

## JUNE 17, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, June 17, 2019 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 present via telephone. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Acting Police Chief Dallas Cornell, Mike Carpenter-Commander of Henry Sollie Post 10, Don Evers-Treasurer of Henry Sollie Post 10, Lisa Willert-Lake Benton Realty, 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 first item of business was to review the Purchase Agreement for the sale of the Community Center. City Attorney Mike Cable informed the Council and audience the reason a government entity may go into closed executive session to discuss a real estate transaction is they may want to counter-offer and discuss other parameters they do not want the other party to know. The sale of the property to the American Legion Henry Sollie Post 10 is an entity within Lake Benton and they offered \$27,500.00. City Attorney Mike Cable pointed out the sale of the Community Center to this entity is ideal.

City Attorney Mike Cable reviewed the details of the purchase agreement and reiterated this to be an ideal situation and felt the Council could discuss the real estate transaction publicly. City Attorney Mike Cable pointed out there should be no need to include the exception clause on page eight (8), line 335 and the City should convey the monument to the American Legion. There is a typographical error on page eight (8), line 328 that states the Buyer and Seller agree that the Seller will lease – should read the Buyer and Seller agree that the Buyer will lease.

It was Legal Counsel's recommendation to accept the purchase agreement of \$27,500.00, modify the real estate description line 335 to include the Veteran's Memorial and draw up one deed instead of two, change the word on line 328 to Buyer will lease, and agree the agreement is contingent upon the Majority vote of the Henry Sollie Post 10. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to accept the purchase agreement of \$27,500.00, exclude the last paragraph on page eight (8), line 335, correct the word on line 328 to Buyer will lease, and agree the agreement is contingent upon the Majority vote of the Henry Sollie Post 10. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Mike Cable commended the City of Lake Benton on their motion and felt this sale is ideal. Mayor Bob Worth asked Legal Counsel if the Legion wanted to rent out their building for small gatherings, can they do that. City Attorney Mike Cable replied yes, it is their building and they can lease it to whomever they want. Although it may be in competition of the City leasing their building, the Legion has the right to lease their building as well.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper reminded the Legion the generator on the building is not part of the sale and wanted to confirm the Legion is aware of that. Mayor Bob Worth thanked the Legion and commented on what a great thing this is for Lake Benton. Mayor Bob Worth then requested the Legion work with Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen on the personal property in the building that may be of interest to the Legion. The Legion's next regular meeting is July 2, 2019 and they will inform the City of their approval of the agreement as well.

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.

Mayor Bob Worth requested for a motion to add an item to the Agenda after Item No. 6 to include Review/Act on a Building Permit for Dan & Joan Koster, and Jim & Sandy Nordmeyer to build a machine shed on their property (160th Street) in Lake Benton. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to add the agenda item to Review/Act on a Building Permit for Dan & Joan Koster, and Jim & Sandy Nordmeyer after Item No. 6 of the agenda. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2019. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of June 10, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 10, 2019. Motion carried.

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

ITC	\$ 328.09	USTI	\$ 2,190.18
QUARNSTROM/DOERING	\$ 1,278.50	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 5,376.89
RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 634.69	EXPRESSWAY	\$ 722.11
GOPHER STATE	\$ 18.90	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 237.62
LB BAR & GRILL	\$ 15.03	POSTMASTER	\$ 116.90
LINCOLN CTY TREAS	\$ 133.00	S & E AUTO	\$ 29.85
UTILITY CONSULTANTS	\$ 763.12	CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 373.26
CHS, INC.	\$ 365.49	DOUBLE D GRAVEL	\$ 560.52
SW SANITATION	\$ 3,575.08	CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 2,961.21
ALEX AIR	\$ 16,620.00	BUFFALO RIDGE CONC	\$ 262.80
NORTH SHORE ANALYT	\$ 305.00	BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 312.00
ZUERCHER TECH	\$ 8.71	MIKE CZECH	\$ 122.96
NORTHLAND TRUST	\$ 39,413.75		

**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 City Administrator/Clerk to make payment.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Police Force for the City of Lake Benton. Mayor Bob Worth stated that after the meeting last Monday, he would like to recommend the Administrator/Clerk place ads and post notices of the open Police Chief position, and set up an Ad-Hoc Committee of two Council members and the Administrator/Clerk. The Ad-Hoc Committee will meet with Sheriff Chad Meester to request a proposal(s) of what it will cost for the County's services and compare the proposal(s) against the City's budget. Mayor Bob Worth asked the Council how many hours would the Council like to see included in the proposal(s).

Acting Police Chief Dallas Cornell addressed the Council and presented his concerns if the City contracts with the County. If the City contracts with the County for 24 hours a week that is all the hours the City is going to get. Tony Sievert and Dallas Cornell put in 56 hours a week for the City for less money than the County proposed two years ago for 24 hours. Acting Police Chief Dallas Cornell informed the Council that a Deputy's starting wage in Lincoln County is \$21.00 an hour, and \$24.00 an hour for a Deputy in Pipestone County. Dallas felt the City should consider paying \$30.00 an hour for a total of \$62,400.00 annually in order to hire a Police Chief and keep them. Dallas also informed the Council the County's contract could raise from year to year and it will be hard to get your own police force back. The County decides when they will be in the City to put in their contracted hours and will not enforce the City's ordinances. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to authorize Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to place ads and post notices for a Police Chief with applications due no later than July 26, 2019, and review the applications at the first meeting in August 2019. Motion carried.

**MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to place Mayor Bob Worth, Trustee Dave Enke and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen on the Ad-Hoc Committee to meet with Sheriff Chad Meester and a Commissioner to request contract proposals for 40 hours a week and 50 hours a week. The Ad-Hoc Committee will present the proposals at the second meeting in July 2019. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council the water shut-off and the water line at the football field were completely pulled out of the ground between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM Sunday. Last week there were individuals cleaning the ball diamonds and someone accidentally bent the shut-off valve. Todd had it repaired last Friday or the water would have been shut off to the County for the weekend.

The Saddle Horse Holiday went well. Using the school playground for the activities was very good, and the Chamber and volunteers did a great job. The fireworks display was the highlight and overall, the weekend was a great success. Thank you to the City staff, the Chamber, Daryl Schlapkohl, and the Fire Department for an outstanding job over the weekend.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Allen Smith to build a 30' x 40' garage at 609 Home Street. Allen was given the setbacks from his property lines on which he can build a garage. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper confirmed there were no setback concerns and everything is in compliance with the City's ordinance. The fee of \$25.00 per application has been paid. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the building permit for Allen Smith to build a 30' x 40' garage at 609 Home Street. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Dan & Joan Koster, and Jim & Sandy Nordmeyer to build a 40' x 64' machine shed with living quarters on their property (160th Street) in Lake Benton. This is agriculture land on the north end of the City limits. The Koster's and Nordmeyer's are putting in a new septic system and will be extending their water line. The City will install a new water meter in the building when it is complete. The fee of \$25.00 is in the mail. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the building permit for Dan & Joan Koster, and Jim & Sandy Nordmeyer to build a 40' x 64' machine shed with living quarters on their property (160th Street) in Lake Benton. Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Mark Dunn – No Report

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Lake Benton Chamber met last week. The \$3.00 meal on June 13, 2019 was sponsored by First Security Bank, and the next \$3.00 meal is scheduled for July 11, 2019. Roseanne Lasnetski, Lincoln County Coordinator for the Aging and Volunteer Services, is working with the NAPS commodities program in Lincoln County. The NAPS distribution will be June 27, 2019 at the Lake Benton Area Community & Event Center. Ashly Nordmeyer with Sassy Cakes was presented her first dollar. "Shrek the Musical" performances are scheduled for July 25, 2019 through August 4, 2019, and there is a bus scheduled to bring theater goers. The Chamber's parade float has been cleaned and repaired and is scheduled to participate in four to five parades this summer. The mini-crocks have been delivered and are on sale for \$13.00. The Chamber ordered new t-shirts and restocked their inventory. The Chamber is working with Kjergaard Sports to have a booth at their annual show in July to sell pottery and t-shirts. The Chamber is in the beginning stages of preparing for Te-Tonka-Ha.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA Board met last week and the majority of the discussion was the possibility of Dollar General moving into town with several business owners present at the meeting. The EDA was contacted in November 2018 by a real estate developer who was looking for a place to build in Lake Benton. There were certain guidelines the developer needed to meet, but the criteria did not meet their needs. The board did not take an official action on this. No one

is in favor of them coming to Lake Benton. The developer found a willing seller in a location that may work for Dollar General, but it could be financially unfeasible to develop the property. This will require a change in zoning and Dollar General will need to meet with the Council before it this happens. The board has not heard anything since April and Dollar General will need to follow the necessary protocol. The balloon payment on the second 4-Plex is due in November 2019 and will be paid off and owned by the EDA.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report

**ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

Administrator/Clerk received an invitation for any of the Council members that would like to attend the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) annual meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at Painted Prairie Vineyard in Currie, MN. The cost is \$18.00 per person if staying for dinner – if only attending the meeting, no cost is involved. If anyone wishes to attend the meeting or the meeting and dinner, please let Eileen know prior to June 24, 2019 so she can get them registered.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

Mayor Bob Worth received a letter from the Lake Benton Lake Improvement District dated June 11, 2019. They are requesting the City consider an appropriation of \$10,000.00 in 2019 but the City did not budget for this item in 2019 and cannot afford to contribute this year.

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.

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK