

OCTOBER 16, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Karen Lichtsinn, and Scott Christensen were present. City Attorney Mike Cable and Trustee Patrick Haynes were absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield, and Sheriff Bob Bushman 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 October 2, 2023 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 2, 2023. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

QUARNSTROM-DOERING	\$ 2,360.00	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 4,753.19
RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 953.03	STATION ONE	\$ 402.48
GOPHER STATE	\$ 27.00	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 178.57
POSTMASTER	\$ 170.34	FIRST SECURITY BANK	\$ 30,000.00
DOUBLE D GRAVEL	\$ 1,124.00	LB FIRE RELIEF	\$ 27,536.47
SW SANITATION	\$ 3,751.43	GARY NORDMEYER	\$ 1,670.00
AVERA MEDICAL	\$ 119.38	CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 326.67
MEADOWLAND FARMERS	\$ 399.88	DVL FIRE & SAFETY	\$ 320.00
FULLER PAVING	\$ 2,860.00		

MOTION by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Scott Christensen 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 Snow Removal for 2023-2024 which was tabled from the October 2, 2023 regular Council meeting. This item was tabled because an interested party contacted Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield to provide a bid on snow removal for the 2023-2024 snow season. After some discussion, the Council tabled this item until this evening after Travis Lustfield had talked with Johansen's and inquired if they would consider a one-year contract versus a three-year contract for snow removal. The Council also approved a one-year contract if Johansen's agreed.

Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield informed the Council that he spoke with Johansen's and they would like to keep the three-year contract and he did not receive a bid from the interested party. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve a three-year contract with Johansen's for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 snow seasons with the increased amounts. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Sheriff Bob Bushman presented the September calls for service. Sheriff Bushman informed the Council it has been quiet around town. Sheriff Bushman sent Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen the report regarding specific time and hours and there have been a lot of hours reported. The system uses trackers to report everywhere the squads are. However, the report will need to be refined not to include his squad which is parked in the City of Lake Benton. Sheriff Bushman and Deputy Jake Jenson are working with the software to refine exact hours.

The improvements to the Sheriff's Office in Lake Benton are complete and it looks good. Sheriff Bushman stated they are gathering the furnishings and will have the office up and running soon. Sheriff Bushman is also working to get a sign on the front door so residents know they are officed here and what numbers to call in an emergency. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the September law enforcement update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a resolution, Certificate of Resolution and Agreement with Loren and Kimberly Konda, husband and wife, and Nathan Konda, a single person, as Joint Tenants. Real estate agent Lisa Willert prepared the Purchase Agreement to convey the real estate in the Replat of a part of Giles and Mork's Addition described as Lots Three (3) & Four (4) of Block Three (3).

Loren, Kimberly and Nathan provided a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Quarnstrom & Doering, P.A. Trust Account. The remaining amount of \$10,000.00 will be paid to the City on the date of closing.

City Attorney Mike Cable also prepared the necessary resolution that will need to be approved to convey said real property: **WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Benton met in regular session on October 16, 2023 for the purpose of selling that real property described as follows: Lots Three (3) and Four (4) of Block Three (3) of the Replat of a part of Giles and Mork's Addition, City of Lake Benton, State of Minnesota, **WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Benton wants to sell said real property, and **WHEREAS**, Loren Konda and Kimberly Konda, husband and wife, and Nathan Konda, a single person, as Joint Tenants, offered to pay the City of Lake Benton Eleven Thousand and No/100 (\$11,000.00) Dollars, and **WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Benton met in regular session on October 16, 2023 for the purpose of accepting the offer of Loren Dandar and Kimberly Dandar, husband and wife, and Nathan Konda, a single person, as Joint Tenants. **NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Administrator/Clerk of the City of Lake Benton certifies the following: 1. That on October 16, 2023 upon a motion made by Scott Christensen, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw, and carried that real property described as follows: Lots Three (3) and Four (4) of Block Three (3) of the Replat of a part of Gile and Mork's Addition, City of Lake Benton, State of Minnesota, was sold to Loren Konda and Kimberly Konda, husband and wife, and Nathan Konda, a single person, as Joint Tenants, for Eleven Thousand and No/100 (\$11,000.00) Dollars.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Gambling Exempt Permit for the Lake Benton Sportsman's Club. The Lake Benton Sportsman's Club is planning to have a raffle drawing at their annual fishing tournament on January 27, 2024. The Club needs Council approval due to the fact the application requires the local unit of government's acknowledgement and the Mayor's signature. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the Gambling Exempt Permit for the Lake Benton Sportsman's Club annual fishing tournament on January 27, 2024 and authorize the Mayor's signature. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met and the October Business of the Month is The Lake Benton HRA. The Vendor Show held on October 7, 2023 went very well with 22 vendors. They are planning this event for the same weekend next year. Photos for the Visitors Guide are being submitted with a deadline of October 31, 2023. The Trick or Treat event is scheduled for October 31, 2023 at the Heritage Center from 5:00-7:00 PM and will be serving hot chocolate and cookies.

Trustee Karen Lichtsinn – No report.

Trustee Scott Christensen – The Fire Department went to the Lake Benton School for Fire Prevention and did demonstrations and showed them the fire truck. The first grade class were given smoke detectors and second through sixth grade students received batteries for their smoke detectors. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that at their September 5, 2023 Council meeting, the Council approved a cap of \$7,500.00 to make improvements to the Sheriff's Office, the fire hall restroom and entryway. As of today, the City has paid a total of \$4,678.28 for improvements. The remaining bills will include the mini split for \$2,900.00 and the electrical bill from Thomas Electric. City staff did not receive an estimate from Thomas Electric for the electrical work. However, the total for the improvements will exceed the cap of \$7,500.00. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to increase the cap for the Fire Hall and Sheriff's Office improvements an additional \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

Vince Robinson with the Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corp forwarded a flyer regarding one of our greatest challenges in Lincoln County and throughout SW Minnesota. The flyer is about a Workforce Summit where leaders from throughout the Region will share interesting ideas and action plans on how we might be able to retain workers. Vince asked City staff to pass it along to the Council in hopes they will consider attending the event on November 8, 2023 at Prairie's Edge Resort in Granite Falls, MN. The cost is \$25.00 per person and registration closes on October 27, 2023. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Administrator/Clerk report. Motion carried.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council of the Special Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Event Center to meet with Shannon Sweeney and Vince Robinson to discuss funding for the 2027 MnDOT Highway 75 Infrastructure Project.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then reminded the Council of the Joint City Council/EDA meeting scheduled for October 27, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Event Center to discuss Johnson Commercial Park development and other community development activities.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, November 6, 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 Scott Christensen and carried, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK