

**OCTOBER 6, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Patrick Haynes presided. Trustees Karen Lichtsinn, Jon Olson, and Scott Christensen were present. City Attorney Mike Cable and Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw were absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and Donna Landgren 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 September 15, 2025 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Jon Olson, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2025. Motion carried.

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

|                     |             |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| OTTERTAIL           | \$ 2,512.75 | ITC                 | \$ 400.87   |
| QUARNSTROM-DOERING  | \$ 225.00   | RETHWISCH & SON     | \$ 909.83   |
| MOTHER EARTH NEWS   | \$ 39.95    | TRAVIS LUSTFIELD    | \$ 32.00    |
| PAT HAYNES          | \$ 1,541.79 | MN LIFE             | \$ 4.80     |
| LB CHAMBER          | \$ 352.00   | LAKE BENTON SCHOOLS | \$ 1,150.00 |
| SW SANITATION       | \$ 3,945.99 | GARY NORDMEYER CONS | \$ 5,000.00 |
| BIOAG               | \$ 507.33   | TROY NORDMEYER      | \$ 32.00    |
| CATALIS             | \$ 2,241.58 | ALEX AIR            | \$ 484.40   |
| READER'S DIGEST     | \$ 20.00    | KYLIE ROCHEL        | \$ 170.00   |
| M & T FIRE & SAFETY | \$ 1,297.64 | BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS  | \$ 93.60    |
| FERGUSON WATER      | \$ 252.81   | AMAZON CAPITAL      | \$ 22.94    |
| PLUM CREEK LIBRARY  | \$ 35.93    | CENTER POINT        | \$ 51.54    |
| DEMCO               | \$ 53.94    | DANNY/MEGAN KROTZER | \$ 250.00   |
| LBVE                | \$ 1,141.58 | WEST SHORE SRVCS    | \$ 695.00   |

**MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, 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 a building permit for Tim Trecker to install a garage. Tim would like to install a 25' x 30' garage on the northeast corner of his property located at 501 E. Benton Street. Tim was given the setbacks in which to install a garage and the \$25.00 application fee has been paid. There are no setback concerns and everything is in compliance with the Ordinance. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Jon Olson to approve the building permit for Tim Trecker to install a 25' x 30' garage on the northeast corner of his property located at 501 E. Benton Street. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Cheryl Shuck to install a utility shed. Cheryl would like to install a 12' x 14' utility shed in the backyard of her property located at 104 Parkview Drive. Cheryl was given the setbacks in which to install a utility shed and the \$25.00 application fee has been paid. There are no setback concerns and everything is in compliance with the Ordinance. **MOTION** by Jon Olson, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the building permit for Cheryl Shuck to install a 12' x 14' utility shed in the backyard of her property located at 104 Parkview Drive. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Jon Olson to install a fence. Jon would like to install a privacy fence in the backyard of his property located at 305 S. Fremont Street. Jon was given the setbacks in which to install a fence and the \$25.00 application fee has been paid. There are no

setback concerns and everything is in compliance with the Ordinance. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Scott Christensen to approve the building permit for Jon Olson to install a privacy fence in the backyard of his property located at 305 S. Fremont Street. Motion carried. Trustee Jon Olson abstained from voting.

The next item of business was to review/act on Off-Duty Emergency Assistance Policy Concerning First Responders. City Attorney, Michael Cable created the attached Off-Duty Emergency Assistance Policy Concerning First Responders authorizing payment to certified first responders for every call they are dispatched by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. The City shall pay each certified First Responder Twenty and No/100 dollars (\$20.00) for every call made by the first responder(s).

The Council will need to adopt the policy and agree on payment terms (once a year, twice a year, etc.) and the First Responders will begin getting paid effective January 1, 2026. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Jon Olson to approve the Off-Duty Emergency Assistance Policy Concerning First Responders and authoring payment to certified First Responders for every call they are dispatched by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. The City shall pay each certified First Responder Twenty and No/100 dollars (\$20.00) for every call and payments shall be made the last meeting in December for calls made January 1, 2026 through December 10, 2026. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on sealed bids for farm land for rent. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen reminded the Council the current lease is due to expire on the last day of February 2026 and the tillable acres are now 114.26 acres. The City received three (3) bids to lease 114.26 tillable acres. The first bid was from Tom and Mary Gunnink in the amount of \$24,000.00 per year for three years – 2026, 2027 and 2028. Tom wrote to the Council that he has been farming the City's ground for several years and is interested in farming it again for three (3) years. A couple things for the Council to consider: the Gunnink's pick rocks, mow the ditches, fertilize the ground heavily, and try to take good care of the City's ground. Tom then stated they also do business in the town and help out our community. The second bid was from Rogen Smidt from Pipestone, MN in the amount of \$31,992.80 per year for three years – 2026, 2027 and 2028. The third bid was from Payton Sik from Lake Benton, MN in the amount of \$25,708.50 per year for three years – 2026, 2027 and 2028.

The Council was reminded that the City of Lake Benton reserves the right to accept and/or reject any bids. The Council discussed the three bids and felt Tom and Mary Gunnink have been renting the farmland for several years and have done a lot of work with the land. The Gunnink's also worked with the City when the City donated some of the farmland to Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water without hesitation. The Council also discussed whether they would like to see the farmland rented by someone in the County. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Scott Christensen to award the bid to Tom and Mary Gunnink for a period of three years at \$24,000.00 per year; and authorize the Administrator/Clerk to work with Legal Counsel to draw up the lease with Tom and Mary Gunnink. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Library. The Library received a donation from the Fiber Guild for \$227.80. This donation will be designated for collections. Minnesota Statutes state the Library can accept donations for the benefit of recreational services. The Council needs to pass the resolution accepting the donation to the Library. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Jon Olson to approve the Resolution Accepting the Donation from the Fiber Guild for \$227.80 to the Library. Motion carried.

The next item of business was an update on the Law Enforcement Contract between the City of Lake Benton and Lincoln County. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that the Police Committee consisting of the Trustees Jon Olson and Scott Christensen, and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen met with Sheriff Bob Bushman and Deputy Isaiah Wahl on August 28, 2025 to review the law enforcement contract between the City of Lake Benton and Lincoln County. The contract needs to be renewed January 1, 2026. The group worked together on a three year contract with an 8.4% from \$50.74/hour to \$66.00/hour for 1,040 hours in 2026, a 4% increase for 2027 and a 4% increase for 2028. In previous years, the Sheriff's Office contracted for 1,248 hours.

**ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

Appliance pickup is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2025.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

Mayor Patrick Haynes informed the Council he attended the Minnesota Mayors meeting in the Cities last week and networked with several Mayors from southwest Minnesota.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday October 20, 2025 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.

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK