

**MARCH 2, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, March 2, 2020 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, Curtis Rethwisch, 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 February 18, 2020 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2020. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:**

LB GROCERY	\$ 15.90	OTTERTAIL POWER	\$ 2,693.35
EILEEN CHRISTENSEN	\$ 34.50	USTI	\$ 129.78
S & E AUTO	\$ 45.00	TODD DRAPER	\$ 32.00
PAT HAYNES	\$ 250.00	MINNESOTA LIFE	\$ 5.10
BIOAG ENERGY	\$ 511.80	TROY NORDMEYER	\$ 32.00
KYLIE ROCHEL	\$ 70.00	ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	\$ 192.96
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 76.00	AMAZON CAPITAL	\$ 390.96
PLUM CREEK LIBRARY	\$ 4,086.02	CENTER POINT	\$ 44.34

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve payment of the claims presented against the City of Lake Benton. Motion carried and the Mayor authorized the Administrator/Clerk to make payment.

The next item of business was to review/act on a rehab loan request. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council an individual that applied for the City's Rehab program is requesting a loan from the City's Revolving fund in the amount of \$2,996.00 to assist with the renovations. This individual meets the requirements to borrow money from the revolving fund. Monthly payments of \$40.24 will begin July 1, 2020 for 60 months (thru June 1, 2025). The loan amount will be deposited into DSI's Escrow Account. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the loan of \$2,996.00 from the City's Revolving rehab fund to be deposited into the DSI Escrow Account. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

No report.

The next item of business was an informational presentation by Curtis Rethwisch on implementing the Quiet Zone to address train horn noise. Curtis reminded the Council he is only providing information to the Council and they can decide if they would like to do anything. Curtis acquired a home in town and the trains that travel through are noisy. The City has ordinances for jake breaks due to their high decibels of 80, and trains run at 100 decibels which interferes with the quality of sleep. In the research Curtis had done, the City will need to apply for a quiet zone, and the company will evaluate the City and the trains that go through it. Safety measures must be installed to minimize the risk associated with not blowing the horn. The Railroads know when they can and cannot blow their horn. This is not a simple process as the engineers of the Railroad need to assess the situation with changes or no changes.

The next item of business was to review/act on SCDP Subordination request. The City received a loan subordination request from a borrower on the SCDP Rehab Loan Program (Danny & Megan Krotzer) to refinance their home. This was previously approved at the January 21, 2020 meeting, but in the process, the values changed and new paperwork had to be resubmitted. Due to the changes in the numbers, the revised subordination request needs Council approval and authorization for the Mayor and Administrator/Clerk's signatures. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the revised subordination request from Danny and Megan Krotzer. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on leasing the kitchen of the Event Center. Ashly Nordmeyer, owner of Sassy Cakes, contacted Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen in February to inquire if the City would consider leasing the kitchen to her again. Her current kitchen is not large enough for her to produce her product and would like to hire a full-time employee to make cupcakes in the kitchen of the Event Center. Ashly would like to offer \$500.00 a month to lease the kitchen. However, when Ashly rented the kitchen last May thru October, she paid \$500.00 a month for rent plus \$200.00 a month for utilities.

After some discussion on the amount to charge, a **MOTION** was made by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to charge \$1,500.00 a month with a six month lease, and let the four entities use the kitchen when needed.

After further discussion, Daryl Schlapkohl rescinded his motion and Mark Dunn rescinded his motion to charge \$1,500.00 a month with a six month lease, and let the four entities use the kitchen when needed. It was then the consensus of the Council when they purchased the building the City was to promote the building to be used by outside venues for receptions, graduations, etc. and agreed under the current circumstances, the kitchen alone is no longer for rent.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Accepting Donations to the Library. The Library received a donation from the Town and County Study Club for \$25.00 to be designated for collections. Minnesota Statutes state the Library can accept donations for the benefit of recreational services. The Council needs to pass the resolution accepting the donation to the Library. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations from Town and Country Study Club to the Library for \$25.00. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Accepting Donations to the City. The City received a donation from the Lake Benton Sportsman's Club for \$1,000.00 to be designated towards the new chairs at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Minnesota Statutes state the City can accept donations for the benefit of recreational services. The Council needs to pass the resolution accepting the donation to the City. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations from the Lake Benton Sportsman's Club for \$1,000.00. Motion carried. It was then stated the new tables and chairs work great.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The Library met last week and the annual Library report has been completed and forwarded to the State. The board has had very preliminary discussions to partner with the Chamber and Opera House to have family movie night at the Opera House. The Library has the exclusive rights for the movies and throughout the course of the year movies will be shown at the Opera House. The Library will open one hour late on March 19, 2020 to allow

the Director and Library Worker to attend the SRP training in Slayton. Upcoming programs scheduled at the Library include a Chunky Blanket class on March 21, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon; and on April 23, from 4:00-6:00 PM presenter Arn Kind will speak on the Vietnam War.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – Daryl reminded the Council that he and Mark Dunn will attend the Fire Relief Association meeting on March 4, 2020. Daryl inquired if the City can change the letter mailed out to residents that are delinquent on their water bill and require cash only when paying the bill in full. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen will work with Mike Cable to revise the Ordinance. Daryl also inquired about the Police squad car, former Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner stated there is a County by him that may want to purchase it. It was suggested the City ask the County Sheriff if they would be interested in purchasing it first. If not, the City will post and sell it.

**ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen extended a thank you to both Curtis Rethwisch and Jeff Bumgarner for their help with the law enforcement agreement between the City and Lincoln County. Their advice and expertise in helping the committee put the agreement together was greatly appreciated. The contract has been forwarded on to City Attorney Mike Cable for review.

The Annual Fire Relief Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2020 at 8:00 PM. Trustees Mark Dunn and Daryl Schlapkohl are the City representatives and should plan to attend. This meeting should take approximately 5 minutes.

The Presidential Nomination Primary Election is Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at the Event Center from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council the City has not received payment yet from FEMA. Mayor Bob Worth will contact some representatives to see what can be done to get reimbursed soon.

Mayor Bob Worth thanked Rosie DeZeeuw for presiding over the last regular meeting, thanked Dave Enke and Mark Dunn for meeting with the County on the Law Enforcement Agreement, and thanked Daryl Schlapkohl for presiding over the annual Fire meeting. The Mayor appreciated all the work the Council did while he was out.

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

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK