

JULY 8, 2019

The Special Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 7:30 AM in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth, Trustees Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable and Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw were absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen 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.

The purpose of this meeting was to review/act on eliminating the temporary Police Chief position.

The Council had some concerns after last Monday's Council meeting regarding proof to support the accusation made of the alleged entrance into the police office.

Mike Cable was available via telephone and stated the accusation made by Acting Police Chief Dallas Cornell was the office paperwork was disrupted. The police office has locked filing cabinets and a locked evidence closet that no one has a key to. If information is left on the table, that is their own doing. Questions arose of who was accused and who has access to the Police office. The City Administrator's office and the Police Chief should be the only ones with keys to the office. If the police department believes the office is insecure, then the City should change the locks and there should only be two keys – one for the City Administrator, and one for the Police Chief. City Attorney Mike Cable expressed his disbelief at how the Acting Police Chief acted at a public meeting. If the Council votes not to eliminate the temporary Police Chief position, then the Personnel Committee needs to meet with the acting Police Chief and tell him how unprofessional his actions were at the open meeting.

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to eliminate the temporary Police Chief position effective July 8, 2019 at 7:50 AM. Police Officer Dallas Cornell will return to working 16 hours a week at \$15.91 beginning July 8, 2019. Roll call vote: Mark Dunn – Yes, Dave Enke – Yes, Daryl Schlapkohl – Yes. Motion carried.

The Council authorized Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to contact Legal Counsel to confirm the Personnel Committee should personally meet and notify the Acting Police Chief of the elimination.

The next item of business was to discuss temporary coverage by the Lincoln County Sheriff's office. Mayor Bob Worth requested a contract for a month be drawn up but the significant amount of time, meetings and negotiations invested by both parties, it is not likely a contract would be agreed upon in the short period of time requested. Although the County will be short staffed the month of July due to medical leaves and vacation, the County will assist in handling calls in Lake Benton.

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