

JUNE 16, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Patrick Haynes presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Karen Lichtsinn, Jon Olson and Scott Christensen were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Kristina Hernandez with the Buffalo Ridge Newspaper, Sheriff Bob Bushman, Mike DeVries, and David Hurd were also present.

Mayor Patrick Haynes called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mayor Patrick Haynes 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 June 2, 2025 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2025. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

WESTERN PRINT GROUP	\$ 81.07	ITC	\$ 810.16
L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 5,632.24	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 389.17
GOPHER STATE	\$ 13.50	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 173.84
POSTMASTER	\$ 189.28	LINCOLN CTY TREASURER	\$ 4,000.00
S & E AUTO	\$ 49.95	LINCOLN CTY RECORDER	\$ 46.00
CHS, INC.	\$ 120.00	DOUBLE D GRAVEL	\$ 5,392.80
SOUTWEST SANITATION	\$ 4,025.79	NORTHLAND SECURITIES	\$ 35,413.75
BANNER ASSOC.	\$ 4,118.75	BIOAG ENERGY	\$ 121.76
MEADOWLAND FARMERS	\$ 389.21	DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	\$ 1,558.68
ONE OFFICE	\$ 10.99	KIBBLE EQUIPMENT	\$ 157.82
CHRISTIANSON FARM	\$ 5,250.00	FULLER PAVING	\$ 3,660.00

MOTION by Jon Olson, seconded by Scott Christensen 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 non-permanent rubber speed bumps. Sheriff Bob Bushman was contacted by a resident on Lakeview Street wanting to put down non-permanent rubber speed bumps. Bob requested City staff contact Legal Counsel regarding liability issues. City Attorney Mike Cable requested City staff contact the City's insurance agent to find out if we have coverage. Eileen contacted Buffalo Ridge State Agency who contacted the League of MN Cities and they informed her they would consider rubber speed bumps as Property In the Open (PIO) and we would need to be added to the MPCBP-218 PIO endorsement form for coverage to apply. This means this requires a "rider" due to liability issues and it could be costly. Mayor Patrick Haynes informed the Council and audience that there is a sign on Lakeview and Jessie Street that informs motorists there is a dead end ahead and a 15 mph speed limit sign on the west end of Lakeview Street. The Mayor and Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield polled the residents on Lakeview Street and no one seemed to think there was an issue with speed, etc. The Council discussed installing a sign that states "Children at Play" and install it closer to the day care and/or put a little boy sign holding a flag for motorists to slow down. **MOTION** by Jon Olson, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to add signage by the day care to slow motorists down. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to meet with Cemetery Board Member Mike DeVries to discuss getting funds for the cemetery added to the budget. Mike DeVries thanked everyone for a successful Saddle Horse Holiday. Mike then went on to say the cemetery requires upkeep and is costly. The Cemetery board reached out for donations and they were very pleased with the response but there is still a way to go on funding. Mike requested the Council consider budgeting a \$5,000.00 annual allocation for the upkeep of

the cemetery grounds and preservation of the headstones. Mayor Patrick Haynes reminded Mike there are a lot of cemeteries in the City and the Council would need to consider them as well. Mayor Patrick Haynes then suggested the cemetery board register for a non-profit status by completing a 501(c)(13) to receive additional grant funding. The Council will consider and discuss this matter when they review the 2026 budget.

The next item of business was to review/act on assigning the Carlisle Easement of the Lake Benton Dam to Lincoln County. City Attorney Mike Cable forwarded City staff an email he received from Lincoln County Attorney Glen Petersen regarding the Dam including a 1984 Easement for the Dam referred to as the Carlisle Easement. Glen is requesting that the Carlisle Easement be assigned to the County so the County can deal with the objection by the family of James Carlisle. In 1984 it was possible to obtain an Easement that was not confined to a definite corridor. The Easement in 1984 was not confined and if the Easement is assigned to the County the County could confine the Easement to a definite description that is confined.

Mike requested this be brought to the attention of the City Council and he recommended that the Easement be assigned to the County so the County can confine the Easement for the Dam to be a confined description. Minnesota Statutes now authorizes this request to be made by the landowner which the Easement Holder must comply with. Mike stated he will prepare an Assignment of Easement if the City authorizes the same. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to assign the Carlisle Easement of the Dam to Lincoln County and authorize City Attorney Mike Cable to prepare an Assignment of Easement. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Final Plat for Johnson Commercial Park II east of Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water's new facility. The EDA requested and approved the new plat to vacate a portion of Draper Drive in the Johnson Commercial Park, and the Council provided the same. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Jon Olson to approve the final plat of Johnson Commercial Park II completed by Dan Bueltel and authorize the Mayor and Administrator/Clerk to sign the same. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to appoint a new member to the Lake Benton EDA Board. At the Lake Benton EDA meeting on May 14, 2025, the board accepted Binod Jha's resignation from the board. The EDA board unanimously nominated Bill Bolt and felt Bill would be a great asset to the board. The Lake Benton EDA would like to request the City Council appoint Bill Bolt to the Lake Benton EDA board. **MOTION** by Jon Olson, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to appoint Bill Bolt to the Lake Benton EDA board. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Gambling Exempt Permit for St. Genevieve's Fall Festival cash raffle on October 5, 2025. Due to the fact the church is having a cash raffle, the application requires the local unit of government's acknowledgment and the Mayor's signature. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the Gambling Permit for St. Genevieve's and authorize the Mayor's signature. 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 an anonymous donor in the amount of \$100.00. This donation will be designated for collections. Minnesota Statutes state the Library can accept donations for the benefit of recreational services. The Council needs to pass the resolution accepting the donation to the Library. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the Resolution Accepting the Donation from the anonymous donor in the amount of \$100.00 to the Library. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The May calls for service in Lake Benton were reviewed. Sheriff Bob Bushman addressed the Council and stated that the Saddle Horse Holiday celebration went well with a few minor incidents. Sheriff Bob Bushman then stated that traffic is up due to the nice weather, and the County received a grant from the state to install solar speed signs and flashing stop signs on the County roads. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Law Enforcement Update. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) will be having a bus tour (Stops to include: Edgerton Bakery-Edgerton, Casey Jones Trail Head-Woodstock,, RTR Safe Routes to School-Tyler, and Bolt's Lake Benton Grocery-Lake Benton, and their annual meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2024 at the Hiawatha Lodge at 201 4th Street NW, Pipestone, MN. The bus tour begins at 12:45 PM and the meeting begins at 4:00 PM. If you wish to attend the bus tour and/or meeting, please let Eileen Christensen know prior to June 23, 2025 so she can get you registered at no charge (dinner is not included unless you pay for it yourself - \$18.00).

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Patrick Haynes commented on a successful weekend over Saddle Horse Holiday. Trustee Karen Lichtsinn informed the Council the firework display was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Chamber had an option to select another date and they chose next year and paid a small cancellation fee.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 7, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Scott Christensen, seconded by Jon Olson and carried, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK