

DECEMBER 16, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, December 16, 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, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Curtis Rethwisch, 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.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2019. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of December 5, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 5, 2019. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

ITC	\$ 234.15	EILEEN CHRISTENSEN	\$ 17.40
USTI	\$ 1.36	SANITATION PRODUCTS	\$ 797.83
L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 3,754.15	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 1,533.93
EXPRESSWAY	\$ 427.18	RICK'S WELDING	\$ 30.00
THOMAS ELECTRIC	\$ 418.60	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 173.67
POSTMASTER	\$ 171.20	CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 282.48
FIRST SECURITY BANK	\$ 33,500.00	JOHANSEN REPAIR	\$ 4,699.23
DOUBLE D GRAVEL	\$ 435.00	SW SANITATION	\$ 3,595.48
AMLAWN	\$ 180.00	CAREN PETERSEN	\$ 225.00
BIOAG ENERGY	\$ 553.29	TITAN MACHINERY	\$ 79.20
CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 301.00	ALEX AIR APPARATUS	\$ 1,779.75
ONE OFFICE	\$ 23.64	BUFFALO RIDGE NEW	\$ 25.80
THOMAS PLUMBING	\$ 434.30	NORTHLAND TRUST (ACH)	\$ 99,908.75

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 Administrator/Clerk to make payment.

One rehab grant check (Contractor request of \$10,000.00 to Nick Spoelstra Construction), was presented for payment. The funds have been requested and were deposited into the account. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve payment of the rehab grant checks presented. Motion carried.

POLICE UPDATE

Mayor Bob Worth reminded the Council of the E-mail they received from Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner informing the Council he will no longer be the Police Chief for the City of Lake Benton with deep regrets. The Personnel Committee (Mayor Bob Worth and Trustee Dave Enke) and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen met with Jeff last week and informed them this position is not working out as well as he anticipated, and felt he was not performing the duties as much as the City deserves. He is extremely disappointed in his ability to fulfill his role as Police

Chief in Lake Benton. Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner informed the Personnel Committee that he will stay on to assist the City if they choose to hire a new Chief, contract with the County or put together a joint agreement with another City. Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner sincerely likes the community and the people. Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council this subject matter will be addressed again at the first meeting in January 2020.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council on the happenings of purchasing snow equipment after the special meeting of December 5, 2019. Mankato based company, Amlawn, brought the SnoGo unit to Lake Benton and Todd requested Denny Johansen to assist with the inspection of the unit. The unit was using a lot of oil and would possibly need to be overhauled at some time in the near future. This is a large unit and too big for the City's needs. When the Council met and reviewed the size 500 series pay loaders, this unit would require a 700 series. The unit was old and we are not sure how long it has been sitting idle. The individuals from Amlawn informed the City this unit could have Main Street cleaned in half an hour but we would need to hire seven to eight trucks to haul the snow. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper received a call from a Contractor who said they would lease a pay loader to the City if the need arises. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper is looking at options for a smaller unit that could fit on the City's current tractor, and Denny Johansen informed him that he can make one for the front of our tractor. The City may need more people and trucks to haul the snow, plus consider the cost of insurance and maintenance that goes into this. Johansen's do a great job removing the snow, and we will continue to look for a solution. The City appreciated Amlawn bringing the unit to Lake Benton so the City reimbursed them for mileage.

The next item of business was to review/act on businesses putting snow in the center of the streets. It was brought to Mayor Bob Worth's attention that businesses are putting their snow in the center of the streets downtown. Mayor Bob Worth contacted City Attorney Mike Cable who informed Bob he has been the City's attorney since the 1970's and the businesses were doing it back then. Mayor Bob Worth also talked with Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper who also informed Bob this has been done for several years. If the businesses do not push the snow onto the street, they must wait and leave the snow in their lots until the City streets are cleaned. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper reminded the Council that the City purchased a unit in 1998 to clear the sidewalks downtown which is meant as a courtesy to the businesses.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Farm Lease between the City of Lake Benton and Tom and Mary Gunnink. City Attorney Mike Cable reviewed and approved the lease. The Lease is for a three -year period of March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2023. There will be two \$11,400.00 payments made each year on March 1st and November 1st. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Farm Lease between the City of Lake Benton and Tom and Mary Gunnink. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to appoint election judges for the General, Primary and Presidential Nomination Primary Election. The Presidential Nomination Primary Election is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020, the Primary Election is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2020 and the General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Notice was received from the County Auditor of mandatory training for election judges to be held tentative February 12, 2020. All election judges are required to complete this training. Every judge who successfully completes training will be certified for two years. In 2018, the City paid the judges \$15.00/hour. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen contacted Rosemary DeZeeuw, Barb Hurd and Karen Lichtsinn and they agreed to be judges for the Presidential Nomination Primary, the Primary and the General Elections (if all are needed). All judges will be attending the training. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to appoint election judges Rosemary DeZeeuw, Barb Hurd and Karen Lichtsinn for the General, Primary and Presidential Nomination Primary Election for \$15.00 an hour. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last Tuesday and the Snippets were sent out in November. The next Snippets will be sent out next May or June. The Lake Benton Visitor's Guide will be for two year 2020 and 2021 and six new advertisers were added to the guide. The Chamber received several compliments on the lighting on the business fronts and the pots on the corners downtown. The Christmas Tree Walk has 15 trees on display and will be open to the public to see until January 3, 2020. The judging of the lighting contest took place last Friday with the following winners: First place went to Jon and Amanda Olson, second place went to Todd and Dawn Dykstra, and third place went to Dave and Pam Norgaard. The December business of the month is the Lunch Box and the January business of the month is Minnesota Senior Living. The Chamber Kickoff is scheduled for January 18, 2020 at the Country House.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA Board met last week. The Hole-in-the-Mountain Park is working to gain a regional park status and are looking to be the recipients of legacy funding for park enhancements. Things are being held up due to the fact an armor tower is on the park's property and has been reclassified as non-recreational. The DNR will not approve the funding until the park has land of equal value that can be purchased or donated. Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl and County Attorney Glen Petersen were present at the meeting to request a parcel of property (.25 acres) owned by the EDA west of the bus garage. This property is considered in the wetlands and cannot be developed. The EDA agreed to sell the parcel to the Park so the park can move forward as time is of the essence. Vince Robinson talked to the board about the 2020 Census, which is done every ten years, and they need Census Takers to gather information on-line, on paper and follow up with individuals that have not responded to the Census. It was stressed that everyone get involved and complete the Census or the State of Minnesota could lose a congressional seat.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – Daryl received an E-mail from an Opera House board member requesting to have a New Year's Eve party with alcohol in the Kimball building. It was discussed that the Opera House Kimball building is not for private parties with alcohol. This is a City owned building and due to liability reasons, the building should only be used for cast parties after a performance with no alcohol. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to not allow private parties to have a party with alcohol at the Opera House Kimball building. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

No report.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Bob Worth expressed his disappointment in the way the Fire Hall looked with cigarette butts on the floor. Mayor Bob Worth requested Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen talk with the Fire Department to keep the Fire Hall kept up.

Mayor Bob Worth then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The Council completed another year of challenges and joys. The next meeting will be held January 6, 2020.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Dave Enke and carried, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK