

JUNE 19, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, June 19, 2017 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, David Enke and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Teresa Schruers-DSI, Robin McChesney, Fire Chief Pat McCarthy, Scott Christensen, Anika Finzen, 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.

Fire Chief Pat McCarthy and Assistant Fire Chief Scott Christensen addressed the Council to inform them their 1988 pumper was taken in for a pump test and were informed the seals were bad and there is a need for additional repairs. The Fire Department wanted to make the Council aware that the cost to get the pumper repaired and working properly could cost between \$2,000.00 and \$6,000.00. The money will be taken out of the City's Fire Department budget for truck repairs.

Anika Finzen was present to represent the Library's By The Teens – For The Teens regarding a bike rack to be put on the sidewalk in the front of the Library in the window well. Due to the fact several children ride bikes to and from the Library, it was suggested the Teen Club purchase and display a bike rack in the window well during the summer. After some discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the By The Teens – For the Teens purchase and display a bike rack in the window well during the summer months. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 5, 2017 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 5, 2017. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

RP & E RAILROAD, INC.	\$ 67.53	USTI	\$ 1.12
EXPRESSWAY	\$ 871.99	RICK'S WELDING	\$ 320.00
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 133.00	POSTMASTER	\$ 113.56
S & E AUTO	\$ 128.20	UTILITY CONSULTANTS	\$ 129.12
CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 78.36	DOUBLE "D" GRAVEL	\$ 415.36
SW SANITATION	\$ 3,454.04	BANNER ENGRG	\$ 2,368.00
GALLS	\$ 746.09	CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 1,343.22
JIM'S REPAIR	\$ 150.15	KENNEDY & GRAVEN	\$ 618.50
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 104.80	SCHUNEMAN EQUIP	\$ 199.21

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve payment of the claims presented against the City of Lake Benton. Motion carried.

The next item of business was a presentation by Teresa Schruers with Development Services, Inc. (DSI) on the Small Cities Rehab Grant. Teresa presented a packet of information to the Council and explained the process of applying for the grant and the repairs the grant is used for. Those homeowners eligible for the rehab program could get house repairs that include siding, shingles, and energy efficient windows. Eligibility for the housing repairs program is based on household size and income.

Discussion took place regarding the Opera House and the Community Center getting repairs done through this rehab grant. City owned buildings are a conflict of interest in this matter. However, the Community Center is under its own portion and its own uniqueness as it is used for elderly and non-profit organizations. Teresa will look into that.

It was explained that in the past, the City of Lake Benton combined with Cottonwood when they did their last rehab grant. The City may want to consider pairing with Tyler who has signed the agreement to get a good competitive grant which could be up to 20 to 25 homes. The cost to the City would also be less should they consider pairing with another community.

The Agreement process includes authorizing DSI to move forward with canvassing by sending the Interest Statement to the homeowners in the City whose names and address will be furnished to DSI by the City. If there are no responses, the City will still owe \$2,000.00 to DSI. The City repaired 19 homes in 2009 and 27 in 2005.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to sign the agreement with DSI to begin the canvassing for the project. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on Robin McChesney using the Community Center for a 12-Step Program one day a week and see if the program will work. Robin addressed the Council and explained to the Council there are people living in the community that don't have driver's license, or are not permitted to drive because they are in the process of recovering from alcohol and/or drug abuse. Robin has contacted the churches in the community but has not received a definite yes. Would the Council consider making the Community Center available on Sunday mornings for these people to come and complete their 12-step program? Robin will provide coffee and rolls for those participants, and explained this is in the explorative stage and may or may not be of interest.

City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council the 4-H Clubs give a \$50.00 damage deposit to the City and use the facility once a month at no charge. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to let Robin McChesney use the Community Center in the same manner as the 4-H Clubs by giving a \$50.00 damage deposit and use the Community Center once a week for the 12-step program at no charge. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to appoint a new member to the Library Board. Trustee Dave Enke reminded the Council Ethel Anderson resigned her position and the Board appointed Rich Riley to fill the President's position. The Library Board has nominated Patrick Haynes and Patrick Haynes has agreed to be a member of the Library Board to fulfill Ethel's term. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to appoint Patrick Haynes to the Library Board effective immediately. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) – Police Officer Resolution. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that Dallas Cornell began his duties as a part-time police officer for the City of Lake Benton on June 1, 2017. Dallas will be working approximately 16 hours per week at \$15.00/hour which will take him over the allotted earnings of \$5,100.00 in 2017. Per PERA requirements, the Council needs to pass a resolution declaring that the position meets the legal requirements for such coverage and requests the coverage for the named individual. The membership fee per employee is 10.8% and the Employer contribution is 16.2%. Former part-time officers have been put in the PERA Police and Fire Plan in the past.

MOTION by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) – Police Officer Resolution for part-time police officer Dallas Cornell. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on transferring funds from water and sewer to garbage. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council when Nathan Kinner presented the City's 2016 audit to the Council on May 1, 2017, he stated the City should consider getting the garbage fund in the black because it had very little cash at the end of the year. The reason the garbage fund is low on cash is because funds were used to help pay for the water meters that were installed in 2014.

In June 2016, the Council transferred \$2,000.00 from the water and sewer funds to the garbage fund but it was not enough. In order to get the garbage fund in the black, it was suggested the Council may want to consider transferring \$6,000.00 from the water and sewer funds to the garbage fund. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to transfer a total of \$6,000.00 from the water and sewer funds to the garbage fund. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on renewing Palisades LP Contract. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council the City may want to consider renewing the contract with Palisades for 14,000 gallons of LP at \$1.099 per gallon for the 2017-2018 heating season. Palisades has provided the City a contract for the 2017-2018 heating season which includes a prepaid contract, a 20% down contract or a budget plan contract. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to renew the prepaid LP contract with Palisades for the 2017-2018 heating season for 14,000 gallons of LP at \$1.099 per gallon. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council on the scoreboard that Barb Powell would like to purchase and donate to the City to be installed at DeZeeuw Softball Field. Todd informed the Council that he talked with Thomas Electric who told him they will trench the wire at no charge to the City, but will charge the City for the wire which could be less than \$500.00.

Discussion took place on the nice gesture made to donate a scoreboard but the amount of teams that played in the Saddle Horse Holiday tournament was so few, and there seems to be a lack of interest in softball within the City. **MOTION** by Dave Enke to approve the purchase of the scoreboard being donated by Barb Powell to be installed at DeZeeuw Softball Field. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Todd Draper then gave an update on the Coteau Street Improvement Project. The water is installed and completed, and the workers are putting in gravel up to grade. The contractors are on schedule and will meet their August deadline.

Todd informed the Council there is a .14 acre piece of property next to the Quonset by the railroad tracks that is owned by Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad. Clyde Krog currently leases the property and requested the railroad contact the City to let us lease it. The railroad is requesting \$1,000.00 for a new agreement. The bill for leasing the property for the year was included in the claims and approved. The City will talk with the railroad before the end of the year to see what needs to be done for the City to lease the .14 acre property.

Saddle Horse Holiday is done and was a success.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – Mike Weets has almost completed the tuck-pointing of the Opera House. There is a problem with the down spout and Todd Draper will put an extension on it so Mike can finish.

Mayor Bob Worth, Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl and Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper met with a property owner regarding their commercial building. The City would like to consider negotiating with the owner to purchase the building as the City Shop.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA met last week and the Benck’s Lakeview Lodge is showing a lot of activity with their new furnishings and updates. They experienced some water damage from the storm a couple weeks ago, but insurance will cover the damage and replace the roof on the six units. The Benck’s are planning an open house when the work is completed which could be within the next ten days. The wind tower construction company has been in contact with the Benck’s and are planning to arrive around July 1, 2017.

The CHS Property is still being considered for purchase as commercial development. The Council previously granted the EDA authority to bid up to \$25,000.00 for the property.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last week and they are going to begin the \$2.00 Tuesday with the First Security Bank as the first donation. Te-Tonka-Ha is coming together nicely. Karen Lichtsinn submitted the grant for updating the landscaping and signage in the front of the Heritage Center to the Foundation.

Trustee Mark Dunn – No Report.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen included an invitation to attend Southwest Regional Development Commission’s Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2017 beginning at 4:00 PM in Pipestone. If anyone is interested in attending the meeting, please inform her so she can make payment and RSVP before June 28, 2017.

A reminder was given the next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

Eileen Christensen will be on vacation in July (July 20 12:00 through July 30). Rosie DeZeeuw will be in the office 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM on the dates Eileen is gone.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council that he, Tony and Casey Sievert took first place in the Saddle Horse Holiday bed races and donated the trophy to the City.

7:19 PM – **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to go into Executive Session for an update on a former employee. Motion carried.

7:29 PM – **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to go out of Executive Session and back into the Regular Meeting. Motion carried.

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