

OCTOBER 4, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter, Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Daryl Schlapkohl, and Dave Enke were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and Kristina Hernandez with 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 September 20, 2021 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2021. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

BOLT'S LB GROCERY	\$ 10.17	OTTERTAIL	\$ 2,209.20
RICK'S WELDING	\$ 289.24	TODD DRAPER	\$ 32.00
PAT HAYNES	\$ 250.00	AB VACUUM CENTER	\$ 23.99
HEIMAN	\$ 1,766.00	BANNER ASSOCIATES	\$ 4,000.00
TROY NORDMEYER	\$ 32.00	DEPT NATURAL RESOURCES	\$ 6,000.00
KYLIE ROCHEL	\$ 180.00	BOOKPAGE	\$ 354.00
ONE OFFICE	\$ 30.52	MAGAZINE LINE	\$ 91.94
PERFORMANCE FOOD	\$ 199.26	DAKOTA MUD JACK	\$ 5,000.00
AMAZON CAPITAL	\$ 869.04	CENTER POINT	\$ 44.34
DEMCO	\$ 799.72	DANNY-MEGAN KROTZER	\$ 250.00
FULLER PAVING	\$ 4,357.50		

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn 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.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Carrie Timm to install a 10' x 10' deck at 116 S. Harrison Street. Carrie has been given the setbacks in which to place the deck and the \$25.00 application fee has been paid. There are no setback concerns and everything is in compliance with the Ordinance. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the building permit for Carrie Timm to install a 10' x 10' deck at 116 S. Harrison Street. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Rebekah Koshnick to build a 16' x 24' porch on the front of her home at 517 W. Benton Street. Rebekah has been given the setbacks in which to place the porch and the \$25.00 application fee has been paid. There are no setback concerns and everything is in compliance with the Ordinance. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the building permit for Rebekah Koshnick to build a 16' x 24' porch on the front of her home at 517 W. Benton Street. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on Ordinance – Chapter 74: Bicycles, Roller Blades, Roller Skis and Skateboards. At the last regular meeting, Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council that a citizen contacted him regarding bicycles being ridden on the sidewalks. The Ordinance states that bicycles can be ridden on the sidewalk, but the person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking or

passing the pedestrian. It was suggested the Council read the Ordinance and discuss whether to change the Ordinance and/or post signs on bicycles being ridden on the sidewalks. The Council discussed the safety issues of bicycle riders riding bicycles on the street versus the sidewalk, and to leave the Ordinance as is. Should this issue arise at a later time the Council can discuss purchasing signs to be posted on lamp posts with rules for the bicycle riders to yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to not change Ordinance – Chapter 74: Bicycles, Roller Blades, Roller Skis and Skateboards; and if there are issues at a later date, the Council will look at posting signs. Motion carried.

Mayor Michael Carpenter stated that individuals come up to him regarding issues on how this town does this, and how this town does that. The City of Lake Benton is not like other towns, and the City of Lake Benton has their set of Ordinances they follow accordingly. Mayor Michael Carpenter will speak with the merchant who talked to him regarding bicycles being ridden on the street.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – The new fire truck has been moved into the museum. The Fire Department got a new grass rig from the DNR for \$6,000.00.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The Library Board met two weeks ago and several of the board members have been trained on the operation of the library in case the Director and/or Assistant Librarian are out, and the Library can remain open. The attendance at the Friday Morning Fun Hour is very light, and the board is looking at options to promote and increase the attendance for this program. Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 10:00 AM, Arn Kind will be presenting Minnesota in the Vietnam War with visual aids. Plum Creek Library System has numerous on-line resources available to serve patrons with a library card.

The EDA had a special meeting the end of September regarding the housing development in the Mork & Giles Addition. Lisa Graphenteen and Vince Robinson with DSI shared a spreadsheet with data to assist the board on options to move forward with building two duplex units. The board approved hiring SWMNHP to act as the Consultant, design, manage the day-to-day operations, prepare advertising for bids and assist with opening the bids. A contract will be drafted and forwarded to Legal Counsel for approval. There was discussion on the possibility of using the Greater Minnesota Grant Program to assist with funding on this project.

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council the City is moving forward with getting the water/sewer/street infrastructure completed in the Mork & Giles Addition with bidding in February and construction beginning in the early spring. Mayor Michael Carpenter and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen are working together to get funding together for the infrastructure without having to borrow any money.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the committee reports. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

No report.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Trustee Dave Enke located Clean Water Partnership Loan Program (CWP) to assist homeowner with funding for the repair of their lateral sewer lines. Mayor Michael Carpenter requested Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen bring the Council up to date on this issue.

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that the City of Pipestone received \$1,000,000.00 from the CWP after they performed their own televising of the lateral lines to the houses. The City will not be televising the sewer lines until next spring and then the City will know how much funding will be necessary to assist the homeowners with this loan program.

Mayor Michael Carpenter received a call from a taxpayer of a dead tree on the Homestead property on Mork Street. The City's tree inspector, Jim Roggenbuck, stated the tree is dying and is on Homestead's property. Minnesota Senior Living will be in Lake Benton in the next two weeks and address the situation to remove the tree.

Mayor Michael Carpenter received an e-mail from the State of Minnesota regarding the American Rescue Plan reporting. The City received approximately \$34,000.00 and will receive another \$34,000.00 next summer from this program. These funds will be used to televise the sewer lines.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then thanked Trustee Mark Dunn for the work he did with the Fire Department and the Historical Society on the Fire Department's open house which was well attended. Trustee Mark Dunn thanked New Horizon Farms for donating the pork for the feed, and will give Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen the name and address to send a thank you.

The World War I Traveling Exhibit is being picked up tomorrow, October 5, 2021 and will be displayed in the banquet room of the Event Center. A program will be scheduled around Veteran's Day.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK