

JUNE 20, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Patrick Haynes, and Scott Christensen were present. City Attorney Mike Cable and Trustee Karen Lichtsinn were absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield, and Greg Nelson with OtterTail Power were also present.

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

Mayor Michael Carpenter 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 5, 2023 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 5, 2023. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

QUARNSTROM-DOERING	\$ 90.00	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 4,595.99
RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 10.48	STATION ONE	\$ 406.25
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 184.48	POSTMASTER	\$ 161.76
S & E AUTO	\$ 336.99	CHS, INC.	\$ 120.00
DOUBLE D GRAVEL	\$ 119.02	MN DEPT OF HEALTH	\$ 789.00
BIOAG ENERGY	\$ 791.76	NATHAN KROG	\$ 506.25
CARDMEMBER SERVICES	\$ 768.73	MEADOWLAND	\$ 469.74
DARREL KROTZER	\$ 775.00	DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	\$ 820.37
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 91.20	KIBBLE EQUIPMENT	\$ 28.45

MOTION by Patrick Haynes, 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.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield informed the Council of a water leak on Whitman Street the week of June 1, 2023. They removed the valve that was leaking and everything is in working order.

Travis then informed the Council the south secondary sewer pond on the east bank is washing away. Dubbedee Gravel presented a quote for \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00 to add riprap and fix the pond. The water level has been low, so it has not caused too many issues at this time. Dubbedee can perform the work in another month or two. The Council agreed only one quote is needed for this work. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Scott Christensen to authorize Travis Lustfield to hire Dubbedee Gravel to repair the sewer pond. Motion carried.

Travis stated that he and Troy Nordmeyer have been busy sweeping the streets, spraying weeds and patching potholes. Travis reminded the Council and the residents that branch pick up is the first Wednesday of the month before 9:00 AM. The Council then inquired about the repair of the two sanitary sewer lines on Morton and Coteau Streets. Travis informed them T & E Underground performed the work on the line on Morton Street on June 1 and found a large hole on the resident's line on their side of the Fernco. A lot of water ran through the line and the line has been repaired. Dubbedee Gravel performed the work on the sanitary sewer line on Coteau Street on June 5, 2023. The two major leaks have been repaired.

Travis then informed the Council he received two quotes from two companies – one from Empire Pipe Services and Visu-Sewer to repair eight (8) of the City’s sanitary manhole infiltration and inflow issues. The quote from Empire Pipe Services was \$6,720.00 and Visu-Sewer was \$420.00/hour for approximately three to four days which includes eight hours of drive time for approximately \$12,000.00. A copy of these quotes will be provided to the Council at their next meeting on July 3, 2023. Travis also received a quote from Empire Pipe Services for the installation of a resin lining inside the pipe. This can be done from the inside of the home at the homeowner’s expense. This includes the installation of an 8” x 48” specialized short liner “Pipe Patch” to seal off sanitary sewer service that is leaking ground water and no longer being used. Later this week, Thomas Plumbing will be digging up the sanitary sewer line on Parkview Drive that is blocked with calcium. City staff is not certain what other issues are involved, but after the pipe is located and a camera has televised the line, City staff will know if this is a City issue or the homeowner’s issue. Travis continues to work with residents with slow leaks and would like to discuss with them installing the pipe patch instead of digging up the street. Travis then stated the lift stations are down 60,000 gallons of water on a daily basis due to the repair of the two major leaks.

Travis then informed the Council he would be speaking with the County and the Railroad regarding the sidewalk that was torn out by the Railroad by the tracks on Benton Street. This will need to be replaced when the County improves Benton Street this fall. Mayor Michael Carpenter thanked Travis for the excellent job he is doing. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve the Public Works update. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Council reviewed the May calls for service in Lake Benton. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve the May law enforcement update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to meet with Greg Nelson with OtterTail Power regarding the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in the City of Lake Benton. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen previously met with Greg Nelson and two representatives with OtterTail Power to discuss options to put an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Lake Benton. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is mandating OtterTail to place EV Chargers in their MN territory. OtterTail Power (OTP) completed a study of their service area throughout the state of Minnesota and are aiming to have a DC Fast charging network approximately every 60 miles throughout their territory (11 stations from Karlstad to Lake Benton on Highway 75). Considerations included in their study were traffic patterns, accessibility to major roadways and access to nearby food/shopping or other walking distance activities. The charging stations require two parking spaces, must be within one mile of a highway, have restroom availability, and good outdoor lighting. OTP will own the Charging stations, pay for the electric utilities for the stations, and will get an easement from the property owner.

Greg Nelson informed the Council the timeline for installing EV charging stations will be sometime next year and it is in the preliminary stages at this time. OtterTail Power would prefer to obtain private property and get an easement and work directly with the homeowner. OtterTail is looking to install two charging stations – one fast charger known as a Level III which takes half an hour to charge, and a Level II which takes longer, and is dependent on the vehicle getting charged. Greg explained there are a lot of variables to consider before installing the charging stations. The cost of installation is \$250,000.00 and a private individual can purchase the charging station but it can be quite an expense if the demand is not there. Greg informed the Council that OtterTail Power has a couple prospects in mind and are working with them at this time. Greg then stated that if the Council has ideas of locations for the charging stations to contact him and he will put them in contact with the correct individual. The Council thanked Greg for his time and speaking with the Council.

The next item of business was to review/act on a temporary On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for the Fire Department to serve alcohol at a wedding on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at the Lake

Benton Area Community and Event Center. **MOTION** by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor license for the Lake Benton Fire Department to serve alcohol at the wedding on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met and the Business of the Month for June is the Hideaway Café. The Historical Society purchased a baby changing table for the Heritage Center Ladies restroom. The Color Fun Run was held on May 25th with several youth participating. The Yard of the Week began June 8, 2023. The Chamber was awarded \$1,500.00 in grant funds from Southwest Initiative Foundation for the parade float upgrades. This will be a fall/winter project. Four First Dollars certificates will be presented to the following new businesses: IPS, Hideaway Café, Michelle Weber Studio, and Austin's Auto Spa & Coatings.

Trustee Scott Christensen – The Fireman's dance was disappointing due to the inclement weather. The band set up and they let people in, but attendance was down.

Trustee Patrick Haynes – The Library board met and the Library received donations from the Lake Benton Area Foundation for books for the Tween and young adult literacy program. Youth came to the Library for a new reading program for children where they can touch the books and feel like they are a part of the story. The Library did well on the City wide yard sale where they sold books and goodies. The Library brought in more money than they anticipated. The Opera House board met and they are having summer play rehearsals and the seats in the Opera House are getting cleaned. The board is looking to fix the outside structure of the front of the Opera House building and the back of the Kimball building but Mike Weets has not gotten back to them yet. The EDA board met and they were given an update on the housing development.

MOTION by Scott Christensen , seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

The Council was provided with a letter from the Lincoln County Auditor's Office regarding the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Understanding. Lincoln County has been designated to serve as the Lead agency and Chief Strategist to identify, collaborate and respond to local issues as the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners decide how to leverage and distribute the County's Allocated Opioid Settlement Funds. The annual, public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Lincoln County Courthouse Commissioners Room. They would appreciate at least one representative to attend. The Council requested this item be brought back to a July meeting.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) will be having their annual meeting and celebrating their 50th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at Lower Sioux Government Center in Morton, MN beginning at 3:00 PM.

MOTION by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the Administrator/Clerk report. Motion carried.

MAYORAL REPORT:

The next regular meeting will be Monday, July 3, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK