

OCTOBER 15, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Lake Benton Chamber Board members Karen Lichtsinn and Jenny Nordmeyer, 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 October 1, 2018 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2018. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

VARIETY FOODS	\$ 95.62	ITC	\$ 271.92
LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	\$ 1,234.00	USTI	\$ 1.28
QUARNSTROM-DOERING	\$ 2,249.40	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 4,534.65
LB PARTS HOUSE	\$ 269.85	LB HARDWARE	\$ 339.11
EXPRESSWAY-LB	\$ 837.88	GOPHER STATE	\$ 13.50
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 154.50	POSTMASTER	\$ 169.00
CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 533.73	FIRST SECURITY BANK	\$ 24,248.35
LB FIRE RELIEF	\$21,798.84	HEIMAN FIRE EQUIP	\$ 12.40
RADAR ROAD TEC	\$ 35.00	SW SANITATION	\$ 3,593.38
BANNER ENGRG	\$ 878.10	BIOAG ENERGY SRVCS	\$ 559.80
CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 757.30	VERIZON	\$ 35.37
BLAINE VANDEVENDEL	\$ 4.85	ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	\$ 166.98
LB FIRE DEPT.	\$18,586.88	BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 48.38
THOMAS PLUMBING	\$ 710.70	GARY SERIE	\$ 23.28
TOM BARBER	\$ 144.00	FULLER PAVING	\$ 9,083.20

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw 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 meet with the Lake Benton Chamber to discuss City wide cleanup. Karen Lichtsinn addressed the Council that this topic was discussed a year ago and the Chamber is requesting the City revisit the issue. The Chamber understands the 2019 budget is finalized, but in an effort to be proactive, they would like to share information they collected from Scott Ritter at Southwest Sanitation. There are 18 other communities that are currently using the program which includes designating an area with roll-off dumpsters that get emptied as needed for \$12,000.00 for the initial cleanup. The cost will be approximately \$5,000.00 each year following. The dumpsters will need to be in a locked fenced area and the sight must be manned. This could be done Monday thru Friday in the evenings, or a Wednesday and Saturday. The Chamber requested the City consider this project so residents can clean up items in an appropriate manner behind their garages and in their alleys. Ideas presented included putting the dumpsters behind the Fire Hall, hire a senior citizen to man the area, offset the utility bills by adding \$1.00 per month to each resident's utility bill. This could happen twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall for 3 to 4 days and then the dumpsters are hauled away.

Discussion took place if it is fair to tax the taxpayers when not everyone will use the service. It was stated the community of Lake Benton pays \$55.00 to Lincoln County for the landfill on their taxes each year. The City of Lake Benton offers clean-up day twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. The Maintenance Department picks up appliances, grills, couches, washers, dryers, etc. and delivers the items to the Ivanhoe landfill. Lincoln County offers hazardous pickup each year for paint, fluorescent lights, and other hazardous materials, but is not well advertised. It would help if the Lincoln County Environmental Office advertised this on Facebook to make the public aware. It was also stated that people have the opportunity to take their own stuff to the landfill for cheaper than what the City charges.

After additional discussion, the Council agreed to look into working with the Lincoln County Environmental Office to see if something can be done similar to the Chamber's request.

The next item of business was to review/act on leasing .14 acres of property from Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen reminded the Council that at their September 4, 2018 meeting, the Council authorized her to send a counteroffer to Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc. for \$100.00 for one year's rent of the property. On September 20, 2018, Dawn Davis-Carpenter e-mailed Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen that she was sorry they are unable to accept the City's counteroffer, and informed Eileen their final offer is \$250.00 to rent the property.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council the City moved the gravel and dirt to a different area. The City can also stock pile dirt and gravel at the new Maintenance building property, and therefore, the City does not need the Railroad property to store gravel and dirt. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to respond back to the Railroad that due to the price of \$250.00 per year, the City is no longer interested in the .14 acre property. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council that last week Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl, Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and he met with the DNR on the water access project at Lakeside Park. There may be funding issues to move forward with the plan as the estimated cost came in higher than expected. The DNR allocated so much for the project and it is more than the allocation. However, the Engineer's bid could come in lower than the estimated project, and if so, the DNR will be able to move forward. Should this happen, the project can begin as early as the frost is out of the ground.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council on the MnDOT/City Maintenance building. The doors have been rekeyed, the codes for the door openers are the same throughout MnDOT so they changed the codes and Todd ordered our own remotes. The heating system is still being worked on and the thermostats are paid for. The plans are to move into the building after the Harrison Street project is completed. MnDOT has an access key on the lockbox outside the building to use the City's loader when needed.

The Harrison Street project has been tough because it has been so wet. Last Friday the contractors got the new main in and grounded it. They flushed the main today and the pressure test passed. There are two consecutive disinfecting tests that had to be completed and they too passed. They will begin boring on Thursday. A machine will need to sit in the back yards until boring is completed on all the Harrison Street homes and the two services in the field behind Harrison Street. All services should be completed by Saturday, and the asphalt and concrete will be completed next week. The project is scheduled to be completed by November 2, 2018.

The next item of business was to review/act on Public Employees Retirement Association – Police Officer Resolution. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council Guy Harding began his duties as a part-time police officer for the City of Lake Benton on October 1, 2018. She provided the Council with a resolution to approve because Guy was and is PERA eligible and must remain so.

Since Guy is a part-time officer, and per PERA requirements, the Council needs to pass the attached resolution declaring that the position meets the legal requirement for such coverage and requests coverage for the named individual.

The membership fee per employee is 10.8% and the Employer contribution is 16.2%. Former part-time officers have been put in the PERA Police and Fire Plan in the past. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the Public Employees Retirement Association – Police Officer Resolution for Guy Harding. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to adopt Chapter 173 Ordinance No. 209 – An Ordinance Amending Title XVII, General and Additional Provisions Chapter 173 by Amending Ordinance No. 151 to Regulate the Holding and Calling of Regular and Special Meetings and Changing Salaries of the Mayor and Council.

City Attorney Mike Cable reviewed and modified Chapter 173 Ordinance No. 209 – An Ordinance Amending Title XVII, General and Additional Provisions Chapter 173 by Amending Ordinance No. 151 to Regulate the Holding and Calling of Regular and Special Meetings and Changing Salaries of the Mayor and Council. Mike also included the Minnesota Statutes 415.11 which clearly indicates at Subd. 2 the change in salary is not effective until after the succeeding election. Therefore, the City should adopt the Ordinance and have it published before the municipal election on November 6, 2018.

Mayor Bob Worth explained the Council salaries have not been changed since 1992. The Council members are paid \$30.00 per meeting and the Mayor is paid \$40.00 per meeting. Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council and the audience that the Council is paid only for regular meetings, special meetings, and the Board of Review.

As Council liaisons on the EDA Board, they do not get a stipend as other board members do. The Council members also do not get paid an additional salary for sitting on the Chamber Board, Library Board, Opera House Board, or any of the several Ad-Hoc Committees.

The City budgeted for 2019 to reflect a salary increase for the Mayor and Council members, and the budget still indicates we will not have to raise the levy.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to adopt Chapter 173 Ordinance No. 209 – An Ordinance Amending Title XVII, General and Additional Provisions Chapter 173 by Amending Ordinance No. 151 to Regulate the Holding and Calling of Regular and Special Meetings and Changing Salaries of the Mayor and Council. The salaries shall be set as follows: Mayor – \$80.00 per meeting, and Councilmembers – \$65.00 per meeting. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber-CVB met last Tuesday. The \$2.00 meal for November will be sponsored by the Baptist Church, and the Veterans will get to eat for free. In early January 2019 the Chamber membership letters will be sent out in the hopes of getting more members. On October 31 the Chamber is hosting “Trunk or Treat on Center Street”. There will be a costume contest and a movie from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The Showboat Pavilion will have hot dogs and/or pizza to purchase. The Chamber is in the planning stages for a Holiday Movie Family Night on December 8, 2018 at the Event Center. The Chamber Kick-off is scheduled for January 19, 2019.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA met last week. Laura Rethwisch, the new owner of the hardware and lumber yard, was in attendance to let the EDA know how they are doing. They are busy cleaning and organizing, and everything is going well. They are excited to be here, and are feeling very welcome. The Rethwisch’s are planning to combine all aspects (hardware and lumber yard)

into one business and hire a manager to run it as such.

Next Era Energy will be in the area and doing a project in Ruthton and Lake Benton in 2020. They are in the process of finding a location for their O & M building and they have several opportunities from the City, townships and County. Their intent is to make upgrades to the wind towers and create additional jobs.

The Ad-Hoc Committee for the Senior Dining met last week and had a good discussion. They took into consideration comments from the public forum and the past Council meeting. The Committee is meeting tomorrow afternoon and are inviting an individual to discuss meals, socialization, entertainment, medical issues (blood pressure and pedicures), and ways to rejuvenate the program.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – The Opera House Board is getting bids on painting the inside of the building in January. They are applying for another grant to upgrade the pulley for the curtains. The Opera House is doing really well.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

No report.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Bob Worth said the Fireman’s Open House was amazing, they served a good meal, and it was an honor to be there. For a small town, we have a full-staffed, volunteer, top-notch department. They are well-trained and dedicated to their service. Bob was happy to see a lot of people support the department.

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council that the meeting with Next Era Energy involved quite a few people, some which included Jim Nichols, a representative from the Chamber and the EDA, and the Lake Benton Township Chairman. At this meeting, Mayor Bob Worth requested the O & M building be located in the Lake Benton area as it needs to be within 20 minutes of the site. They will take that information into consideration and will work with the EDA and the City. They are scheduling a meeting with several farmers for property rights, etc. to put up 60 – 150 megawatt turbines. They will need a minimum of six techs to take care of the turbines. Mayor Bob Worth would like to appoint members for an Ad-Hoc Committee for the wind towers which will consist of Mayor Bob Worth, Trustee Dave Enke, Mike Carpenter and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, to work together to secure a place for the business to be located in Lake Benton. Trustee Dave Enke respectfully declined the appointment due to a conflict of interest, and Trustee Mark Dunn was appointed in his place.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK