

MARCH 20, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Karen Lichtsinn, Patrick Haynes, and Scott Christensen were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and Sheriff Chad Meester 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 March 6, 2023 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 6, 2023. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

OTTER TAIL	\$ 10.57	QUARNSTROM & DOERING	\$ 389.48
M & H COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 958.00	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 3,815.69
STATION ONE	\$ 303.73	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 172.73
POSTMASTER	\$ 155.04	MN POLLUTION CONTROL	\$ 1,450.00
MN LIFE	\$ 5.10	LB FIRE RELIEF	\$ 795.60
BIOAG ENERGY	\$ 988.25	CARDMEMBER SERVICES	\$ 1,210.66
LINCOLN CTY AUDITOR	\$ 125.00	ONE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$ 40.25
JON WORTH	\$ 250.00	KIBBLE EQUIPMENT	\$ 2,286.00
THOMAS PLUMBING	\$ 4,278.75	KRUSE MOTORS	\$ 149.95

MOTION by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn 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.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Council reviewed the February calls for service in Lake Benton. Sheriff Chad Meester apologized for not coming to last month's meeting due to weather. Sheriff Chad Meester told the Council to please feel free to contact him with any questions as he will be more than happy to meet with you and get your questions answered. Due to the winter storms, Sheriff Chad Meester expected more complaints and accidents but the service calls are consistent with previous years.

MOTION by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the law enforcement update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Bryan Schaefer to build a prototype seasonal home (24' x 40') in the Mork & Giles Addition on Harrison Street North and Mork Street. This will occur in two phases: the first phase will include 960 square feet and the second phase will include an additional 240 square feet and a garage. Bryan purchased Lots 3 and 4 and the home and garage will be built on Lot 4. Bryan was given the setbacks from the property lines on which he can build a new home. Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield will confirm there are no setback concerns and everything will be in compliance with the ordinance when building begins. The fee of \$25.00 has been paid. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the building permit for Bryan Schaefer to build a 24' x 40' prototype seasonal home in the Mork & Giles Addition on Harrison Street North and Mork Street. Motion carried.

The next item of business was an update on the dishwasher at the Event Center. The City recently leased a dishwasher for the Event Center for \$105.00/month from Ecolab. The City signed a two-year agreement with Ecolab in March 2022 to lease the dishwasher for this amount. Ecolab recently informed City staff the City hasn't been paying the minimum lease amount of \$123.61 plus the minimum cost for detergents and chemicals each month and therefore, will be removing the dishwasher.

Danny Krotzer has diligently been requesting bids from various vendors for new and used dishwashers. We received a quote from Maxwell Food Equipment in Marshall for a used dishwasher, but before the City could accept the quote, the unit was sold to a customer whose current dishwasher broke down and needed another one immediately. Danny is continuing to get quotes and this item will be brought back to the Council when we receive information on other units.

The Council discussed options of purchasing a new or used dishwasher versus a stainless steel three-bin sink. A new dishwasher will cost up to \$6,000.00 and a used dishwasher will cost up to \$3,000.00. A stainless steel three-bin sink may cost up to \$600.00 plus faucets for \$400.00 and hiring a plumber to plumb the sink. **MOTION** by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Scott Christensen to authorize Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and Danny Krotzer to find a serviceable dishwasher for up to \$3,000.00 and purchase it. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review and adopt Ordinance No. 214 – Reduction of Clear Water in the Sanitary Sewer System. City Attorney Mike Cable drafted Ordinance No. 214 – Reduction of Clear Water in the Sanitary Sewer System for the Council to review and adopt. Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council at their last regular meeting, they received a copy of the Ordinance to review. There is discharge of water from roofs, surface, groundwater, sump pumps, footing tile, or other natural precipitation into the municipal sanitary sewer system. Mayor Michael Carpenter then reminded the Council if this is approved, it does not affect the current Ordinance as this is an addition to the Ordinance. A letter will be sent to two homeowner that have serious violations they are not aware of. **MOTION** by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve Chapter 51 Ordinance No. 214 – An Ordinance for the Reduction of Clear Water in the Sanitary Sewer System. Roll Call Vote: Patrick Haynes – Yes, Scott Christensen – Yes, Rosie DeZeeuw – Yes, Karen Lichtsinn – Yes. Motion carried. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to authorize Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to publish the Ordinance in the newspaper. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met Business of the Month for March is Lyon-Lincoln Electric, and Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water is the Business of the Month for April. The Diners Club continues to use Tyler Hospital and are currently looking for a new Administration individual. The Opera House spring production is beginning this coming weekend, March 24, 2023. The Chamber discussed the proposed itinerary for Saddle Horse Holiday.

Trustee Karen Lichtsinn – No report.

Trustee Scott Christensen – No report.

Trustee Patrick Haynes – The EDA met and discussed the progress of the duplex units in the Mork & Giles Addition. The board also discussed their charter going forward on working more with housing development such as selling the properties currently owned, or working more with business needs such as loaning money to those wanting to build in the Johnson Commercial Park. There was not an Opera House meeting due to weather. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

The 2023 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting for the City of Lake Benton is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Lake Benton Area Community & Event Center.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council two weeks ago an individual indicated their concern from individuals in the City and County regarding money owed on the 1989 fire truck. The individual inquired if this has been paid or is it a rumor. Mayor Michael Carpenter and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen pulled paperwork regarding the purchase of a new fire truck in 2009. In 2009, the fire department purchased a new truck with CDs and some of their own cash, however, they were short \$23,000.00 on funds and the Council agreed to pay the additional funds to purchase the new truck. The Auditor made an entry into the records of a loan to the fire department. In 2017, the State and the Auditor removed the debt from the City's records. A resolution was voted on by the 2017 Council (Mayor Bob Worth, Trustees Mark Dunn, Daryl Schlapkohl, Rosie DeZeeuw and Dave Enke) to remove the debt from the books because the fire department will not be able to pay the funds back. Mayor Michael Carpenter then stated this did not affect the fund balance of the fire or general funds, and was merely confusion and misunderstanding. Last Friday, Mayor Michael Carpenter and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen met with eight members of the fire department and explained this was an interfund loan and only pertains to the balance sheet, it does not affect money in the fire and general funds. Mayor Michael Carpenter then informed the members of the fire department that there are restricted and unrestricted funds for the fire department. One item is restricted and that is for CDs for a new fire truck which includes funds from the City and the Townships. The fire department has other CDs for capital outlay items that are unrestricted and can affect the positive or negative balance for the fire department. Some years the fire department had more income than expenses, and some years they had more expenses than income. Last year the fire department brought in \$22,000.00 but remain at a negative \$10,000.00 on their balance sheet. The fire department will report this information back their members at their next meeting. This issue is no longer viable.

Mayor Michael Carpenter received an informational letter from FEMA regarding the final flood determination. There were no inquiries within the City limits and the final flood map will be completed.

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council after the ice storm in the early winter there are a lot of citizens with branches down. This may be discussed at the next meeting to inform the citizens the City will work with them to pick up their branches the beginning of May.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2023 at 5:30 PM. The Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK