

**NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Patrick Haynes presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Karen Lichtsinn, Jon Olson and Scott Christensen were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Lincoln County Sheriff Bob Bushman, and Vince Robinson and Jennifer Kronke with DSI were also present.

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

Mayor Patrick Haynes 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 November 3, 2025 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Jon Olson, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 3, 2025. Motion carried.

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

VADIM	\$ 5.92	M & H COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 70.00
L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 5,317.39	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 1,266.09
GOPHER STATE	\$ 8.10	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 187.92
POSTMASTER	\$ 202.52	MN RURAL WATER	\$ 450.00
CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 1,129.60	STAPLES	\$ 21.70
MIDLAND TIRE	\$ 1,770.00	CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING	\$ 78.04
SW SANITATION	\$ 3,945.99	CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 462.82
DAKOTA SUPPLY	\$ 560.31	NORTH STAR TRAINING	\$ 2,095.00
ENVIRO PUMP	\$ 1,935.12		

**MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn 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.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

Sheriff Bob Bushman reviewed the October calls for service with the Council. The City had 40 calls for the month of October, and deer hits are up as well as ambulance calls. The City of Lake Benton had 450 calls for service January through October with an average of 45 calls per month. Sheriff Bob Bushman informed the Council that his deputies will be paying close attention to campers and trailers parked on the street during the winter months and to please contact the Sheriff's office if the City needs anything moved. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Jon Olson to approve the law enforcement update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Law Enforcement Contract with Lincoln County. The Council was reminded that the Police Committee consisting of Trustees Jon Olson and Scott Christensen and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen met with Sheriff Bob Bushman and Deputy Isaiah Wahl in late August to review the contract that is up for renewal on January 1, 2026. The group worked together on a three year contract that includes the following: \$66.00/hour in 2026, a 4% increase in 2027, and a 4% increase in 2028 for 1,040 hours per year. Previously, the City contracted for 1,248 hours, which would have increased the yearly contract amount by \$13,728.00. The City budgeted \$66.00/hour for 1,040 hours a year. Sheriff Bob Bushman stated that he did not charge the City for an additional officer for their Saddle Horse Holiday and credited the City for supplying an office for them in Lake Benton. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the three year Law Enforcement Contract with Lincoln County for 2026, 2027 and 2028. Motion carried.

The next item of business was an update on the SCDP Infrastructure and Owner-Occupied Grant Funding Applications. Vince Robinson and Jennifer Kronke with DSI were present to provide the Council with an update on the SCDP Infrastructure and Owner-Occupied Grant Funding Application process, explain the summary of the Low-Medium Income Level (LMI) done for the infrastructure on Fremont Street, the City's grant writing fees, and the proposed SCDP match.

Vince Robinson informed the Council that he had good news and bad news. The good news is they received 45 responses for the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and the City is good to move forward with this application if they wish to do so. Vince then informed the Council that he and his team worked diligently to get the SCDP Infrastructure surveys distributed and returned. However, the total population of the project area is 119, with more than half (61 persons) not likely to be LMI, representing 46.2% which did not meet the 51% threshold per program requirements, and therefore, they will not be moving forward with the SCDP Infrastructure application.

DSI is working with the City on other grants for the Clean Water Revolving Fund (CRWF) and the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DRWF) but the City does not rank very high on either of these funds. Vince then informed the Council that Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen forwarded emails to the legislators earlier today and the bonding bill associated with the City's request in 2025 is still active in the House.

Vince then stated that the City received payments from the previous SCDP grant program and exceed \$35,000.00 annually in the last three fiscal years, therefore, these funds will need to be put in a special fund. The program income through October 31, 2025 was \$139,685.33 and the state forces us to use those funds for what we are applying. The application request for the Owner-Occupied Rehab Grant requires a local match of \$20,000.00 in addition to the City's total local income of \$9,128.33 which means the City will need to provide an additional \$10,871.67 from another source.

**MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve moving forward with the Owner-Occupied Grant Funding Application. The City will allocate \$20,000.00 to cover the cost of the Owner-Occupied Rehab Grant administration that exceeds DEED's limit of 15%, and the program income totaling \$130,557.00 with 85% of the funds going towards construction funding and 15% for administration. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a subordination request. Mark Meyer is refinancing his home loan located at 104 Coteau St. Mark applied and received the Deferred Loan Repayment Agreement on October 22, 2019 with the City and it will be forgiven in four years. South River Mortgage, LLC is requesting first lien position to refinance the loan. Requests like this have been, and will continue to be, a part of the SCDP Rehab Program project. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the subordination request for Mark Meyer and South River Mortgage, LLC. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

No report.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

No report.

The next regular meeting is Monday, December 1, 2025 at 5:30 PM. There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Scott Christensen, seconded by Jon Olson and carried, the meeting adjourned.

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK