

OCTOBER 2, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Karen Lichtsinn, Patrick Haynes, and Scott Christensen were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield, Vince Robinson and Jess Gums with the Lake Benton Area Foundation 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.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then informed the Council and audience that he is moving agenda items #4 and #5 so Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield can be present when the Council reviews/acts on snow removal.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2023 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2023. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

OTTERTAIL	\$ 2,336.12	ITC	\$ 402.78
QUARNSTROM/DOERING	\$ 1,501.50	JARED ROUGE	\$ 4,320.00
DAKOTALAND AUTO	\$ 150.00	THOMAS ELECTRIC	\$ 1,078.49
TRAVIS LUSTFIELD	\$ 32.00	PAT HAYNES	\$ 745.77
MN LIFE	\$ 5.10	LINCOLN CTY RECORDER	\$ 175.00
LB PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$ 1,150.00	MARSHALL INDEPEND	\$ 210.60
TROY NORDMEYER	\$ 32.00	ALEX AIR	\$ 6,274.28
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	\$ 82.90	KYLIE ROCHEL	\$ 150.00
ONE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$ 45.87	BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 136.80
AMAZON	\$ 357.98	PLUM CREEK	\$ 73.00
CENTER POINT	\$ 49.14	DANNY/MEGAN KROTZER	\$ 250.00
LBVE	\$ 879.93		

MOTION by Patrick Haynes, 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.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE: Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield informed the Council the burn pit was full of cottonwood trees and the pit caught fire and burned the trees to ashes yesterday afternoon. Travis was not sure how the fire started because all the ashes were cleaned out of the pit prior to filling the pit with trees again.

Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield then informed the Council he is still waiting for Empire Pipe to grout and seal the inflow and infiltration issues on eight (8) City manholes. Empire Pipe informed him they are waiting to get their camera repaired and hope to be in town the end of this week or early next week to work on the manholes and the two lateral lines.

Fuller Paving was in town today to patch West Benton and Grant Streets by the former Carpenter Auction building and West Benton Street north of 102 S. Kent St.

Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield then updated the Council that A & C Excavating will be repairing the clean-out on North Harrison Street next week. They will dig around the clean-out and raise the pipe 3" and bring it 1/2" below grade. A & C Excavating contacted Fuller Paving to pave the street when they have repaired the clean-out.

Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield then informed the Council that Larson Digging was installing fiber optic last Wednesday and hit one of the City's abandoned service lines. They did not properly dig down below the water and sewer lines while they were potholing and accidentally hit the line. Travis contacted the owner of Larson Digging who told Travis to send him the bill when the City receives it from Double D Gravel and he will make sure it gets paid.

Travis reminded the Council and audience that appliance pickup is tomorrow and he and Troy are still trimming branches around town. Travis and Troy will be picking up branches for the last time this year on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

Mayor Michael Carpenter inquired if Travis had talked with anyone regarding the front of the Opera House building where the foundation is crumbling and needs repair. Travis talked with Mike Weets who told him he will look at it and repair it. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Public Works Update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the snow removal contract for 2023-2024. Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council the City has renewed the snow removal contract every three (3) years with Johansen's and they agreed to remove snow for the City with an increase in costs to include from \$158.00/hour to \$230.00/hour with diesel fuel at \$3.38 per gallon; from \$168.00/hour to \$240.00/hour with diesel fuel at \$3.48 to 3.88 per gallon; and from \$178.00/hour to \$250.00/hour with diesel fuel over \$3.88 per gallon. The last time there was a rate increase was six (6) years ago. Mayor Michael Carpenter then opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield stated that he was approached by Tony Dybdahl with TE Underground who told him that since the City of Tyler bought a new blower, they do not need his snow removal services any longer. Tony stated that he does not need to house his equipment and has a blower with two trucks and three (3) men that can be done quicker. Tony then asked Travis if he could submit a bid to the City and Travis informed him he would ask the Council.

At their last regular Council meeting, the Council chose to approach Johansen's to inquire if they would remove snow for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 snow seasons and if they agreed, the City would not put it out on bids. Although the Council would prefer to employ a local contractor, it might be a good idea to get a quote and compare it to Johansen's quote. Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield informed the Council that TE Underground uses a blower versus Johansen's who use a loader. The cost would likely be more, but the job would be completed quicker.

The Council then discussed that since they previously approved contracting with Johansen's if they were willing to remove snow, perhaps the City should consider contracting with Johansen's for one year and then put it out for bids next year. **MOTION** by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to table this item until the next meeting after Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield has talked to Johansen's regarding a one year contract for snow removal. Motion carried.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then inquired that should Johansen's agree to a one year contract with the increased amounts, does the Council want to accept the contract? **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Patrick Haynes that should Johansen's agree to a one year contract, the City will accept a one year contract with the increased amounts with Johansen's Repair for snow removal for the 2023-2024 snow season. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to meet with Vince Robinson and Jess Gums with the Lake Benton Area Foundation to discuss improvements to Lakeside Park. Vince Robinson reminded the Council that the Foundation has been working on improvements to Lakeside Park to include a new pavilion facility. Vince stated they would like to continue their momentum on improvements to Lakeside Park and would like to work together with the City. Vince then inquired if the City is willing to assign their Park and Rec Committee to work with the Foundation's Steering Committee to secure funding and create a Master Plan. The liaisons for the City's Park and Rec Committee include Mayor Michael Carpenter and Trustee Patrick Haynes. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to authorize the City's Park and Rec Committee meet with the Foundation and their Steering Committee on securing funding and creating a Master Plan when Vince Robinson schedules a meeting.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then asked Vince Robinson for an update on the Hole-in-the-Mountain Park Enhancement Project. Vince informed the Council they had an archeological study conducted and thousands of artifacts were uncovered. Vince stated there are areas where they cannot disrupt the soil and only lay something over the top in the trail improvement area. A Zoom meeting has been scheduled for this Wednesday with the archeological specialist, engineer and Daryl Schlapkohl. Vince stated they hope to have the trail improvements and tubing hill operational next fall.

The next item of business was to review/act on a temporary On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for the Fire Department to serve alcohol at a wedding on Friday, November 24, 2023 at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve the temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor license for the Lake Benton Fire Department to serve alcohol at a wedding on Friday, November 24, 2023 at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Library board met and the patrons into the library are up from 2022 as well as circulation numbers. Story Time continues on Friday's at 10:00 AM. The Library Director and workers are looking into upcoming programs in which they can use grant and/or legacy funds.

Trustee Karen Lichtsinn – No report.

Trustee Scott Christensen – No report.

Trustee Patrick Haynes – No report.

MOTION by Patrick Haynes, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

The City office will be closed Monday, October 9, 2023. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Administrator/Clerk report. Motion carried.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council that the Sheriff's office is almost complete. Gary Nordmeyer has been working on the project and it looks great.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then requested Trustees Karen Lichtsinn and Patrick Haynes to coordinate a joint EDA and City Council meeting to discuss Johnson Commercial Park and other properties in town.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then reminded the Council of the special meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 10:00 AM to meet with Vince Robinson and Shannon Sweeney on funding for the 2027 MnDOT Highway 75 Project.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then reminded the Council he previously contacted Lincoln County Commissioner Corey Sik and County Engineer Joe Wilson about when they were going to begin the Benton Street project. The City was informed the sidewalks would be completed this fall but no one has contacted the City to advise when they will begin. Mayor Michael Carpenter requested this item be added as an agenda item at a November meeting if the City has not heard from the County at that time.

The next regular meeting is Monday, October 16, 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 Patrick Haynes and carried, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK