

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Phillip Schmidt, 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.

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. Phillip Schmidt thanked the Maintenance Department for fixing the light on his street. He was very appreciative for what they did.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2018 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2018. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of September 10, 2018 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 10, 2018. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

OTTERTAIL	\$ 139.79	ITC	\$ 270.03
LEAGUE OF MN CITIES-PC	\$14,088.00	LEAGUE OF MN CITIES-WC	\$ 21,111.00
USTI	\$ 1.28	QUARNSTROM & DOERING	\$ 1,420.20
M & H COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 63.00	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 4,662.65
LB PARTS	\$ 251.49	LB HARDWARE	\$ 226.82
EXPRESSWAY-LB	\$ 543.15	GOPHER STATE	\$ 13.50
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 133.17	POSTMASTER	\$ 119.00
MN WEST COLLEGE	\$ 200.00	CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 464.10
HEIMAN FIRE EQUIP	\$ 91.65	SW SANITATION	\$ 3,745.64
ING & GREG'S REFRIG.	\$ 497.84	CARDMEMBER SERVICES	\$ 3,078.98
ONE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$ 133.13	A & C EXCAVATING	\$ 900.00
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 843.50		

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke 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 the purchase of a new Public Works pick-up. This item was tabled from the September 4, 2018 Council meeting so City staff could get their Fleet Identification Number (FIN Code) to get a discount on the purchase of a new pick-up. The City received their new FIN Code and was able to receive a quote from Midway Ford for a 2019 F-150 4X4 Super Cab-8' Box pickup that totaled \$27,939.992 fully equipped.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council at the previous meeting he had a quote from Nelson Auto Center with a discount through Southwest West Central Cooperative (SWWC). The difference between the two quotes was \$1,800.00. Ford is the only manufacturer that comes with a long box which is what the Maintenance Department needs. Delivery is 90 days and the City has \$8,000.00 in CD's and up to \$25,000.00 in the assigned funds. The City will keep the 2007 pickup. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the purchase of a new 2019 F-150 4X4 Super Cab-8' Box Public Works pick-up for \$27,939.92 from Midway Ford. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council that instead of purchasing the \$1,000.00 of crushed concrete from Double D Gravel for the cemetery roads, he would like to wait until the Harrison Utility Improvement Project is complete as he may be able to get recycled concrete from the project to use on the cemetery roads.

The preconstruction meeting for the Harrison Utility Improvement Project was held on September 5, 2018 and the project will begin October 1, 2018. The project will need to be completed by November 2, 2018.

Appliance pickup is scheduled for September 25, 2018 and an ad will be in the newspaper.

The Council inquired of any updates on the MnDOT State shed. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen will contact MnDOT on getting a completed lease and discuss with them about removing some of the items in the shed. They will give an update at the October 1, 2018 meeting.

The next item of business was to review/act on the funding for the 2018 Summer Rec Program. Jenny Nordmeyer provided the City with the 2018 Summer Park and Rec expenses which totaled \$3,059.17. At the May 21, 2018 Council meeting, the Council made a motion and seconded to wait until the bills have been submitted for the 2018 park and rec program and pay the Lake Benton School a portion of the expenses up to \$1,500.00. Discussion took place on using the pull tab money to increase the amount to the School for the program. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve payment of \$1,500.00 to the Lake Benton Public School for the Summer Rec Program. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the property on 223 Fremont Street. Mayor Bob Worth reminded the Council the property in question was first notified on June 6, 2016 and now it is September 17, 2018 and the nuisance is not taken care of. The City does not let anyone else get away with property nuisances, and needs to be fair with everyone. Two years is a long time and he keeps telling City staff the property will be cleaned up by a certain date and nothing prospers. The City may need to take legal action if this continues. Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl informed the Council he will talk with the owner of the property and report back to the Council at the October 1, 2018 meeting.

The next item of business was to certify the proposed property tax levy and announce the time and place of the public meeting. The certification needs to be done by September 30, 2018. The total levy to be raised by taxes is \$235,966.08 of which \$158,966.08 is allocated to the General Fund and \$77,000.00 is allocated to the USDA-RUS Improvement Fund. It was noted that these amounts can be lowered but not raised at the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing. The proposed budget amounts are as follows: **GENERAL FUND:** Income - \$483,729.08, Expenses - \$746,473.40; **FIRE FUND:** Income - \$80,100.00, Expenses - \$72,608.00; **LIBRARY FUND:** Income - \$49,524.00, Expenses - \$46,683.50; **UTILITY FUND:** (Water, Sewer and Garbage) Income - \$368,682.00, Expenses - \$289,591.50; **USDA-RUS:** Income - \$77,000.00, Expense - \$77,000. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the total proposed 2019 tax levy at \$235,966.08 to include \$158,966.08 allocated to the General Fund and \$77,000.00 allocated to the USDA-RUS Improvement Fund. Motion carried

The Council then needed to announce the date and time of the public meeting for the Truth-In-Taxation. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to hold the Truth-In Taxation public meeting on Monday, December 3, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Heritage Center/City Office. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA Board met last week and discussed the pending sale of Lake Benton Hardware/NAPA and the Lumber Yard. It was suggested the City work with the Chamber to have a welcoming gathering for the five new businesses in town sometime this fall. This is a great opportunity to get to know the new owners and thank them.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – The Opera House did well on their production of “Foot Loose”, and sold out for the Tonic Sol Fa production the end of August. The Opera House is planning to paint the inside of the building after the Christmas program, and have done several improvements to the building at their own expense. The Opera House applied for a SMAC Grant and will find out in the next couple weeks if it gets approved.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council Phil Nasby and Kent Skaar with the DNR will be meeting with Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl, Lake Benton Resort owner Lonnie Willert and Eileen on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the City Office to review the preliminary design for the public water access by Lakeside Park.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council that he, Trustee Dave Enke, Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, EDA Chair Karen Lichtsinn, Ardith Larsen, Sarah Meyer and two representatives from Lutheran Social Services (LSS) will be meeting on Friday, September 21, 2018 at 9:00 AM to discuss senior dining.

Bob then expressed that it is an exciting time in Lake Benton with new businesses and new owners of properties. It is nice to see everything moving forward.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK