

JANUARY 21, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth, Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, and Dave Enke were present. City Attorney Mike Cable and Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl were absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Jess Gums, Curtis & Laura Rethwisch, Caitlyn Petersen, Pat Haynes, Library Director Janine Schaap, 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 January 6, 2020 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 6, 2020. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of January 14, 2020 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 14, 2020. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

USTI	\$ 1.36	QUARNSTROM-DOERING	\$ 702.00
M & H COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 96.00	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 3,575.93
EXPRESSWAY	\$ 282.20	RICK'S WELDING	\$ 372.24
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 174.61	POSTMASTER	\$ 114.45
MN WEST COLLEGE	\$ 1,370.00	LB EDA	\$ 9,655.00
LB CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 7,747.89	LB HISTORICAL SOC	\$ 6,500.00
KINNER & COMPANY	\$ 133.00	SW SANITATION	\$ 3,599.68
BIOAG	\$ 574.80	CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 23.62
LIPINSKI SMALL ENGINE	\$ 153.18	ALEX AIR	\$ 533.70
ONE OFFICE	\$ 46.55	BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 7.05
LINCOLN CTY HRA	\$ 1,951.82	RYAN DRIETZ	\$ 150.00

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.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council the Maintenance Department encountered some emissions problems with the Case Tractor over the weekend. Titan is attempting to fix the problem that is covered under warranty.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Lake Benton Foundation Fundraiser. Jess Gums addressed the Council with a follow-up of their last visit in November 2019. The Foundation proposed their priorities, to be completed over the next three years, for the Lakeside Park Improvements. The improvements included signage, landscaping, mountable park benches and tables. The Foundation is working on getting quotes from Country Side Nursery for the landscaping, Curtis Rethwisch for the signage, and talk with Daryl Schlapkohl with the County Parks for input on benches. The Gala is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2020, and the Foundation mailed contribution letters and donations are already coming in.

One of the priority items was to fix the already existing unique and stylish street lamps located within the park. The City will check the lights this spring to determine what can be done. The Council requested the Foundation attend the second meeting in April to report on the quotes and funding for the improvements.

The next item of business was to review/act on SCDP Subordination request. The City received a loan subordination request from a borrower on the SCDP Rehab Loan Program (Danny & Megan Krotzer) to refinance their home. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the subordination request from Danny and Megan Krotzer. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Service Contract for the Local Access Channel and the Electronic Sign between the City and Pat Haynes from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. The agreement states Pat will spend eight (8) hours a month to service and update the Local Access Channel and spend four (4) hours a month to service and update the Electronic Sign. Pat Haynes was in attendance and reminded the Council this spring the electronic sign will be connected via the internet versus a phone line. This will be more compatible and easier to work with, and funds were budgeted for this changeover. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Service Contract for the Local Access Channel and Electronic Sign between the City and Pat Haynes from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021 for \$250.00 a month. Motion carried.

LIBRARY UPDATE:

The Library Update was given by Library Director Janine Schaap. Janine stated the Library's Mission Statement is to enrich lives, build community, and foster success by bringing people, information, and ideas together in a respectful manner. The Library's goals will be worked on as a team. Together, Janine and Corinne Crowe will work towards improving and promoting the library. Janine and Corinne are looking forward to 2020 and implementing their goals based on the mission statement.

Janine read the library's goals which included increasing patron usage by sending postcards to patrons not using the library, promote programs in newspaper advertising, the monthly newsletter and posting flyers throughout Lake Benton, and partnering for programs with the Chamber, Diners Club and the school; weeding out the old collections and replacing with new; applying for grants to offset programming costs; add new furniture to include a children's bin and purchase totes to clean the store room which was completed in December 2019; support the Friends of the Library (FOL) with bake sales and fundraisers; change books to show in the computer for ease of finding books; and line up volunteers to dust furniture.

The library's achievements for 2019 included 74 programs which highlighted the Summer Reading Program, Friday Morning Fun, the Winter Reading Program, the Diners Club and Chamber; increased the library's collections for all genres which meant less collections had to be borrowed from other libraries and other libraries are borrowing from Lake Benton; and overall, patrons seem very happy with the running of the library. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to accept the Library update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a resolution with the DNR for a City-Wide Hunt in 2020. The resolution authorizes the City of Lake Benton to work with the DNR to allow a special hunt in 2020. The City is aware there is a proficiency requirement for any new hunters applying, and the City will need to get the landowners permission (i.e. Lincoln County) prior to hunting on their property. The application with the DNR will need to be completed prior to May 2020. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the resolution with the DNR for a City-Wide Hunt in 2020. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to discuss police protection in the City of Lake Benton. Mayor Bob Worth reminded the Council and audience the Council had a special meeting last week and met

with Sheriff Chad Meester, County Commissioner Cory Sik, Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner and a few citizens to talk about what to do since Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner will no longer be with us. Mayor Bob Worth requested the Council discuss hours of service and cost to contract with the County this evening and at the February 3, 2020 meeting. Mayor Bob Worth will be out of town after the February 3, 2020 meeting and requested Dave Enke, Mark Dunn and Eileen Christensen attend the February 4, 2020 County Commissioners meeting to inquire if the County would consider contracting with the City.

The Council then had a round table discussion on how many hours they would like to contract for "boots on the ground" coverage for the City. The Council members present felt they wanted more than ten hours a week, and 20 to 24 hours was a comfortable amount of coverage per week. Although Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl was absent, he informed Mayor Bob Worth that he felt ten hours was sufficient coverage. It was a concern that the commissioners may not support contracting with the City for that many hours even though the Sheriff assured the City using a 2.0 multiplier for approximately \$70,000.00 was fair.

Discussion then took place to confirm the commissioners are interested in contracting for 24 hours a week at a 2.0 multiplier using the information Sheriff Meester shared with them at their January 14, 2020 meeting. If the commissioners are in agreement, the City will then discuss key element specifics to include in the contract (i.e. point of contact, three year contract, back out clause, etc.), and work with Legal Counsel to assist in drawing up the contract.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA met January 8th and had the election of officers which included Karen Lichtsinn-Chair, Dave Enke-Vice Chair, Curtis Rethwisch-Treasurer, and Eileen Christensen-Secretary. The sale of the Lake Benton Grocery Store is progressing, a purchase agreement has been signed, and the Bolts are planning to take over March 1, 2020. Funding from the EDA will be forthcoming. A month ago, Dave shared with the Council the land issue with the Hole-in-the-Mountain Park which is holding up the allocation of legacy funds and grant funds for the park. The EDA has a parcel to make available to the park, but the DNR did not accept the parcel because it is not directly adjacent to the park property. Other options are being considered and the time element is critical or they could lose an appropriation of funding.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last Thursday and the two-year 2020-2021 edition of the Visitors Guide is out. The Holiday open houses were a success with the Chamber donating 20 turkeys to be given away. The winners of the Christmas tree walk included first place-Cathy Morris, second place-Lake Benton Grocery Store, and third place-Rethwisch & Son. The January business of the month is Central Minnesota Senior Care, and the February business of the month is the Country House. The Chamber kickoff that was scheduled for this past weekend was postponed to Saturday March 28, 2020 at the Country House.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

The annual meeting of the City of Lake Benton, Lake Benton Fire Department and Townships will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the LB Community & Event Center.

MAYORAL REPORT:

No report.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK