

MARCH 23, 2020

The Special Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 4:30 PM in the Heritage Center/City Office via conference call. There was an emergency declared by the Governor, and the Mayor made a determination an in-person meeting was not prudent due to the health emergency. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen was present at the meeting location.

Conference Call Roll Call: Mayor Bob Worth, Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present at the meeting via conference call. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper and Shelly Finzen from the Lake Benton Valley Journal also entered the meeting via conference call.

Mayor Bob Worth called the meeting to order.

The first item of this special meeting was to review/act on the sale of property in the Mork/Giles Addition. An interested party would like to buy Lots Seven (7) and Eight (8) of Block 2 of the Replat of Giles & Mork Addition, City of Lake Benton, State of Minnesota to build a new house.

Mayor Bob Worth reminded the Council and audience that the Council discussed this item in closed session last week regarding the sale of two lots in the Mork/Giles Addition. The Council made an offer to the interested party, and the interested party made a counteroffer of \$11,000.00.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council the Mork/Giles Addition was developed in 1998 and at the time the EDA owned the lots and had a set price on the lots. Since that time, the price of the lots has risen. The first owners of the lots purchased them for a lot less than others. These lots have been for sale for a long time and now the City has someone interested in buying two of them. The Council then discussed that since the lots have been for sale since 1998 with no movement on them, the City needs to get them sold and collect lost revenue. It was suggested to sell the lots for the original price of \$5,000.00 and get people to move to town and get more housing built on this property. The sale of the lots will include a clause stating a residential structure must be built within two years of the sale of the lots or the purchaser will sell back the lots to the City for half the purchase price.

It was also discussed that the corner lots are worth more than the lots in between. Should the City sell each lot for \$5,500.00 or sell the corner lots for \$6,000.00 and \$5,000.00 for the lots in between. Access to water and sewer are already exists and the owner will need to pay to hook them up.

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to sell Lot Seven (7) for \$5,000.00 and sell Lot Eight (8) for \$6,000.00 in the Mork/Giles Addition to the interested party. Conference Call Roll Call: Dave Enke – Yeah, Daryl Schlapkohl – Yeah, Mark Dunn – Yeah, Rosie DeZeeuw – Yeah. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to discuss the COVID-19.

Amber Scholton, Lincoln County Emergency Management, declared a County state of emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic and requested each City within the County declare a State of Emergency as well. The Council needs to pass a resolution declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Lake Benton effective March 23, 2020. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the local declaration of a state of emergency for the City of Lake Benton effective March 23, 2020. Conference Call Roll Call: Dave Enke – Yeah, Daryl Schlapkohl – Yeah, Mark Dunn – Yeah, Rosie DeZeeuw – Yeah. Motion carried.

Due to the concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recommendation by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), all City public meetings will be either postponed, canceled or held via phone conferencing for the next six weeks or until further notice. This includes the April 6, 2020 and April 20, 2020 Council meetings (which will be held via phone conferencing), EDA Board meetings, Chamber-CVB meetings, Library Board meetings, Fire Department meetings, and EMT meetings. All votes will be conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded.

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen will send the phone number and PIN to the Council and newspaper for the Council meetings in order to enter the meeting, as well as post the same information on the agenda at the City Office. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve all City public meetings, including Council, EDA, Chamber-CVB, Library, Fire and EMT, be postponed, canceled or held via phone conferencing until further notice, and Administrator/Clerk to post "No Public Meetings Until Further Notice" on the public buildings. Conference Call Roll Call: Dave Enke – Yeah, Daryl Schlapkohl – Yeah, Mark Dunn – Yeah, Rosie DeZeeuw – Yeah. Motion carried. Be safe!

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw, Conference Call Roll Call: Dave Enke – Yeah, Daryl Schlapkohl – Yeah, Mark Dunn – Yeah, Rosie DeZeeuw – Yeah and carried, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK