

OCTOBER 7, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth, Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner, Karen Lichtsinn, Curtis Rethwisch, Roger Rudebusch, Jeff DeSmet, 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.

5:30 PM – PUBLIC HEARING TO INTRODUCE CHAPTER 172 NO. 210

Mayor Bob Worth called for a motion to go into the public hearing to introduce Chapter 172 No. 210 – An Ordinance Amending Title XVII, General and Additional Provisions Chapter 172 by Amending Ordinance No. 150 Article VIII. Areas, Yard and Height Requirements – Fences.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to open the public hearing to introduce Chapter 172 No. 210 – An Ordinance Amending Title XVII, General and Additional Provisions Chapter 172 by Amending Ordinance No. 150 Article VIII. Areas, Yard and Height Requirements – Fences. Motion carried.

No citizens were in attendance to give input on the introduction of the ordinance at the public hearing. The Council will need to call for a public hearing to adopt the Ordinance. A notice of the public hearing will be put in the newspaper at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing. The hearing notice can be placed in the October 23rd edition of the Lake Benton Valley Journal for a public hearing to be held at 5:30 PM on November 4, 2019. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to call for a public hearing to adopt Chapter 172 No. 210 – An Ordinance Amending Title XVII, General and Additional Provisions Chapter 172 by Amending Ordinance No. 150 Article VIII. Areas, Yard and Height Requirements – Fences on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 5:30 PM. Motion carried.

5:31 PM – MOTION by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to close the public hearing and return to the regular meeting. Motion carried.

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 September 16, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2019. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of September 26, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 26, 2019. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

LB GROCERY	\$	6.47	OTTERTAIL	\$	2,393.32
ITC	\$	329.76	IVANHOE SERV CTR	\$	3,275.46
USTI	\$	66.44	L-P RURAL WATER	\$	3,921.73
RETHWISCH & SON	\$	442.97	EXPRESSWAY	\$	313.55
GOPHER STATE	\$	6.75	POSTMASTER	\$	114.80
UTILITY CONSULTANTS	\$	278.00	TODD DRAPER	\$	32.00
PAT HAYNES	\$	525.66	MINNESOTA LIFE	\$	5.10

CHAMBER-CVB	\$	605.83	HEIMAN FIRE EQUIP	\$	1,976.50
CORE & MAIN	\$	258.09	GARY NORDMEYER	\$	500.00
BIOAG ENERGY	\$	557.28	MARSHALL INDEPEND	\$	104.00
TROY NORDMEYER	\$	32.00	KYLIE ROCHEL	\$	220.00
BROOKINGS PWRSPRTS	\$	220.00	VERIZON	\$	35.01
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	\$	291.67	BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$	27.95
KIBBLE EQUIPMENT	\$	70.83	STEVE SCHOUVILLER	\$	66.12
AMAZON CAPITAL	\$	443.90	PLUM CREEK LIBRARY	\$	60.48

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 City Administrator/Clerk to make payment.

Two rehab grant checks (Contractor request of \$11,254.00 to John Behnke Construction, and \$450.00 to Scarcely) were presented for payment. The funds have been requested and were deposited into the account. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve payment of the rehab grant checks presented. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on clean-up day for the City. Karen Lichtsinn was in attendance to address the Council to revisit a City wide expanded clean-up that was discussed six months ago. Although the budget did not include additional cost adjustments for this, Karen inquired if the Council has suggestions on how to get opinions from the citizens of the community to see if they would be open to an expanded clean-up program. The Council inquired how to do this without causing hardship to the taxpayers. After a positive discussion on the issue, Karen will reach out to Robert Olson at the Lincoln County Environmental Office to pick-up hazardous items in the spring and fall, and how do we get rid of used lumber and concrete. Karen will report back to the Council after getting information from Robert Olson. Ideas to survey the community included putting something in the Snippets and social media.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner apologized to the Council for not having a written report for the Council, but will have one for the October report. The County Sheriff's office printed a summary of what happened in the City of Lake Benton for August and September. There were 32 service calls in August, and 25 service calls in September. The calls for service will go up in October with our own Police department being on duty again.

Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner introduced himself and thanked the Council for the opportunity to be the Lake Benton part-time Police Chief. Jeff lives 2½ hours from Lake Benton, and although his plan may seem unusual and experimental, he plans to work between 25 to 30 hours a week, and get part-time officers on the roster. Jeff believe he can cost effectively get the hours below the proposals received from the County. Jeff was the Police Chief in Bird Island and stepped down from that position when they contracted with the County and he assisted them in writing the agreement. If the Council decides it is not working out, he will help get whatever they want and/or need. Jeff stated he is hoping to get another eight (8) to ten (10) years of policing and is in it for the long haul. Jeff's intention is to move to Lake Benton either in the City or on the lake. Jeff plans on working three to four days a week with varying hours during the day and night. Jeff is exploring a boarding room or an apartment to stay overnight and is working on interim possible solutions.

Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner is a Professor at NDSU in Fargo and was the Chair of the department which meant he had to be there during business hours. This past summer, Jeff stepped down from the department Chair, and now has structured time to work in Lake Benton and continue his duties at NDSU which consist of service to community, scholarship programs, and advising.

Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner hopes to be very visible and would prefer more visible decals on the squad. Part of being visible is to be out on the street patrolling and visiting businesses. Of course there is something that will need to be done in the office, but interacting and policing is what he will do most often. Jeff will still check e-mails on a regular basis and take care of anything in the City 24/7 no matter where he is. He wants to engage with the community.

Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner is an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and will be willing to assist the First Responders when he is here. Jeff will begin work on finding part-time officers and will work hard to get competent and knowledgeable officers.

There is still a lot of work to be done in the Police office and Jeff will be there at first to clean it. The evidence locker is packed full and is a mess. There are some possible solutions where small cities store evidence at the County Sheriff's Office, but this may not be feasible here.

The Council inquired what is the range of pay to hire a part-time officer and Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner stated when he has an idea of what the Police budget is, he may go up to \$17.00 depending on the going rate. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to authorize Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner to offer up to \$17.00 an hour for a part-time officer. Motion carried.

Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner looks forward to working with everyone and get to know you on a personal basis.

Police Chief Jeff Bumgarner's Minnesota Driver's License is dormant and the Council was requested to grant a temporary waiver of his Minnesota Driver's License until his residence is in Minnesota. Minnesota POST Board does not require a Police Chief/Officer have a Minnesota Driver's License. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to grant the temporary waiver of Jeff Bumgarner's Minnesota Driver's License and revisit this item each year. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

No report.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Event Center kitchen and building. The six-month lease agreement with Ashly Nordmeyer – Sassy Cakes is up effective November 1, 2019. Ashly gave her termination notice on September 30, 2019 and will be relocating her business to the Sioux Falls area. Ashly was a very good tenant and we wish her the best.

Discussion took place if the Council would rent out only the kitchen again, or the kitchen and front area for the potential of a restaurant. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to advertise both ways; one for leasing the kitchen only, and one for leasing the kitchen and front area. Advertise for three weeks in November and bring back completed lease applications at the first meeting in December. Motion carried.

At the August 19, 2019 meeting the Council said they would be open to discussing letting the seniors play cards in the front of the Event Center one day a week for a couple hours at no cost. The Council will revisit this item in December.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Accepting Donations to the Library. The Library received the following donation in memory of Robert Briffett:

- American Legion Henry Sollie Post #10 - \$10.00

The donation will be designated towards Collections. Minnesota Statutes state the Library can accept donations for the benefit of recreational services. The Council needs to pass a resolution accepting the donation to the Library. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations from the American Legion Henry Sollie Post #10 for \$10.00. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on sealed bids for farm land for rent. One bid was received for rental of the City's 160 acres north of town. The bid received on the 130.19 tillable acres was as follows: Tom and Mary Gunnink – \$22,800.00 per year for three years.

A question arose that if the lease is for three years, can the City cancel if a solar farm would be interested in renting the land. It was then stated that if a solar farm were to be built, it would take more than three years to get through the process.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to award the bid to Tom and Mary Gunnink to rent the 160 acres north of town for a period of three years at \$22,800.00 per year. Motion carried. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen requested approval to contact Legal Counsel to draw up the lease between the City and Tom and Mary Gunnink. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen contacting Legal Counsel to draw up the lease between the City and Tom and Mary Gunnink. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The Library Board met last week. With regret, The By the Teens For the Teens group will be disbanding due to not enough teens wanting to participate. Their assets will be donated to the Library and Diner's Club. Every year the Library receives a check for interest from the Endowment Fund and will be purchasing two new shelving units to display more books. Workshops for the month include: October 8 – Jen Anfinson will have a Micro Macramé and a Ring Making program; October 17 – Photographer Doug Ohman will present historical buildings and vanishing landmarks in Minnesota at the Diners Club.

The EDA met a couple weeks ago. One of the entities the EDA loaned money to has been paid back in full, and payments on another loan are up to date through September. There have been interested parties in both the Grocery Store and the Lunch Box Café. Dollar General has contacted us again and inquired of the property the former Ridge is located. It is zoned commercial, has water and sewer, and they were informed the area is in the flood zone.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

No report.

MAYORAL REPORT:

No report.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK