

**APRIL 15, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth, Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Police Chief Tony Sievert and Shelly Finzen from the Lake Benton Valley Journal were also present.

Mayor Bob Worth called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mayor Bob Worth then asked if anyone in attendance had an item, not on the agenda, to bring up during the Open Forum part of the meeting. If so they had two minutes to state their concern. No items were brought forward at this time.

Mayor Bob Worth asked for a motion to amend the agenda and add the Police Update after Item Number 3. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to amend the agenda and add the Police Update after Item Number 3. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2019. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Board of Review Meeting of April 9, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Review Meeting of April 9, 2019. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:**

ITC	\$ 326.79	M & H COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 479.00
SANITATION PRODUCTS	\$ 250.00	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 3,648.89
RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 1,566.04	EXPRESSWAY	\$ 644.55
GOPHER STATE	\$ 5.40	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 228.68
POSTMASTER	\$ 116.55	MN WEST COLLEGE	\$ 1,370.00
S & E AUTO	\$ 151.70	JOHANSEN REPAIR	\$ 9,656.22
CITY OF PIPESTONE	\$ 150.00	SOUTHWEST GLASS	\$ 149.00
SW SANITATION	\$ 3,593.38	GARY NORDMEYER	\$ 125.00
BIOAG ENERGY	\$ 558.69	BIERSCHBACH EQUIP	\$ 2,792.84
VERIZON	\$ 35.01	BUFFALOT RIDGE NEWS	\$ 34.40
THOMAS PLUMBING	\$ 1,562.25		

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve payment of the claims presented against the City of Lake Benton. Motion carried and the Mayor authorized the City Administrator/Clerk to make payment.

**POLICE UPDATE:**

Police Chief Tony Sievert informed the Council the new squad arrived today. Police Chief Tony Sievert then requested Council approval to have another City Bow Hunt this fall. Police Chief Tony Sievert amended the fees from a \$20.00 application fee to \$15.00, and the participation fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to apply for another City Bow Hunt from the DNR for this fall. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:**

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council the far northwest doors on the Event Center broke. Gary Nordmeyer purchased new doors for the facility for \$890.70 and

presented an estimate to install the doors for \$400.00 totaling \$1,290.70. The front entry way of the Event Center did not get finished last year and Gary Nordmeyer also presented an estimate to finish the floor, molding, and paint for \$400.00 to \$500.00. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the purchase and installation of the new doors on the northwest side of the Event Center and to approve the estimate to finish the floor, molding and paint the front entry of the Event Center by Gary Nordmeyer with the stipulation that all the material must be purchased locally. Motion carried.

Mayor Bob Worth thanked Daryl Schlapkohl for assisting the Maintenance Department put the 8" pump in at the sewer lift station. Todd Draper and Troy Nordmeyer have spent a lot of hours dealing with the most recent snow storm and the water issues. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. Discussion took place on the City purchasing a 6" pump this fall. The Council requested Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper speak with Chris Nibbe and inquire if he would be willing to sell his 8" pump and for how much.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl spoke with a homeowner about the drainage ditch behind the homes on Mork Street. The water in the drainage ditch north of the homeowners does not flow all the time. Their sump pumps pump into it and they stay stagnant and dirty. This issue should be addressed to get the water cleared from the area. The Council agreed the drainage ditch is a problem. However, it is part of the homeowner's property and therefore, the homeowners will be responsible for any and all expenses the City incurs when and/or if they clean the drainage ditch.

The Council discussed that after the recent snowfall last week, there were a few cars that were not moved 24 hours after the City declared a snow emergency. The Ordinance should be amended to include a fine of \$100.00 for vehicles left longer than 24 hours after declaring a snow emergency. It was also mentioned that the homeowners are parking in the alley behind Center Street and Fremont Street and are a problem when trying to remove snow.

The next item of business was to review/act on new flower pots at Benton and Center Streets. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that some community residents have requested the City consider purchasing smaller flower pots at Benton and Center Streets where the large pots are usually put out each spring and taken away after Christmas. The Maintenance Department is responsible for putting them up and taking them down which includes putting them on their loader to move them.

Mike Pater, Garden Greenhouse, can get new custom, sturdy pots at a discounted price (the cost is dependent on size). If the City were to get a pot 33" inches high by 48" diameter, the cost would be approximately \$200.00 a pot. This will make the setting up and taking down of the pots easier, use less dirt and save money on flowers for the spring and at Christmas.

Discussion took place that when the County updates the sidewalks, will this change the look of the sidewalks and the pots won't be a good fit after the update. The sidewalks will more than likely remain the same except for the removal of the cobblestone. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve up to \$800.00 for the purchase of new flower pots to be put at Benton and Center Streets.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl inquired if the City would entertain an offer from the Lincoln County Parks Department to purchase the current flower pots. The Council agreed they would consider an offer. Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl will bring the offer to the Council at the next regular meeting on May 6, 2019. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Barb Powell to build a 38' x 26' garage at 106 Morton Street. Barb was given the setbacks from the property line on which she can build a garage. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper confirmed there were no setback concerns and everything is in compliance with the ordinance. The fee of \$25.00 has been paid.

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the building permit for Barb Powell to build a 38' x 26' garage at 106 Morton Street. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Jeff De Smet to put a 4' x 12' utility shed on his property at 112 S. Fremont Street. Jeff was given the setbacks from the property line on which he can put his utility shed. The fee of \$25.00 has been paid. Discussion took place that the shed is not in a permanent location yet and Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper will make sure when it is permanently placed that it is in compliance of the setbacks. The homeowner has a lot of structures in his backyard and the Council questioned if there is something in the Ordinance stating how many buildings can be on one piece of property. At this time the updated Ordinance Book is being reviewed and the Zoning Ordinance can be adjusted to address this issue in the future. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the building permit for Jeff De Smet to put a utility shed at 112 S. Fremont Street. The motion carried with three for and one opposed.

City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen provided the Council with information on the liquor and tobacco licenses for the City as well as the temporary Liquor and Dance licenses for the Fireman's Dance from 8:00 PM on June 15, 2019 through 1:00 AM June 16, 2019. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen also stated the Police Chief needs to sign the Liquor applications so she can get them sent into the state before May 1, 2019. Police Chief Tony Sievert said he will perform the background checks and if approved, will sign the applications.

The Council discussed and took into consideration the pros and cons of the 2:00 AM closing. However, police reports in previous months have indicated some issues with the 2:00 AM closing. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the following City Licenses for May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020 with proof of liability insurance from those with On Sale Liquor Licenses: **Cigarette:** Lake Benton Grocery, Express Way-Lake Benton, Lake Benton Bar & Grill; **Off Sale Beer:** Express Way-Lake Benton; **Off Sale Liquor:** Lake Benton Bar & Grill; **On Sale Liquor:** Country House Supper Club, Lake Benton Bar & Grill, Lake Benton Resort; **On Sale Liquor (Sunday):** Country House Supper Club, Lake Benton Bar & Grill, Lake Benton Resort; **Dance:** Lake Benton Bar & Grill; **General Corporation:** Lake Benton Bar & Grill; and to approve the Temporary Liquor and Dance Licenses to the Lake Benton Fire Department at 110 Benton Street for the Fireman's Dance from 8:00 PM on June 15, 2019 through 1:00 AM on June 16, 2019; and to deny the **2:00 AM Closing:** Lake Benton Bar & Grill. The motion carried with three for and one opposed.

The next item of business was to review/act on the 2019 contract for mowing the north ditch at cemetery hill for \$285.75 per time not to exceed seven (7) times or \$2,000.25. Mike Otto mowed the hill last year at a cost of \$285.75 per time not to exceed seven (7) times or \$2,000.25. If the ditch needs to be mowed more often Mike will contact the Mayor for approval. Mike also provided proof of liability insurance. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the 2019 contract with Mike Otto to mow the north ditch at cemetery hill at \$285.75 per time not to exceed seven (7) times or \$2,000.25. Motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last week and the Lincoln County Active Generations (Council of Aging) will be having their Spring Fling at the Tyler Legion on May 9, 2019. The \$3.00 meal was postponed from last Thursday to this Thursday, April 18th. Karen Lichtsinn has two wind tower tours scheduled in May. The Chamber is currently working on revising the float and hopes to have it done in time for the Elkton Harvest Festival. At Saddle

Horse Holiday there will be two sessions for the hidden horseshoe this year, the first hidden horseshoe will begin on Tuesday, and the second will begin on Thursday; and the Friday night movie at the park will be moved to Thursday evening at the Event Center.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA met last week and they continue to get inquiries for buildings in Lake Benton for small manufacturing businesses. The City gave the EDA a \$25,000.00 limit to purchase the CHS property in which the sub-committee will meet and discuss again. There have also been inquiries on the building across from the Heritage Center. Rethwisch & Son are looking forward to opening the Lumber Yard soon and have extended their hours at the Hardware Store. The sub-committee for the Mork/Giles Addition was scheduled to meet to review the development of the lots for duplexes, 4-plexes, etc., but due to members being absent because of the weather, the meeting will be rescheduled.

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council the City has lost two golden business opportunities due to the lack of buildings and property on which to build. One of the businesses needs a packaging and shipping facility and the other is a full-fledged manufacturing company. Bob then informed the Council he spoke with the General Manager of CHS who stated they are not interested in selling the property. Bob then requested to be on the agenda at the next CHS meeting and was denied.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – After talking with County Assessor Bruce Nielsen at the Board of Review meeting last week, the City should consider looking into putting solar power on the acreage north of town. After some discussion, Mayor Bob Worth then created a Solar Power Ad-Hoc committee to consist of Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl, Trustee Mark Dunn and Jim Nichols. Trustee Mark Dunn will contact Jim Nichols for an initial meeting to review this subject.

**ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

No report.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council that Main Street has improved a lot since Rethwisch & Son have taken over the Lumber Yard which looks great. However, there are three businesses in need of cleaning up their properties. If any of the Council members see the business owner(s), please kindly ask them to make their properties look presentable before Saddle Horse Holiday.

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council the City needs to put up no parking signs by Rethwisch & Son Lumber Yard on the north side of their building. The business needs that area to load and unload lumber. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper will follow up with the signage.

Mayor Bob Worth will be attending the County Commissioner's meeting Tuesday, April 16th at 10:30 AM regarding Waste Management (recycling) and Emergency Management. Trustee Dave Enke and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen will also be attending.

Mayor Bob Worth spoke with Scott Ritter of SW Sanitation regarding the spring clean-up. It is not going to be as costly as what was first anticipated.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl and carried, the meeting adjourned.

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK