

AUGUST 16, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter, Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable and Trustee Dave Enke were absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Deputy Jake Jenson with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and Mark Wilmes with the Lake Benton Valley Journal were also present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter 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.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 2, 2021 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 2, 2021. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of August 9, 2021 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 9, 2021. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Budget Meeting of August 11, 2021 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting of August 11, 2021. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Budget Meeting of August 12, 2021 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting of August 12, 2021. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

C & B OPERATIONS	\$ 283.72	OTTERTAIL	\$ 9.17
ITC	\$ 327.44	QUARNSTROM-DOERING	\$ 807.00
L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 7,163.69	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 400.10
EXPRESSWAY	\$ 292.44	GOPHER STATE	\$ 6.75
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 175.52	POSTMASTER	\$ 119.52
POSTMASTER	\$ 55.00	S & E AUTO	\$ 20.00
UTILITY CONSULTANTS	\$ 412.37	JOHANSEN'S REPAIR	\$ 9,330.64
SW SANITATION	\$ 3,760.58	BANNER ASSOCIATES	\$ 10,750.00
GARDEN GATE GRNHSE	\$ 230.00	CARDMEMBER	\$ 176.78
LIPINSKI	\$ 63.90	ONE OFFICE	\$ 721.39
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 186.90		

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

The next item of business was to review/act on rehab grant requests. Three payment requests were received for the Rehab Grant Program: Contractor requests of \$9,888.00 to Construction Partners, and \$6,200.00 to Gary Vlaminc Construction; and \$4,000.00 to DSI for Administration fees. The total funds of \$20,088.00 were requested to be deposited into the account. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve payment of the rehab grant checks presented. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Deputy Jake Jenson presented the July law enforcement update. Jake stated that school will be beginning soon and the City clean-up is going well. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the July Law Enforcement Update. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council that the Fremont Watermain project is moving forward. Todd was given three dates Duinick will be paving, but no definite date at this time. The substantial completion date is September 3, 2021 with a total completion date of September 13, 2021. The required MnDOT milling was completed and a seven inch sub-cut will be completed before paving begins.

City staff placed the bleachers, crow's nest, goal posts, lights and scoreboard on Marketplace for bids. Bids were due no later than 5:00 PM, Monday, August 16, 2021. The highest bidders include: Bleachers (3) Sets – Lincoln County Fair (Curt Madsen), Crow's Nest – Heath Houselog, Goal Posts (2) – Heath Houselog, Lights (10) – Brett Wulf, and the Scoreboard – Kevin Pribbenow for a grand total of \$2,666.00 for all the items. The high bidders will be contacted to pick up and pay for their items prior to November 1, 2021. City staff will need to remove the light poles after the lights have been removed. Ottertail will assist City staff with the easiest way to get them taken down before Banner begins their surveying of the Mork & Giles Addition. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to accept the highest bids for a total of \$2,666.00; and require the bidders pay in full and remove the items prior to November 1, 2021. Motion carried.

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the Public Works Update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Temporary Liquor License for the Lake Benton Fire Department at 114 S. Center Street to serve alcohol at the Buffalo Ridge Pheasants Forever Banquet on Saturday, September 18, 2021. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the Temporary Liquor License for the Lake Benton Fire Department for the Buffalo Ridge Pheasants Forever Banquet on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the 2021-2022 Insurance Renewal. At the last regular meeting of August 2, 2021, the Council met with Insurance Agent for Buffalo Ridge State Agency, Darcy Miller, and requested Darcy give City staff the following: Is there an additional fee for insuring the canopy on the Event Center or is that part of the building. Since the canopy is attached to the building, it is automatically covered.

The standard limit for annual aggregate for security breach is \$250,000.00. The Council requested a quote for a limit of \$500,000.00 which is \$500.00. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the limit for annual aggregate for security breach for \$250,000.00. Motion carried.

The City purchased Excess Liability coverage for \$1,000,000.00 in the past and the Council requested a quote for \$2,000,000.00 coverage which is \$2,048.00, and a quote for \$5,000,000.00 coverage which is \$4,613.00. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve purchase Excess Liability coverage for \$1,000,000.00. Motion carried.

The Council also requested a quote for \$1,000.00 deductible in the amount of \$25,151.00 versus a quote for \$2,500.00 deductible in the amount of \$22,636.00 with a difference of approximately \$2,500.00. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the \$1,000.00 deductible in the amount of \$25,151.00. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Event Center canopy. At the special meeting of August 9, 2021, Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council the City was not given a quote for the under plates on the canopy at the Event Center when it was installed. Mayor Michael Carpenter requested the Council members look at the canopy and provide their comments whether they would like to purchase the egg crate under plates for \$1,146.85 or leave the canopy as it is. After some discussion, the Council members looked at the canopy and agreed it will look better with the egg crate under plates and make sure the ice slides are installed prior to the first snow fall. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to purchase the egg crate under plates for \$1,146.00 and install the ice slides prior to the first snow fall. Motion carried.

The next item of business was an update on the Council Orders. At the last regular meeting of August 2, 2021, the Council authorized City staff to talk with legal counsel in regards to filing abatement with the Judge, charge the homeowner the filing fees and charges for cleanup of the property, and assess all fees to the homeowner's taxes or garnish wages.

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council the City will be turning the water off at 222 West Benton Street for nonpayment of utilities. The next step in the process is file abatement, and charge each property owner a \$1,000.00 for filing fees and legal fees, clean-up of the debris, and storage of the debris if the City does not get consent from the property owners. There is no guarantee the City will recoup the costs. The Council discussed following through with the abatement and not set a precedence for future properties. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to file abatement at 222 West Benton Street. Roll-call vote: Trustee Schlapkohl – Yes, Trustee DeZeeuw – Yes, Trustee Dunn – No. Motion carried two to one.

The next property is located at 114 North Center Street. The owner does not respond to the letters, phone calls or e-mails sent to him. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to file abatement at 114 North Center Street. Roll-call vote: Trustee Schlapkohl – Yes, Trustee DeZeeuw – Yes, Trustee Dunn – No. Motion carried two to one.

The next item of business was a public hearing on nuisance properties. Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council they authorized Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to send a Notice of Hearing to the property owner of 304 S. Garfield to attend this evening's meeting. The property owner did not appear at the hearing. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to mail a certified Notice of Council Order to the property owner of 304 S. Garfield St. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report.

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last week and the August Business of the Month is DSI. The Legacy Bistro began providing Meals-on-Wheels on August 10, 2021. The Diner's Club has agreed to offer the \$3.00 meals on a quarterly basis and have the individuals eat at the Manor or the American Legion building. The play Grease was a success selling 2,200 tickets. Elf the Musical is the scheduled winter play with nine performances. Te-Tonka-Ha went well, but the interest is declining. It has been suggested the event be more private and people can still come and walk around. The World War I will be on display at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center October 2, 2021 through November 14, 2021. The Fire Department Open House for the Vintage Fire Truck is scheduled for September 25, 2021.

The Council expressed their gratitude to Mark Wilmes on the performance of Grease at the Opera House and bringing so many people to Lake Benton.

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the committee reports.
Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

No report.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 5:30 PM after Labor Day, and the Special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2021 to finalize the budget.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then stated the Council will be making major decisions in the future on the Mork & Giles Addition, Johnson Commercial Park, and the 2027 Fremont Street project.

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.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK