

JANUARY 6, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, January 6, 2020 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, Karen Lichtsinn, 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 16, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2019. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

LAKE BENTON GROCERY	\$	23.23	OTTERTAIL	\$	2,544.96
ITC	\$	277.62	QUARNSTROM-DOERING	\$	331.00
SANITATION PRODUCTS	\$	314.23	RETHWISCH & SON	\$	10,029.25
GOPHER STATE	\$	1.35	CITY OF TYLER	\$	115.50
TODD DRAPER	\$	32.00	PAT HAYNES	\$	477.32
MINNESOTA LIFE	\$	5.10	TROY NORDMEYER	\$	32.00
KYLIE ROCHEL	\$	95.00	VERIZON	\$	35.01
ONE OFFICE	\$	65.85	PAT MCCARTHY	\$	30.63
AMAZON	\$	366.08	CENTER POINT	\$	44.34
DEMCO	\$	82.64	CORINNE CROWE	\$	3.99

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke 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

No Report

POLICE REPORT

The Police Report for December was provided to the Council via e-mail by Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner. Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner will be done with this position the end of January. Jeff received two pending applications for the position of part-time police officer. Jeff did not inquire with the applicants if they would be interested in a full-time position, but would inquire with them about their interests if the Council would like. Neither applicant has held a full-time law enforcement position in the past. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the December Police Report. Motion carried.

Mayor Bob Worth then reminded the Council Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner is stepping down the end of January and inquired what ideas or suggestions the Council has on this issue. A Councilmember stated that after being through this process twice in the past two years, they don't believe the City will attract an individual to be a Police Chief. There was emphasis placed to contact the County and get a workable agreement with them. Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner will be beneficial in helping us through this process. It was then stated that since former Police Chief Tony Sievert left, the County has been in town and have done a good job with no charge to the City. It was suggested to call a Special meeting to meet as a full Council with a County

Commissioner, Sheriff Chad Meester and Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner. It was the unanimous decision of the Council to have Mayor Bob Worth and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen set up a meeting with the above mentioned individuals as soon as possible.

The next item of business was to review/act on the 2020 annual lease between the City and the Historical Society for the Heritage Center building. Karen Lichtsinn was present to answer any questions the Council may have about the lease. The City allocated \$6,500.00 to the Historical Society for 2020 for the operation of the museum. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the 2020 annual lease between the City and the Historical Society for the Heritage Center and authorize the Mayor and Administrator/Clerk to sign the annual lease. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on appointment of election judge for the General, Primary, and Presidential Nomination Primary elections. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council she would like to get one more judge, Tracy Trigg, for the elections due to the fact Rosie DeZeeuw is up for reelection this year and should she choose to run for a seat on the Council, she is ineligible to be a judge for the City. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to appoint Tracy Trigg as another judge for the General, Primary, and Presidential Nomination Primary elections. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a City license for the new owners of the Grocery Store, Bill and Kelly Bolt. Bill and Kelly completed a license application to sell cigarettes at the Grocery Store. The license would be from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the tobacco license for the Grocery Store. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Accepting Donations to the Library. The Library received a donation from Lisa Schardin for \$250.00 and a donation from the Fiber Guild for \$275.00. These donations will be designated for collections. Minnesota Statutes state the Library can accept donations for the benefit of recreational services. The Council needs to pass a resolution accepting the donations to the Library. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations from Lisa Schardin for \$250.00 and the Fiber Guild for \$275.00. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the employee annual wage adjustment effective January 1, 2020. Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council the 2020 budget included a 3% wage increase for the City employees. Discussion took place that evaluations need to be completed on each employee in 2020 before any additional wage increases will be agreed upon for the 2021 budget. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve a 3% wage increase for Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Maintenance Worker Troy Nordmeyer, and City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, and perform evaluations on each employee in 2020. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Proposed Mayoral and Council Appointments for 2020. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the 2020 Mayoral Appointments as follows: Acting Mayor-Rosie DeZeeuw; Street Commission-Mark Dunn, Daryl Schlapkohl; Heritage Center/Community Center/Opera House-Rosie DeZeeuw, Daryl Schlapkohl; Water/Sewer/Refuse-David Enke, Bob Worth; Library-David Enke; Recreation/City Parks-Mark Dunn, Daryl Schlapkohl; Chamber of Commerce-CVB-Tourism-LIFE-Rosie DeZeeuw, Bob Worth; Weeds-Mark Dunn; Fire Department-Mark Dunn; First Responders-Daryl Schlapkohl; Cable TV-Rosie DeZeeuw; EDA Representatives-David Enke, Bob Worth; Personnel/Human Resources-David Enke, Bob Worth; and Fire Relief Association Trustees-Mark Dunn, Daryl Schlapkohl. The Ad-Hoc committee will include members of the City as well as Council members which will be determined when needed. Motion carried.

MOTION by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the 2020 Council Appointments as follows: City Administrator/Clerk-Eileen Christensen; Tree Inspector-Jim Roggenbuck; Library Director-Janine Bunjer; Fire Chief-Scott Christensen; Civil Defense-First Responders; Law Firm-Quarnstrom, Doering at \$150.00 per hour not to exceed \$150.00 per meeting; Official Newspaper-Lake Benton Valley Journal; Official Depository for City Funds-First Security Bank, Lake Benton. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The Library met last week and the Winter Reading Program began January 1, 2020 and will continue through March 31, 2020. The Board terms were discussed for the 2020 fiscal year and were accepted by the Board as follows: Richard Riley, President, is completing his first three year term in 2020, Pat Haynes, Treasurer, is completing his first two year term in 2020, Shelly Finzen, Secretary, is completing her first two year term in 2020 and Cathy Morris and Dave Enke were appointed for a one year term in 2020.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – The Opera House met last Thursday and discussed building a 24 x 36 building to be placed on concrete behind the Opera House for additional storage room. The Opera House is having some structural issues on the inside where the new curtain was hung and where the new lights were set. Mike Czech has been asked to check into this and see what can be done. The Opera House will be meeting again this Thursday for the election of officers and to discuss applying for additional grants from US Bank which needs to be submitted prior to January 14, 2020.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council the 2019 City Archery Hunt ended December 31, 2019 with a total of 20 deer harvested. The total number of deer harvested in the 2018 hunt was 30.

The information presented to FEMA is in the hands of the superiors and no checks have been cut to the City as of today.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council that anyone wanting to turn anything into the PUC regarding the Buffalo Ridge Wind Tower Project has until January 31, 2020. If any of the Council would like to write a letter, etc. Mayor Bob Worth has the information.

Mayor Bob Worth then stated the Lions Club asked if the City would consider a larger area to have locked up for their equipment. The Lions Club currently has a locked area and is requesting additional storage on the west side of the area in the back of the Event Center.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK