

MARCH 6, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. 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, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield and Mark Dunn were also present.

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

Mayor Michael Carpenter then informed the Council and audience an item will added to the agenda under 3A – Appointment of a new member to the Library board.

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. Mark Dunn brought forward a rumor to the attention of the Council that the City and County citizens believe the City cashed in CDs to pay off the 1989 fire truck and asked for an explanation. Mark was assured the City did not cash in CDs and an entry was made by the auditors to balance the fire department budget.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2023 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2023. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

ECOLAB	\$ 105.00	OTTERTAIL	\$ 2,881.01
ITC	\$ 330.49	LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	\$ 1,000.00
QUARNSTROM/DOERING	\$ 1,695.66	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 787.60
TRAVIS LUSTFIELD	\$ 32.00	PAT HAYNES	\$ 250.00
SW SANITATION	\$ 3,703.29	XION TECH	\$ 416.00
AMERIFORMS	\$ 275.00	BIOAG	\$ 2,074.52
TROY NORDMEYER	\$ 32.00	AIR APPARATUS	\$ 914.00
LONNIE WILLERT	\$ 435.00	KYLIE ROCHEL	\$ 120.00
ONE OFFIC SOLUTION	\$ 39.77	BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 84.00
PLUM CREEK	\$ 4,245.00	CENTER POINT	\$ 49.14
DEMCO	\$ 90.52	DANNY/MEGAN KROTZER	\$ 250.00

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.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield informed the Council they have been very busy moving 18” of snow in the past week. When the Maintenance Department is not moving snow, they are maintaining the equipment to move the snow. The New Holland snow blower has made their job easier with 180 hours on the blower to date, they cannot surpass more than 250 hours. Travis thanked the citizens for moving their vehicles from the streets when the City declares a snow emergency which assists their department to move the snow. Travis then informed the Council they may need to get a dozer to remove the snow from the current dumping area because it is getting too full. Trustee Karen Lichtsinn thanked Travis and Troy on behalf of the citizens of the good job they have done during this past winter and appreciate their hard work. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the Public Works Update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to appoint a new member to the Library board. Trustee and Library board member, Patrick Haynes, informed the Council the Library board has been searching for a new board member after former board member Connie Bressler completed her term on the board. The Library board is recommending the Council consider appointing Barb Krog to the Library Board. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to appoint Barb Krog to the Library board effective March 7, 2023. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Library board met and the number of people through the door is down from last January but circulation is up. The Winter Reading Program (WRP) goes through the end of March. The last “Wrapped in Reading Virtual Author Tour” was presented February 28, 2023. The board was updated on the programs scheduled during the year.

Trustee Patrick Haynes – No report.

Trustee Karen Lichtsinn – No report.

Trustee Scott Christensen – No report.

MOTION by Patrick Haynes, 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 provided the Council with a copy of Chapter 51, Ordinance No. 214 – Reduction of Clear Water in the Sanitary Storm Sewer. The Council met with City Attorney Mike Cable two months ago who informed the Council he would need 60 days to put the Ordinance together. Mayor Michael Carpenter asked the Council members to review the Ordinance and bring any questions and/or changes to Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to forward on to legal counsel. The Council is not changing anything, just adding an item under Chapter 51 of the Ordinances. This item will be added to the March 20, 2023 agenda to approve the Ordinance by resolution and publish it in the newspaper. Mayor Michael Carpenter then reminded the Council there are a few properties that need to be addressed right away and instructed Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to add this item on the March 20, 2023 agenda.

The next regular meeting is March 20, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK