

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

A Special Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 5:00 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Patrick Haynes and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen was also present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter called the Special meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council the owner of the nuisance property called Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and was verbally abusive about not being able to get his certified letter, and before Eileen could explain to him what he needed to do, he hung up the phone.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin work on the 2023 budget for the City of Lake Benton. Included in the Council's packets were changes in payments for the Mork & Giles Infrastructure Project, the proposed funds to be assigned to CDs the end of the year, and the 2023 budget worksheets.

Mayor Michael Carpenter reviewed the proposed funds for the Mork & Giles Infrastructure Project. The bid amounts without contingencies are \$529,482.50, if contingencies are needed, this bid would be increased by \$23,474.13. The original form presented to the Council in April 2022, showed using \$75,000.00 in CDs, but now the City will not need to use them. The total payments made thus far by the City is \$378,761.40, with a balance due of \$150,721.10. The remainder of the balance will be paid for with \$45,000.00 from the Assessment Fund, \$58,000.00 from the TIF Fund, and \$50,000.00 from the General Fund. The Auditors recommended the City attempt to reduce the unassigned funds, so the City will use those funds to pay for the remainder of the project. Although the City is not in the recommended 35% to 50% in unassigned funds, but the City is getting closer. As of September 9, 2022 the City has \$253,410.72 in the General Fund, and approximately \$400,000.00 in the Water and Sewer Funds. Should the final payment be submitted this week to Banner for approval and Banner signs off, this will be approved on Monday evening.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then reminded the Council that the 2023 proposed levy must be certified to the County prior to September 30, 2022, and the final certification will be approved in December 2022. At that time, the City can lower the tax levy but not increase it.

The Council then reviewed the budget numbers that were inserted for Work Comp which was increased approximately \$6,250.00 in the General fund for Thor Tollefson's Work Comp claim which increases the Experienced Modification Rate in 2022, 2023 & 2024. The budget numbers have also been inserted for Liability, Property and Auto insurance which was increased approximately \$4,700.00.

The figures for the City's 2023 LGA of \$259,314.00 was inserted as well as all the numbers in the General, TIF, Fire, Library, Water, Sewer and Garbage Funds. City Administrator Clerk Eileen Christensen worked with the Department Heads, and members of the Chamber-CVB, Parks/Rec, EDA and Historical Society.

Wage increases were entered at 3% for City staff. The health insurance rates were increased 5% from \$861.25/employee per month to \$904.31/employee per month. The City belongs to a pool for health insurance through Southwest West Central Cooperative (SWWC) in which the City receives an annual reimbursement from money held in escrow. This amount was used in 2018 to create a Select Account-HRA fund for the three (3) full-time employees. The Council made a policy to approve a minimum amount of \$50.00 per year/per employee. The Council again agreed to contribute \$1,650.00 to each employee's HSA Account due to the decrease in health insurance premiums and the increased employee's deductible.

The allocations to the EDA (\$7,500.00), Historical Society (\$6,500.00), CVB (\$7,500.00), and Diner's Club (\$1,500.00) remained the same. The Lake Association is requesting \$10,000.00, and I inserted \$4,000.00 which is the same as last year.

The truck fund for the Fire Department was increased from \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 per the Township's request. The Townships are responsible for 67% (\$20,100.00) and the City is responsible for 33% (\$9,900.00).

The 2018 GO Bond (Principal and Interest) from the 2008 USDA Loan has been split 50/50 between the Water and Sewer funds. This was agreed upon by the City Council in 2014.

The Council discussed looking at purchasing a new mower every two years.

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

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK