

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Patrick Haynes presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Karen Lichtsinn, Jon Olson, and Scott Christensen were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen and Lisa Willert 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 August 18, 2025 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Karen Lichtsinn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2025. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

OTTERTAIL	\$ 2,442.07	ITC	\$ 400.99
LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	\$ 7,516.00	QUARNSTROM-DOERING	\$ 686.25
WYATT-JABIEL KUIPER	\$ 5,500.00	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 13.98
UTILITY CONSULTANTS	\$ 182.06	TRAVIS LUSTFIELD	\$ 32.00
PAT HAYNES	\$ 250.00	MN LIFE	\$ 4.80
LINCOLN CTY RECORDER	\$ 46.00	LINCOLN CTY RECORDER	\$ 46.00
BIOAG ENERGY	\$ 623.29	TROY NORDMEYER	\$ 32.00
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	\$ 874.53	BUCK'S PARKING LINES	\$ 4,936.00
CENTER POINT	\$ 51.54	DANNY/MEGAN KROTZER	\$ 250.00

MOTION by Rosie DeZeeuw, 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 the water service connection fee increase. The City recently received a notice from the Minnesota Department of Health regarding the service connection fee increase effective January 1, 2026. The testing fee will increase from \$9.72 per household (\$0.81/month) to \$15.22 per household (\$1.27/month). Revenue from this fee is used to fund activities of MDH's Drinking Water Protection Program related to maintaining compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and protecting the health of all Minnesotans.

The Minnesota Department of Health is notifying the cities now so they can account for the change in their annual budget planning and notify residents accordingly. This fee has not changed since 2020. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the water service connection fee increase per household from \$0.81 a month to \$1.27 a month effective January 1, 2026. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on Housing Plans in the Mork & Giles Addition. Realtor Lisa Willert provided the housing pictures and plans for two new homes to be constructed in the Mork & Giles Addition. The Ordinance states the structures must not be less than 1200 square feet. The 46' x 27' structure is what the Konda's would like to build, and the other set of plans is for a potential buyer to purchase two lots.

MOTION by Jon Olson, seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the housing plans for the two new homes to be constructed in the Mork and Giles Addition. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that she received an email from Melissa Hjelle at MnDOT that she would like to use the Event Center for an open house on Thursday, October 2, 2025 from 4:00-6:00 PM. The open house will focus on sharing tree planting information with the community as part of the Highway 75 project.

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen then handed each of the Council members a copy of the proposed 2026 budget to review prior to approving the proposed property tax levy at the next meeting of September 15, 2025. Should the Council have questions, etc., please direct them to the City Administrator/Clerk.

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

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Patrick Haynes informed the Council that a new outside door is needed on the north side of the Event Center. Maintenance Supervisor Travis Lustfield attempted to seal the door with no luck. Travis contacted Gary Nordmeyer about replacing the door with glass in the door and along the side and estimated the cost to be \$5,000.00. **MOTION** by Scott Christensen, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the purchase of a new door, materials and labor not to exceed \$5,000.00. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday September 15, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Scott Christensen, seconded by Jon Olson and carried, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK