

MARCH 18, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, March 18, 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 absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Robert Olsen-Lincoln County Environmental Office, Roger Rudebusch, Lisa Willert, Jenny Nordmeyer, Karen Lichtsinn, 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. No items were brought forward at this time.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2019. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of March 5, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 5, 2019. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

ITC	\$ 380.41	USTI	\$ 477.60
QUARNSTROM/DOERING	\$ 1,000.80	M & H COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 518.50
L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 3,851.13	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 1,167.20
EXPRESSWAY	\$ 306.88	RICK'S WELDING	\$ 45.00
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 226.90	POSTMASTER	\$ 117.25
MPH INDUSTRIES	\$ 264.45	CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 26.79
PETERSEN LAW OFFICE	\$ 575.56	LB FIRE RELIEF ASSOC.	\$ 1,000.00
CNH INDUSTRIAL	\$ 5.00	SW SANITATION	\$ 3,593.38
BIOAG ENERGY	\$ 412.36	CRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ	\$ 1,000.00
CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 1,942.90	VERIZON	\$ 35.01
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 206.50	THOMAS PLUMBING	\$ 521.25
MN MGMT & BUDGET	\$ 287.78	PLUM CREEK LIBRARY	\$ 10.18
LINCOLN CTY COURT ADM	\$ 585.00		

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke 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 meet with Robert Olsen and the Lake Benton Chamber to discuss City wide cleanup. Karen Lichtsinn and Jenny Nordmeyer addressed the Council with a proposal on behalf of the community, and requested the Council consider the importance of this issue for the beautification and safety of the community. The proposal will assist residents improve their properties by cleaning up their junk and having a place to take these items.

Southwest Sanitation serves 18 communities doing this type of cleanup where they bring roll-off dumpsters for separated items to be collected for approximately \$12,000.00, and approximately \$5,000.00 for the following years. This does not need to be done each year. It is recommended these dumpsters be put in a secured locked area, or provide temporary secured fencing. Hours can be posted and manned by volunteers.

Karen and Jenny stated this could be done during evening hours for two to three days. Karen and Jenny also suggested the City could assess the residents \$1.00 per month on their garbage bill to defray costs. They requested the Council consider collaboratively working together to make the community more beautiful and safe, thus providing a cleaner community for others to want to come live here.

The Council asked Robert Olsen if there are funds available through the County to assist with this issue. Robert said typically the County has not shared costs like this within the cities. Robert suggested several avenues to look into, such as, Hendricks has their dumpsters in an area that is not secured and people are continually digging through the dumpsters. The City might consider contracting with the County to bring a 30 ton roll-off dumpster to Lake Benton and let residents put unsorted materials in the dumpster but cannot include paint, appliances, fluorescent lights, tires, etc. They could put those items on the side. The City might also consider establishing a drop off site for residents to drop off items all year round and not have to make several trips to the landfill sight. However, this would involve time and energy of the City employees.

The Council also asked Robert how other communities stop rural residents from dumping in the dumpsters. Robert said not too many rural residents would dump in the City's dumpsters because they are aware of their own system. Robert also reminded the Council and audience that volunteers would cost additional money to the City for work comp purposes. The City would need a full-time employee. The City also needs to have control over what gets dumped, i.e. hazardous materials, paints, tires, etc.

The Council realized it would be helpful to have a household waste dump once a year. However, things need to be worked out before committing to paying a large amount of money, people manning the dumpster, and if needed – charging the residents additional fees on their utility bill. The City will consider working with Robert Olsen as contract pricing is more reasonable. This could be done two to three days next spring. The first time will need more roll-offs and get charged per roll. It was again reminded that tires, appliances and mattresses will need to be recycled. The Council will set up an ad-hoc committee to review this more in depth and include Robert Olsen and Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper. The Council does not want this to cost the community a lot of money.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Mayor Bob Worth said the City maintenance department has had a tough winter and may have a tough time going into spring. Mayor Bob Worth cannot be more proud of the maintenance department, and thanked Daryl Schlapkohl and Dave Nordmeyer for helping out this past month to assist them. The City maintenance department does an excellent job on the City streets compared to other communities. Their level of commitment and dedication to the City is amazing.

Mayor Bob Worth then informed the Council that Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper drove the Mayor around town and showed him areas that were concerning him in case of flooding. The DOT's culvert needed opening and the City took care of that on Sunday. The other area of concern is getting the water at the east end of Mork Street to drain away from homes.

The Council also thanked Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen for all her work of fielding phone calls and continually checking on the Event Center issue. She is real good for this town and she takes a lot of the brunt from upset individuals.

The next item of business was to review/act on bids to purchase commercial appliances at the Community Center. The bids were due no later than 3:00 PM on Monday, March 11, 2019 and nine (9) bids were submitted. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen opened the bids and read them aloud. The highest bids on the items and the bidders are listed below:

Hobart Dishwasher with three plastic racks and two silverware cups – \$105.00, Joey Graber
Aerohot Steam Table – \$80.00, Joey Graber
Edlund Stainless Steel Table – \$225.00, Steve Hauswedell
Advance Stainless Sink (3 compartments) – \$105.00, Joey Graber
Hobart Industrial Mixing Machine – \$275.00, Lake Benton Methodist Church
White Refrigerator – \$61.00, Brooks Bennett

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to sell the above items to the highest bidders which included: Hobart Dishwasher with three plastic racks and two silverware cups – \$105.00, Joey Graber; Aerohot Steam Table – \$80.00, Joey Graber; Edlund Stainless Steel Table – \$225.00, Steve Hauswedell; Advance Stainless Sink (3 compartments) – \$105.00, Joey Graber; Hobart Industrial Mixing Machine – \$275.00, Lake Benton Methodist Church; and White Refrigerator – \$61.00, Brooks Bennett. Motion carried.

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen then informed the Council there was an interested party that bid on the broaster and two fryers at the Event Center. Due to the fact these items are going to be stored away and not utilized, it was suggested the Council consider selling the items. Discussion took place if we were following the proper channels by selling these items to an individual without advertising. It was then discussed that if the items were to be advertised, would the interested buyer still put in another bid. It was also discussed that it would be best to get rid of the items before Ashly Nordmeyer moved her cupcake business to the Event Center.

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen opened the bids and read them aloud. The highest bids on the items and the bidder are listed below:

Broaster – \$1,300.00, Tom Abrahamsen
Two Fryers – \$200.00 each, Tom Abrahamsen

MOTION by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to accept the bids on the two fryers and the broaster from Tom Abrahamsen for a total of \$1,700.00. Motion Carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on listing the Community Center with Lake Benton Realty. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council she received the figures from the Mayor and Council members they would like to see the Community Center sell for before listing with Realtor Lisa Willert at Lake Benton Realty.

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council in the past two weeks the Administrator/Clerk received four inquiries on the property to submit a bid. Only one bid was submitted thus far but another individual may submit their bid prior to March 31, 2019 if interested. Lisa informed the Council she also has interested parties as soon as she lists the property.

The Diner's Club was scheduled to have their rummage sale to sell the smaller items on March 22-23, 2019. However, due to the weather conditions encountered this winter, they are requesting to move the rummage sale dates to April 12-13, 2019. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen inquired if the Council wished to advertise again for sealed bids or list the property with Lisa Willert with Lake Benton Realty.

Discussion took place between the Council if they should open the bids on April 1, 2019 or open the bids now. The Council has the ability to accept or reject any and all bids, and decided to open the bid now. If the amount is not acceptable by the Council, they can then discuss listing the property with Lisa Willert-Lake Benton Realty. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen opened and read the bid from Curtis Rethwisch who offered \$20,000.00 cash for the real property. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to reject the bid. Motion carried.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to sign the contract with Lake Benton Realty to list the property effective immediately for three months. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on establishments with Liquor Licenses applying for a Combination Caterer License. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council she will be sending out the licensing letters and applications to the entities in the City next week to be completed and returned before the Council approves them at the April 15, 2019 meeting. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen suggested that since there is not an individual with a liquor license leasing the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center, that perhaps one or all three of the liquor license entities (Country House, Lake Benton Resort and Lake Benton Bar & Grill) would like to apply with the State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety Alcohol & Gambling Enforcement for a Combination Caterer's License. This would allow the establishment to serve food and hard liquor at any event anywhere in the state of Minnesota per year.

If none of the above mentioned entities are interested in applying for the Combination Caterer's license, then only clubs, charitable organizations, religious groups or non-profit organizations can apply for and be permitted a temporary one-day liquor license (through the City and MN Dept. of Public Safety Alcohol & Gaming Enforcement). The clubs, charitable organizations, religious groups or non-profit organizations can be permitted up to twelve (12) temporary one-day licenses per year (through the City and MN Dept. of Public Safety Alcohol & Gaming Enforcement). The clubs, charitable organizations, religious groups or non-profit organizations must carry DRAM insurance.

The Lake Benton Fire Department applied and received two temporary on-sale liquor licenses to help with the Sportsmen's Club Wild Game Feed and the LBAF Gala.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to authorize Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to send a letter to the Country House, Lake Benton Resort, and Lake Benton Bar and Grill requesting if they would like to apply for a Combination Caterer's license with the State of Minnesota. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – The Annual City/Township Lake Benton Fire Department meeting is at 7:00 PM tonight.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA met last week. The EDA agreed to share expenses with the Lake Benton Chamber for an ad they placed welcoming new businesses and thanking the businesses that left. The EDA will be working on putting together a revised payment schedule for the former Showboat Pavilion. A sub-committee on the Mork/Giles Addition will be meeting next month to discuss marketing the lots after they become sellable. Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl said his son provided blueprints of a 4-Plex if the EDA would like to review it.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

The Corporation for National Community Service requested the City of Lake Benton recognize and participate in this year's National Service Recognition Day. The City has given support for this in the past and would like to include the City in their list of participating Mayors and City officials for 2018. I've attached a copy of the e-mail and a Proclamation declaring Recognition Day for National Service on April 2, 2019. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the Proclamation declaring Recognition Day for National Service on April 2, 2019. Motion carried.

The 2019 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Heritage Center/City Office.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Bob Worth thanked Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw for filling in for him at the March 4 and 5, 2019 Council meetings. Mayor Bob Worth had a conversation with Senator Bill Weber, and Senator Bill Weber and Representative Joe Schumacher will be meeting with Mayor Bob Worth after the legislative session is over to discuss the 2027 street project, sewer pond project, and lift station project. They will discuss available funding to assist the City with these projects.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK