

**MAY 2, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Patrick Haynes and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, and Kristina Hernandez from the Lake Benton Valley Journal 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 April 18, 2022 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2022. Motion carried. The minutes of the Special Meeting of April 21, 2022 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 21, 2022. Motion carried.

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

ECOLAB	\$ 105.00	BOLT'S LB GROCERY	\$ 8.67
OTTERTAIL	\$ 2,423.44	VADIM	\$ 2,533.93
QUARNSTROM-DOERING	\$ 934.62	LINCOLN CTY TREASURER	\$ 4,110.00
LINCOLN CTY TREASURER	\$ 1.65	S & E AUTO	\$ 65.00
UTILITY CONSULT	\$ 123.77	TODD DRAPER	\$ 32.00
PAT HAYNES	\$ 250.00	MN LIFE	\$ 5.10
LINCOLN CTY RECORDER	\$ 46.00	LINCOLN CTY RECORDER	\$ 46.00
TROY NORDMEYER	\$ 32.00	KYLIE ROCHEL	\$ 40.00
CROCHET WORLD	\$ 59.97	MAGAZINE LINE	\$ 12.00
IREAD	\$ 337.90	AMAZON CAPITAL	\$ 760.65
CENTER POINT LP	\$ 47.94	DANNY-MEGAN KROTZER	\$ 862.99

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl 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.

The next item of business was to review/act on rehab grant requests. Five payment requests were received for the Rehab Grant Program: Contractor James Lozinski has three requests of \$12,004.00 (Brandvold), \$12,100.00 (Johnson), and \$19,550.00 (Melcher), \$900.00 to Scarcely for LEAD Assessments, and Administration fees of \$4,000.00 to DSI. The total funds of \$48,554.00 were requested to be deposited into the account. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve payment of the rehab grant checks presented. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Service Contract for the Event Center between the City and Danny and Megan Krotzer from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. The agreement states Danny and Megan will market and promote the rental of the Event Center over social media and marketing tools for all types of events and maintain an updated calendar of events for \$250.00 per month. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve the service contract between the City and Danny and Megan Krotzer from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023 for \$250.00 a month. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the notice of water rate increase. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen previously informed the Council that Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System Board of Commissioners approved a \$0.07 increase per thousand gallons in municipal and community water rates. In the past, the Council has added the increase to the citizens of Lake Benton's utility billing. The City's

water rate of \$2.82 per thousand gallons will be increased to \$2.89 per thousand gallons effective July 1, 2022 to appear on the August utility billing. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve increasing the resident's water \$0.07 per thousand gallons effective July 1, 2022 to appear on the August utility billings. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Accepting Donations to the Library. The Library received a donation from the American Legion Auxiliary Henry Sollie #10 for \$10.00 in memory of Joan Klitzke. This donation will 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 Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Resolution Accepting the Donation from the American Legion Auxiliary for \$10.00 in memory of Joan Klitzke to the Library. Motion carried.

The next item of business was the update from Trustees Dunn and Trustee Schlapkohl on the Emergency Preparedness Public Meeting. Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl informed the Council he contacted the Fire Department who recommended he contact Amber Scholten with Lincoln County Emergency Management. Amber will speak to the public regarding what to do if there is a tornado and what the sirens indicate. Amber said she is available to speak on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council that the Fire Department and First Responders should also participate in this meeting. The City can place an ad in the newspaper on May 11th and May 18th, display flyers around town, and serve coffee, water and cookies for a maximum cost of \$500.00. Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl will contact the Fire Department and the First Responders, Kristina Hernandez with the Lake Benton Valley Journal will help put the ads together, create a flyer to distribute around town and give the estimated cost to the Administrator/Clerk. The City will order five dozen cookies and supply the coffee and water. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Patrick Haynes to spend up to \$500.00 to place ads, create flyers, purchase cookies and coffee for the emergency preparedness public meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Library board met last week and the circulation numbers are comparable to last year. The Friends of the Library will be having their annual bake sale over Memorial Day weekend. Deb Rouge with the Lake Benton Public School brought 15 children to the library for a field trip and they learned several things including how to apply for a library card. The Historical Society held their annual meeting Sunday, May 1, 2022 and they informed the audience one of their activities for the past year was rearranging the museum before opening back up to the public after COVID. They also reviewed the donations given to the museum which included the 1938 fire truck and Anderson's honey stand. The Historical Society also hosted the WWI Traveling Exhibit this past October and November, and they continue to organize the records, museum and all other artifacts.

Trustee Patrick Haynes – The EDA met with the City on April 21, 2022.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – The Opera House board will be meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2022 and there is still a lot of turmoil within the board. Daryl will update the Council at the next regular meeting.

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

The auditor has completed the draft 2021 audit report for the City and would like to present it to the Council on Thursday, May 12, 2022. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to have a special meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center to review the draft 2021 audit report for the City.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) is inviting the Mayor and Council to attend a Public Hearing on their budget for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) on May 12, 2022 at 3:30 PM at the Worthington Fire Hall. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Administrator/Clerk report. Motion carried.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) completed the land survey with the legal description for the transfer of property in Johnson's Commercial Park and provided a copy to the Council. City Attorney Mike Cable requested the abstract be forwarded to him to get a title opinion and forward on to LPRW's legal counsel for review. A deed will then be drawn up to complete the property transfer. Mayor Michael Carpenter also contacted the Gunnink's, who rent the land, and updated them on the progress of the transfer of land to LPRW. Mayor Michael Carpenter also informed the Gunnink's that City Attorney Mike Cable will draw up an agreement between the City, the Gunnink's, and LPRW that states the City will keep the rent paid in 2022, and if LPRW needs to get on to that piece of property for some reason and disturbs the crop in any way, LPRW will be responsible to reimburse the Gunninks.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then provided a copy of the recommended payment plan for the infrastructure at the Mork and Giles Addition. Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council that the City can afford to pay for the infrastructure with CDs (\$75,500.00), the Assessment Fund (\$39,000.00), the TIF Fund (\$45,000.00) plus an estimated \$15,000.00 in TIF for 2022, and funds from the 2022 budget – Street (\$20,000.00), Water Capital Outlay (\$20,000.00), and Sewer Capital Outlay (\$20,000.00). If the City does not use all the budgeted money in water and sewer, the City can invest those funds back into CDs at the end of the year. Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council the City will be able to move forward with payroll and expenses during 2022 from the taxes and LGA. The City also has unassigned funds from 2020 when the City sold eight (8) lots in the Mork and Giles Addition, sold the police squad car, and received money from FEMA which totals approximately \$100,000.00. With those amounts to help pay for the project, this leaves approximately \$224,000.00 short of the total project cost. The City has an estimated \$709,000.00 in the utility fund that can be used for the remaining cost. **MOTION** by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to review and discuss the payment plan further for the infrastructure at the Mork and Giles Addition. Motion carried.

Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council of the joint meeting between MnDOT, Rapid City Pierre & Eastern (RCPE) Railroad and the City at 4:00 PM on Thursday, May 5, 2022.

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council the County's Benton Street project scheduled to be completed a year ago has been pushed back to 2023.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then reminded the Council of the private individual wanting to do some work on the pier at Lakeside Park and the DNR has concerns with the parking area they created which is reserved for boats and trailers. Mayor Michael Carpenter talked with Todd Draper who asked him for permission to create four to six parking spaces on the west side of the road. The City has the gravel and can put it down themselves with the tractor and loader. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to authorize Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper to create four to six parking spaces at Lakeside Park west of the pier on the west side of the road. Motion carried.

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

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK