current and former officers of the Law, School Officials and a County Commissioner.

A motion from Larson to accept, with regret, the resignation of Wheaton Police Chief Jason Berning. Motion was seconded by Rikimoto and unanimously carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

ATTEST: _____

Amy Olson, City Administrator



Jacob Veldhouse, Mayor