

**MAY 15, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, David Enke and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. Trustee Mark Dunn was present at 5:45 PM. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Acting Police Chief Tony Sievert, Philip Schmidt, Pam Veire and Darcy Miller, Insurance Agents with First Security Bank-Lake Benton, Scott Christensen, Sandra Dahl, 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 May 1, 2017 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 1, 2017. Motion carried.

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

ITC	\$ 265.28	USTI	\$ .08
QUARNSTROM/DOERING	\$ 1,183.88	LP RURAL WATER	\$ 3,728.80
LB HARDWARE	\$ 118.17	EXPRESSWAY	\$ 632.38
HARVEST LAND CO-OP	\$ 206.89	THOMAS ELECTRIC	\$ 729.17
GOPHER STATE	\$ 5.40	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 131.67
POSTMASTER	\$ 116.28	CHAMBER/CVB	\$ 2.37
PETERSEN GRAVEL	\$ 30.00	KINNER & COMPANY	\$ 11,500.00
TYLER BUS SERVICE	\$ 300.00	SW SANITATION	\$ 3,454.04
BANNER & ASSOC.	\$ 2,541.00	CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 2,942.80
ETHEL ANDERSON	\$ 196.50	BUFFALO RIDGE CONC	\$ 51.60
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	\$ 115.05	BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 609.88

**MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to approve payment of the claims presented against the City of Lake Benton. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Spectator Liability Insurance for Saddle Horse Holiday. Pam Veire and Darcy Miller were in attendance and informed the Council the insurance company, Nautilus, provided special liability insurance for the Saddle Horse weekend show. It is based on three days to set up, have the show, and take down. The State of Minnesota is one of the only states that request odd amounts for the occurrence and general aggregate used in previous years. Therefore they are quoting \$2,000,000.00 for each occurrence, and \$3,000,000.00 general aggregate. This special liability insurance will be split between Dakota-MN Saddle Horse - Lincoln County, the Lake Benton Chamber and the City of Lake Benton. The premium is \$600.00 plus broker fee, surplus lines tax, and stamping office fees bringing the total to \$695.49. The parade is covered by the City's insurance with the League of Minnesota Cities. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the purchase of the special spectator liability insurance for Saddle Horse Holiday at the cost of \$695.49 to be split between the Lake Benton Chamber, Dakota-MN Saddle Horse – Lincoln County and the City of Lake Benton, excluding the terrorism insurance coverage. Motion carried.

Mayor Bob Worth requested to amend the agenda by moving the Public Works Update before item #6 Review/Act on First Notice of Nuisance Violations. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to move the Public Works Update before item #6 Review/Act on First Notice of Nuisance Violations. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Lake Benton Fireman Sponsoring an Inflatable Waterslide for Saddle Horse Holiday activities to be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017. They are requesting to use the water spicket and water from the Heritage Center/City Office building to connect a hose to the sprinkler on top of the slide. They plan to use the water from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The City's insurance will cover this event. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Lake Benton Fire Department using the water spicket and water from the Heritage Center/City Office building to connect a hose to the sprinkler on top of the slide on June 17, 2017 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Agreement for Impoundment Services between the City of Lake Benton and Lincoln County. The Council was informed that City Attorney Mike Cable has been working with County Attorney Glen Petersen on an agreement for impoundment services. Mike Cable has reviewed the agreement and requested it be presented to the Police Department and City Council. Acting Police Chief Tony Sievert informed the Council he spoke with Attorney Matt Gross who explained that the City used to put impounded vehicles behind the Fire Hall instead of taking them to an impoundment lot, and the City's Ordinance states towed vehicles should be impounded. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the Agreement for Impoundment Services between the City of Lake Benton and Lincoln County. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:**

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council on the Coteau Street Improvement Project. A preconstruction meeting was held last week and the Contractors are scheduled to begin May 21, 2017. However, the date has now been moved to May 30, 2017 dependent upon the amount of ground water and weather permitting. City staff will be sending letters to the property owners informing them that they can park in the alleys during the construction period, and the garbage/recycle will be picked up as usual.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council on the DNR Boat Landing at Al's Landing. Todd has been talking with Phil Nasby, DNR Representative, regarding the new lake access and funding for the project. The DNR's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. Phil informed Todd that the DNR is running into an issue with property lines in Matthew's Addition. The Picnic Shelter and the road in front of it used to belong to MnDOT and MnDOT conveyed the property back to the City. However, the property is still in MnDOT's name and Phil Nasby would like to approach the City to split the cost of surveying the property and getting it corrected. The cost of the survey is approximately \$7,000.00 and the 50/50 split would cost the City \$3,500.00.

It was recommended and agreed to invite Phil Nasby to the next Council meeting of June 5, 2017 and discuss the water issues, property issues and the new lake access. It is essential the City knows where the property lines are before any additional work is done.

The next item of business was to review/act on the First Nuisance Violations. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and Acting Police Chief Tony Sievert drove by properties that were previously sent letters to clean up their properties. Five (5) of the six (6) properties remain a nuisance. It was requested of the Council to consider City Staff send a Notice of Hearing letter along with pictures (with items causing the nuisance) to these five (5) property owners to attend the next Council meeting on June 5, 2017. There was also another residence that had several pieces of wood pallets stacked up behind a garage and would like to send a First Notice of Nuisance Violation letter to that property owner.

City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen talked again with the owner of the dilapidated house at 223 S. Fremont Street to inquire if he is still on schedule with taking the building down this month.

Acting Police Chief Tony Sievert explained the process of nuisance and abatement ordinance to the Council. The property owners should be given sixty (60) days to clean up their property. The property owners were sent letters in early April, and again in mid-May to attend a hearing with the Council on June 5, 2017. After the sixty (60) days has elapsed, the City will then clean the property and assess the money to the property owner's taxes.

**MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to send a Notice of Hearing letter to the five (5) property owners to attend the June 5, 2017 City Council meeting. Motion carried.

Several Council members have received complaints from neighbors of Johansen's Repair. The City needs to do the same for businesses as residential when it comes to the nuisance ordinance. Mayor Bob Worth and Acting Police Chief Tony Sievert will visit with Johansen's Repair to request they clean up the unregistered vehicles, several tires that are a hazard for disease, etc.

The next item of business was to discuss the direction the City Council wants to go with the Police Department. Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council that on May 4, 2017 at 9:30 PM, Tyler Police Chief John Spindler knocked on his door. John was perturbed and frustrated that he got called to the City of Lake Benton the evening before, and was curious what the City is going to do about their Police Department.

After some discussion, comments from the City Council included:

- The City has a great Acting Police Chief that is working only part-time and is in the process of getting another part-time officer hired.
- Summer is here and we should do something, either keep our own police department or contract with the County and do it as soon as possible.
- Conversations with others in the community indicate they would like to see the City keep our police department active. It is unknown how long this will take, but the City should move on.
- The City should keep our own police department because it seemed we could not get a straight answer from the County on what we both expected.

After additional discussion, the Council requested this item be put on the June 5, 2017 agenda after estimated expenses and actual year-to-date costs are compiled for the police department.

It was then commented there will be two officers on duty over Saddle Horse Holiday.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The Lake Benton EDA met last week and told the Council that CHS turned down their proposal to purchase the property by the railroad tracks and requested they not resubmit another proposal at this time. Jim Nichols spoke at the Lake Benton EDA meeting about solar and wind energy. Jim has been in touch with Ottertail and Excel, and explained the property the City owns north of town is a good infrastructure for the project. Jim also explained the EDA can use TIF (Tax Increment Financing) to assist with funding. This is a three year project and we are just talking at this time. The EDA is also working with Benck Lakeview Lodge to assist them with a loan (which includes a repayment schedule) to get them up and running in time to house the wind tower construction workers this summer. They have some major renovations ahead of them and this will be good for the community.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Lake Benton Chamber-CVB met last week and Marketing Director Alisha Kuhn is redesigning the website for the Chamber. Senior Dining was also a subject discussed. The meals are currently being delivered from Tracy, and Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is looking for a (health/nutrition) caterer that lives/cooks closer to Lake Benton. The Chamber and LSS are teaming up to promote community members and businesses to participate in Lake Benton Senior Dining for “2 Buck Day”. Flyers have been posted around town for additional information. Activities for Saddle Horse Holiday are going well with bicycle safety and Miss Lake Benton. The Saddle Horse Club will be selling buttons, and as an added incentive to sell more buttons, they will be adding numbers to some of the buttons which include prizes. Plans for Te-Tonka-Ha Days are going well and they are getting food vendors signed up.

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

**ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council there was a letter and form in their packets if they want to participate in the Lake Benton Saddle Horse Parade on Sunday, June 18, 2017. If anyone on the Council wants to be in the parade, please complete the attached form and mail/deliver to Janel Stuefen at the Bank.

The polo shirts with the City of Lake Benton logo arrived today. Individuals that ordered the shirts can pay for them when they pick them up.

City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen reminded the Council to check their calendars and confirm they can attend the Strategic Planning Meeting on June 8, 2017 at 9:00 AM at the Chalet.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

No report.

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

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK