

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter, Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, and Kristina Hernandez and Mark Wilmes 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 7, 2021 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2021. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

LEAGUE MN CITIES-INS	\$ 13,485.00	QUARNSTROM/DOERING	\$ 429.00
M & H COMMUNICATION	\$ 63.00	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 7,265.21
EXPRESSWAY	\$ 308.85	RICK'S WELDING	\$ 70.00
GOPHER STATE	\$ 14.85	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 175.83
POSTMASTER	\$ 132.00	S & E AUTO	\$ 86.99
UTILITY CONSULTANTS	\$ 94.37	LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	\$ 938.00
MN LIFT	\$ 5.10	LB PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$ 1,150.00
HEIMAN	\$ 1,235.01	SW SANITATION	\$ 16.44
CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 362.84	LIPINSKI SMALL ENGINE	\$ 208.48
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	\$ 36.18	MUSCH CONSTRUCTION	\$ 616.00
DANNY KROTZER	\$ 240.00	LBVE	\$ 602.49

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl 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 the rehab grant requests and project/budget stipulations. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) require stipulations on grant programs. One of those stipulations states that no City shall exceed a maximum amount of \$35,000.00 in one year (October 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2021) in loan and grant payments while the grant is still open. Since the City of Lake Benton exceeded that amount, DEED is requesting funds be returned back to the program for additional projects. The total amount to be returned to the DSI Escrow Account is \$41,383.40 which covers the following contractor requests for September: \$10,539.00, \$9,662.00, \$10,357.40 and \$10,825.00.

The City encountered additional funds from businesses that closed and repaid their deferred and grant loans (Resort/Howard Petersen - \$31,200), houses that sold prior to the ten year limit on their grant (Kern - \$1,720), and others that paid off their loan earlier than the 2024 deadline (Crystal Springs - \$2,620). **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the payment of \$41,383.40 to the DSI Escrow Account to pay the contractors for services rendered. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Council reviewed the August law enforcement update. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the August Law Enforcement Update. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Lincoln County Environmental Office installing cameras on the Fire Hall. Dustin Hauschild with the Lincoln County Environmental Office contacted Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen requesting her to get Council approval for the Environmental Office to install cameras on the Fire Hall to oversee the out-of-town dumpster area on the north side of the Fire Hall.

Dustin stated there will be no cost to the City; however, they need access to the City's Wi-Fi. They are planning to install up to four cameras with one being placed above the outside door of the Fire Department's meeting room. They will also need to store the memory box in the Fire Department's bay area.

Danny Krotzer will assist them in configuring the cameras and the Wi-Fi, and the Environmental Office will pay him directly. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the installation of up to four cameras by Lincoln County Environmental Office to be placed on the outside on the north side of the Fire Hall at no cost to the City of Lake Benton, and have access to the City's Wi-Fi. Motion carried.

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, 2021. It was noted that these amounts can be lowered but not raised at the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing. Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council if the Council proposes a 0% increase, the budget will show a \$2,706.00 deficit. Should the Council propose a 2% increase the budget will show a positive balance of \$892.00. Mayor Michael Carpenter then reminded the Council they will have an opportunity to decrease the tax levy, but not increase it at the first meeting in December when they certify the property tax levy at the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing. The total levy to be raised by taxes with a 2% increase is \$260,477.00 of which \$183,477.00 is allocated to the General Fund and \$77,000.00 is allocated to the USDA-RUS Improvement Fund. The proposed budget amounts are as follows: **GENERAL FUND:** Income - \$509,580.00, Expenses - \$508,688.00; **FIRE FUND:** Income - \$81,100.00, Expenses - \$78,668.00; **LIBRARY FUND:** Income - \$52,024.00, Expenses - \$50,671.00; **UTILITY FUND:** (Water, Sewer and Garbage) Income - \$340,135.00, Expenses - \$341,440.00; **USDA-RUS:** Income - \$77,000.00, Expense - \$77,000. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to approve the total proposed 2022 tax levy of 2% increase at \$260,477.00 to include \$183,477.00 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 Mark Dunn to hold the Truth-In Taxation public meeting on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last week. The Diner's Club \$3.00 meal will be a Thanksgiving meal and is scheduled for November 22, 2021 at the Manor. The sign in front of the Heritage Center is being completed and is scheduled to be installed this fall or next spring. The School event served 175 meals which was down from previous years. The Chamber is working with the Legion and the Historical Society for the Traveling World War I exhibit coming next month. The Chamber is starting work on the new Visitor's Guide and will be a two-year subscription.

Trustee Mark Dunn – The Fire Department is hosting an open house on September 25, 2021 at 5:00 PM to display the vintage truck and serve pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, and pop.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA met on September 8 and Trustee Dave Enke thanked the Council for working with the EDA to exchange the lots for the EDA to build duplexes. The board received another presentation from a General Contractor to build the duplexes. The board will now need to decide on selecting a developer and construction manager for the project, as well as discuss financing and bonding. The delineation report for the wetland in the Johnson Commercial Park was completed and the report was shared with the prospective tenants. At this time, there are no infrastructure needs. The next EDA meeting could be a special meeting to address the duplex issue.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – A resident contacted Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl regarding the brush piled in their neighbor’s back yard.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the committee reports. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen received an e-mail from Infants Remembered in Silence, Inc. requesting the Council adopt a resolution endorsing October 15, 2021 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to adopt the resolution endorsing October 15, 2021 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Motion carried.

The proficiency test for the archery hunt was a success. All the shooters passed with a score of 70 or higher. The comments were well received and everyone was very satisfied with the test.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council that a citizen contacted him about bicycles being ridden on the sidewalks. A customer was leaving their facility and some kids quickly rode by on their bicycles almost hitting the customer. 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. The Mayor informed the citizen the Council will look into this matter, and this item will be addressed at the next meeting on whether to post signs and/or change the ordinance.

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.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK