

**DECEMBER 21, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Bob Worth presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Mike Carpenter, Scott Holzemer, and Miranda Deutz from the Lake Benton Valley Journal were also present.

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 7, 2020 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2020. Motion carried.

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

VADIM	\$ 1.44	QUARNSTROM/DOERING	\$ 2,311.20
EXPRESSWAY	\$ 314.12	THOMAS ELECTRIC	\$ 260.99
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 179.17	LINCOLN CTY TREASURER	\$ 20.00
TODD DRAPER	\$ 250.00	MINNESOTA LIFE	\$ 5.10
CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 576.21	FIRST SECURITY BANK	\$ 51,000.00
LB CHAMBER OF COMM	\$ 230.54	ALLEGIANT EMERG SRVC	\$ 707.41
JOHANSEN'S REPAIR	\$ 4,344.02	DOUBLE D GRAVEL	\$ 3,318.47
BANNER ASSOCIATES	\$ 2,700.00	CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 378.46
LIPINSKI SMALL ENGINE	\$ 565.95	J & S LOGOS	\$ 895.00
AMAZON	\$ 976.23	PLUM CREEK LIBRARY	\$ 119.00
CENTER POINT	\$ 44.34		

**MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn 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.

The next item of business was to review/act on rehab grant requests. Three payment requests were received for the Rehab Grant Program: Lead assessment request of \$900.00 to Scarcely, \$46.00 to Lincoln County Recorder, and \$4,000.00 to DSI for Administration fees. The total funds of \$4,946.00 were requested and deposited in the account. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve payment of the rehab grant checks presented. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Lighthouse Assembly church installing a sign on Highway 75 and County Highway 124 (Norwegian Creek Road). Scott Holzemer was in attendance to address the Council. The Lighthouse Assembly is requesting permission from the Council to install a 4' x 8' sign with metal tubing and place it on the City's agriculture property on Highway 75 and County Highway 124 (Norwegian Creek Road) so people can locate their church coming from the north and south on Highway 75. The Council reminded Scott the church will need to make sure they get the correct setbacks from the State before erecting the sign. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to give the Lighthouse Assembly church permission to install a 4' x 8' sign on the City's agriculture property on Highway 75 and County Highway 124 (Norwegian Creek Road). Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

No report.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

The November report was provided to the Council. Mayor Bob Worth spoke with Sheriff Chad Meester and thanked him for doing a good job in policing the City. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the Law Enforcement report. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on Assignment of Easement(s) and Bill of Sale. The Assignment of Easement is for the transfer of the dam located on the property of Doc Klein in Lake Benton, and a Bill of Sale conveying the dam to Lincoln County. City Attorney Mike Cable reviewed the documents and has no legal objection if the City approves and signs the Assignment of Easement and Bill of Sale.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl reported that he spoke with Robert Olson with the Lincoln County Environmental Office, that they will be boring soil on the dam. The County is taking care of all the dams in the County, and this is the last one to assign to the County. The County has the proper funding to make the necessary repairs to the dam. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the Assignment of Easement(s) to transfer the dam located on the property of Doc Klein, and the Bill of Sale conveying the dam to Lincoln County. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the employee annual wage adjustment effective January 1, 2021. Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council the 2021 budget included a 3% wage increase for the City employees. Mayor Bob Worth asked the Council for discussion if they would like to keep the wage increase at 3% or decrease the percentage. Discussion took place that the City of Lake Benton employees are still below the median compared to towns our size, and suggestions were made to keep the increase at 3%. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve a 3% wage increase for Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Maintenance Worker Troy Nordmeyer, and City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.
- Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last week and the Diners Club served 42 \$3.00 drive-thru meals for Thanksgiving, and they did another one for Christmas on December 17. They will continue with the \$3.00 drive-thru meals once a month through March. The Lunch Box Café is closed until spring, but Peg Gorter-Evans continues to make meals for the Diners Club. The Museum is closed, but they have been working to polish the floors, and reorganize the displays. Stockings were filled for Santa Day to be distributed to the students tomorrow.
- Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA met and approved the 2021 budget, and the last payment for the newer loan will be paid off in January 2022. The board discussed commercial lots in the City and the lack of property to be developed for commercial use.
- Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – The Opera House provided the Council with a bid to spray foam the back wall of the Opera House in the amount of \$6,418.00. The largest amount of the bid is the 2” spray foam for \$5,000.00. Milo Downs and Dave Norgaard will be doing the work and the City has \$6,000.00 to put towards the repairs. The City will see a large decrease in heating when this project is complete. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve up to \$6,000.00 to put towards the Opera House repairs. Motion carried.

## **ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

The Council was given the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) trained member list. It is requested that each City has at least one or two Council members on this list. Trustees Dave Enke and Rosie DeZeeuw are currently on the list with an expiration of July 1, 2021. The training is good for three years and website information for online training was included in their packets. The City has until 5:00 PM on February 1, 2021 to get one or more trained member(s). Trustees Dave Enke and Rosie DeZeeuw volunteered to take the LBAE training.

Administrator/Clerk told Mayor Bob Worth that it has been a real pleasure working with him these past four years and is going to miss him.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

Mayor Bob Worth spoke of his interesting and fun experience at the Lake Benton Public School. He visited the 2nd grade class to thank them for the cards they made him, and spoke to the 5th grade class about City Government. He talked for 20-25 minutes then he opened the floor for questions. This year he was asked if the City has a mini White House for the Mayor with security.

Mayor Bob Worth then thanked the Council for four great years. They all began together at the same time and experienced some challenges. The Council jumped through a lot of hurdles and did a lot for the City. He then commented that the employees are fantastic and he enjoyed working with them (Todd, Troy, and Eileen). He would like the Council to continue what they are doing for the incoming Mayor.

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

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK