

**LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES • CITY HALL
October 10, 2023 • 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM October 10, 2023.
- Present: Mayor L. Sik, D. Knutson, D. Irlbeck, L. Pfarr, L. Bittner
- Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, J. Thram, A. Vogel
- Others in Attendance: Jadell Morales, Jodie Geske, Thomas Anderson, Julie Senst, Randy Hammerschmidt, Marcheie Walz, Robert Stoppel, Taylor Williamson, Dominic Sweetman, Shannon Sweetman, Don Williamson, Kathleen Foss, Alicia Vogel, Ilea Wegley, Dianna Busch

A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

1. Amended Agenda

- a. Add Bollig Engineering under General Business
- b. Add Jodie Geske under Citizen Complaints
- c. Add Sue Imker – Citizen Complaints
- d. Add Kathy Foss – Citizen Complaints
- e. Add RCA - ISG – Contract for existing school site under Request for council action
- f. Council Information – UCAP Summary

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to approve the agenda as amended.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes (can all be done in one motion)

- 1. 8-30-2023 EDA Meeting Minutes
- 2. 9-11-2023 Regular CC Minutes
- 3. 9-18-2023 CC Work Session Minutes

Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve the minutes as listed.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A.** Bollig Engineering – Scott Kuhlman was present to update the council. The USDA-RD application review comments were received and Bollig has responded to those comments. Scott asked if the City would be interested in Bollig helping the City advertise the Industrial Park lots and try to help find interested developers. Federal EDA Disaster grant opportunity for drinking water supply is being worked on. This would be 80/20 money – meaning the city would be responsible for 20% of the cost. There is some survey work that needs to be done with the natural gas lines that run along the industrial park. The railroad requires an independent geotechnical engineering review for a permit to cross under the railroad tracks. Kuhlman included the proposal from CHA for \$7,000. Grove Street plans are complete. Kuhlman will do the final review and waiting for a funding source. Local Road Improvement Program grant application is being submitted for work on 1st Ave E & W. This funding is specific for roads that connect to a county road system, connects to a 10-ton road, and part of Lamberton's local economic system. The work would check all those boxes. It is a competitive grant. The county would be the administer the funding so the City would have to pass a resolution to apply for the funding.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve Resolution 2023-32 for the 2023 LRIP funding from MnDOT for Construction of City Street Improvement Project.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to approve the proposal from CHA for a geotechnical review.

B. Petitions, Request, Communications

1. Citizen Complaints & Concerns

- a. Jodie Geske was present regarding the corner by her house. There was construction on that corner in May and the grass was never seeded in. Geske made several attempts with the City to have the issue resolved. Geske is frustrated with the lack of response and the work not getting done.
- b. Matt Lenning – Truck Parking on 9th & Birch – Not present.
- c. Elaine Frank –written complaint submitted about the cutting of library hours.
- d. Edie Coulter –written complaint submitted about the cutting of library hours.
- e. Sue Imker –written complaint submitted about the cutting of library hours.
- f. Kathy Foss -submitted a written complaint on a variety of topics. Kathy questioned the council on the industrial park, library, swimming pool and CO emissions from the ethanol plant.

Tom Anderson questioned the council about the proposed cut in library hours. Mayor Sik explained to save money the Levy for the Library has almost doubled in the last 10 years. Anderson stated he does not feel it is about money.

Anderson complained about snow removal and placement of snow. Anderson expressed he does not feel the police car should not be accosting residents. Anderson questioned why the police would be in town at different hours of the day and night. Halter explained she does not know when the police is called to town. Mayor Sik proceeded to instruct Anderson to submit his complaints in writing and that the meeting was going to proceed.

Julie Senst stated that Alicia does nothing but good for the library and feels the hours should be expanded not cut. Senst commented that the Library and the pool are the only things to attract a young family. Senst commented on the money that has been spent on the industrial park. Senst feels there is plenty of money that is being spent.

Diana Busch commented the library is the only lifeline in the community and does not feel cuts should be made with the library.

Mayor Sik stated that he was glad to have people at the meeting. Mayor Sik stated no one has said Alicia is doing a bad job. Cuts to the library hours was discussed at the work session. The council asked the Library Board to come up with some other ideas. The Library isn't the only place that there has been cuts.

Jadell Morales stated she agreed with those in support of the library.

2. Building/Zoning Permit Requests

- a. 2023-13 – Robert Serreyn – 204 2nd Ave W - Carport Construction

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to approve building permit 2023-13.

3. Request for Council Action

- a. RCA – Chad Stavnes Water Main Repair Bill – Chad Stavnes' rental house had a water leak. When they dug it up the line is shared with the house next to it. They repaired their line and fixed the shared line so they are each on their own line like it should be. The bill from Dray Line does not split out the repair per property. Halter has left a message with Dray Line to see if we can get a bill for the part that fixed the problem but has not received anything. Council discussion would like to see an itemized bill and find out if it can be placed on that property owner's taxes for payment. No action taken until further information is obtained.

- b. RCA – Call Swimming Pool Meeting – The Council has had many conversations in work sessions about the swimming pool, the cost, the value, the importance to the community. The Council would like to have a public meeting to get feedback from the community about the pool. Senst asked if the amount of money spent on the Industrial Park lots over the past two years could be presented at the meeting. Mayor Sik said those numbers can be found in the packets or can be requested. Halter explained that the money that is being spent on the Industrial Park is money left over from a street project. The City had to go through arbitration with those funds. The City must spend that money on other street projects in the community or would be penalized. All the expenses thus far are acceptable expenses for those funds. Mayor Sik stated at the Pool meeting they want to keep it just on the topic of the pool. The loss on the pool this year is in the range of \$55,000. Walz asked if there has ever been a public meeting about the Industrial Park. Mayor Sik said no, but there is a monthly EDA meeting that is open to the public. Halter stated that what gets lost in the discussion is what is going on with the property taxes and what we can do to lessen that burden. People complain about the southside addition lots not being sold. Halter stated it is hard for someone to build a house knowing their property taxes will be \$10,000 a year. Walz stated she doesn't believe there are companies that want to build here.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to public hold a public meeting on the swimming pool on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Community Center.

- c. RCA – Lamberton Commercial Club has sent information about being members. We have been members in the past.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/Sik Abstained 4/0) to be a member of the Commercial Club.

- d. RCA – Add a 4M Account Under the City of Lamberton for EDA Funds – The Lamberton EDA is reorganizing the funds they had in CDs. They would like to move part of that money over to a 4M account. The new account would be under the City of Lamberton because the EDA does not have their own Tax ID number.

Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to allow an EDA 4M account to be established under the City's accounts.

- e. RCA – Fire Contracts – The current rate is \$275/section. Chief Neperman would like it raised to \$300/per section to start saving for a fire truck replacement.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to set the 2024 Fire Rate at \$300/section.

- f. RCA – Garbage Contracts – Representatives from both South-Central Sanitation and Sweetman Sanitation were present and spoke. Halter collected data requested by the council at the work session. Halter stated she felt that everything is working the way it is and doesn't see a need for change. Discussion was held on trucks, size of containers, billing, drive-by fee, and customer service.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to sign a contract with West Central Sanitation for garbage pick-up service.

- g. RCA – Animal Ordinance – During the last work session the council went through the ordinances that dealt with animals and updated the areas that needed to be. The next step will have the City Attorney review the ordinance and then the council can go through the process to adopt the ordinance. Halter did call the Redwood Falls Animal Shelter. They are moving to a monthly contract fee to take animals from cities. They do not accept feral cats. They are open to negotiating a monthly fee if we are interested. Geske asked if there are any major changes pet owners need to be aware of. Halter stated the cats will need to be on leashes if outdoors and the max number of dogs and or cats allowed will be 5. Otherwise it was more organization – putting all ordinances that deal with animals under one.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to send the updated Animal Ordinance to Matt Novak for review.

- h. RCA – Utility Charge for Future Improvements – Halter explained at the Senate Capital Improvement Tour it was suggested the City charge a fee on their monthly utility bills for future improvements. Halter stated that no decision needs to be made this evening, but the council needs to start thinking about it. Discussion was held. Council member Pfarr would like to hear the opinion of residents on the matter.
- i. RCA – ISG – Contract for Existing School Site – ISG has submitted a contract to do the work needed to give the city an idea of what it would cost to redevelop the current school campus – keeping the elementary wing and the gym wing. Halter stated the only thing missing from the contract that she wanted to see was for them to give the estimated costs to maintain the buildings. The contract cost is \$28,000 and would be covered by the planning grant that the City of Lamberton was awarded.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to set accept the proposal from ISG.

C. Department Reports

1. Library – Alicia Vogel was present and read a statement about her feelings of the proposed cutting of library hours. Vogel stated she would like the Council to fight as hard for the Library as it has to keep the pool and other departments. Vogel brought the subject to the Library Board and the Friends of the Library. They agreed to fundraise. Council member Bittner stated that the council looked at what libraries of our size do not have open service hours of 40. Council member Knutson stated it was nice to see all the support for the Library. Mayor Sik stated again no one is saying Vogel is doing a bad job. Council member Bittner went over the thoughts she had when reading the report submitted by Vogel for the council pack. Bittner encouraged Vogel to do more advertising and promotion of services available from or at the Library. Bittner also encouraged to alter things to serve more people – like shifted hours on dance nights.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to accept the Library report.

2. Ambulance Department – No report submitted. Halter did state that we have been notified we have time to submit the reports needed so that we do not take a hit on our Medicare reimbursements.
3. Fire Department – No report submitted.
4. Police Department – No report submitted.
5. Maintenance Department – Thram was present. Council and Thram discussed a couple of the complaints from the evening. Thram did receive a quote for fixing the board at the water plant from the lightening hit. The quote is \$62,000 and has been given to insurance. Thram is waiting to hear from insurance to see what the next steps are. Thram let the council know that the water that comes out the side of the building is because of this problem. They have to turn the water on manually and sometimes it gets full before they are back to shut it off. They have been working on winterizing the pool. The City Park and Kuhar will get winterized in the next couple weeks. Thram plans to rip out the stumps and get the trees planted by the camp spots. Halter stated with the EDA Disaster grant, we will include the water board in that as well because it can be used towards our matching funds even though insurance pays for it.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to accept the Maintenance report.

6. Administration/EDA Department – Halter submitted a printout of activities. Bittner asked about feed back from the Senate Capital Investment visit. Halter stated no she has not but plans to send them thank yous and put something in the paper.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to accept the Administration EDA report.

D. Ordinances and Resolutions (can all be done in one motion)

1. 2023-29 - Resolution Adopting the Fire Department Relief Association By-Laws
a. Also attached for council information is the Fire Dept Rules & Procedures 10-2023
2. 2023-30 - Resolution Accepting Liability Coverage Limits from LMC

3. 2023-31 - Resolution Accepting Donations to the City of Lamberton

Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to accept the Resolutions 2023-29, 2023-30, and 2023-31.

E. Financial Report & Approval of Claims

1. September 2023 Financial Report

2. Approval of Claims

Motion/Second/ Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Financial Report & Approval of Claims.

4. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A. Information for Council

1. UCAP project updates was submitted in the council pack.

5. NEXT MEETING DATES

A. Swimming Pool Meeting November 6, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Community Center

B. November 13, 2023 **Valerie will be out of the office ½ day on 11-9 and all day 11-10 – so packet information needs to be to her by 11-8-2023 possible.**

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie Halter
Clerk



Lydell Sik
Mayor

6

Attendance at 10-10-23 City Council Meeting:

Jadell Morales

Jodie Gesty

Thomas Anderson

Julie Lenet

Randy Hammett

Michelle Way

Robert Stoppel

Taylor Williamson

Don Sand

Shannon Sweetman

Ray Sweetman

Jon Sweetman

Don Williamson

Kathleen Foss

Alicia Vogel

Ilea Wegley

Deanna Busch

Justin Thuan