

**LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES • CITY HALL**  
**October 15, 2024 • 6:30 P.M.**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES**

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM October 15, 2024.
  - Present: Mayor L. Sik, D. Irlbeck, D. Knutson, L. Pfarr, L. Bittner (arrived late)
  - Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, J. Thram
  - Others Present: Nate Erickson
- A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

***Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Pfarr/unanimous 4/0) to approve the agenda as presented.***

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes (can all be done in one motion)
1. 9-9-2024 City Council Regular Meeting
  2. 9-23-24 City Council Special Meeting

***Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Pfarr/unanimous 4/0) to approve the minutes as listed.***

**3. GENERAL BUSINESS**

A. Petitions, Request, Communications

1. Citizen Complaints & Concerns - None
2. Building/Zoning Permit Requests - None
3. Request for Council Action

- a. RCA – Fire Relief Association – Nate Erickson was present to talk about changes in language in the Fire Relief Association by-laws and the benefit amount for pay-out at the time of retirement. The account has a high balance and the association needs to show the money will go back to the members instead of staying in the account. Erickson gave the council a sheet that showed proposed benefit levels and what it does to the account balance. The account is protected against loss, but if for some reason the account is not able to cover benefits, the City would be liable to make up the difference. Mayor Sik reiterated that these funds are for the Fire Relief Association and not the Fire Department.

***Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Irlbeck/Passed 3/0 with Pfarr Abstained/Bittner Absent) to approve the by-law language changes presented and to raise the pension benefit amount to \$1750 for each year of service.***

- b. RCA – Commercial Club – The Commercial Club membership was discussed.

***Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 4/0) to approve joining the Commercial Club at the Small Business Rate of \$50 per year.***

- c. RCA – Liability Waiver – Annual requirement to choose whether or not to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability.

***Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Pfarr/unanimous 4/0) to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.***

- d. RCA – Personnel Policy – Halter explained that during the work sessions it had been discussed changing the vacation accrual schedule. Halter presented examples of other cities of similar size and proposed ideas. Discussion was held and different ideas presented. Discussion tabled until Bittner present. Council returned to discussion. Item tabled until next month. Mayor Sik asked council members to bring their ideas and suggestions to next month's meeting.

- e. RCA – Cannabis Regulation – Redwood County is asking if the city would like them to be responsible for the registration of cannabis businesses in the city. Discussion held. The city does need to get ordinances in place if they keep it local.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 4/0) to keep cannabis registration authority to the City of Lamberton.**

- f. RCA – Redwood County Police Coverage – Sheriff Jacobson contacted Chief Walker letting him know there was a mistake in the rates he sent over with the contract for police coverage. The annual rate would be \$156,000. Discussion held.
- g. RCA – Hire Part-Time Police – Derick Determan is a Red Rock Central graduate that is licensed for law enforcement. Determan has agreed to help us out when he can. Chief Walker did the required background check, uniform and badge ordered. Rate of hire will be at Grade 5 Step 8 \$25.22/hour.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to hire Derick Determan as a part-time police officer at Grade 5 Step 8.**

- h. RCA – CSO Resignation – Kelly Birkemeyer has resigned as the the Community Service Officer. Chief Walker has been doing the follow-up on the cases they started.  
**Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to accept the resignation of Kelly Birkemeyer as CSO.**
- i. RCA – Ambulance Resignations – Halter explained that there has been complaints amongst the crew members regarding the schedule, the differentiation between regulars and casuals. Halter and Assistant Director Vollmer addressed the crew at the monthly meeting. Some members were happy, others were not. Halter stated she feels part of the issue is that there are no policies in place to have structure. Halter gave Birkemeyer and Vollmer a sample of a policy book that needs to be tweaked to be what we need it to be. Discussion was held.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to accept the resignations of Marissa Brown Wahl and Amber Wolmutt from the Lamberton Ambulance Service.**

- j. RCA – Child Care Grant- The MN Department of DEED is offering a Childcare development grant. It would be a 50/50 grant requiring a 50% match to grant funds awarded. Halter explained that because the lack of housing and commercial space to create a childcare space. With this grant Halter would like to place a modular house on the city owned lot located on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Fir and then rent it out to a new childcare provider. The 50% match can be in-kind labor, supplies or cash donations. Halter has already begun getting donations, but is asking the city to pledge \$25,000 towards the project. The grant is due October 31, 2024. Discussion was held. Council questioned costs, taxes, and rental rates.

**Motion/Second/Pass Knutson/Irlbeck/Bittner voting Against 4/1) to support the childcare grant application offered by MN DEED along with a pledge of \$25,000.**

B. Department Reports

1. Library – none submitted. Halter had a meeting with the auditors to make sure what they would want to see.
2. Ambulance Department – None submitted.
3. Fire Department – None submitted. Council member Pfarr requested that there be reports in person or in writing every month from each department.
4. Police Department – None submitted.
5. Maintenance Department – Thram was approached by Jeremy Waknitz – he is willing to put out traps and check them. Discussion was held. Thram will purchase traps and the public works department will check daily. Bollig is putting in a grant application and are looking for a project within Lamberton that has water and sewer lines that can be included. Discussion was held. Council suggested Hemlock, Grove and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave from the CO RD to Grove –and beyond if needed.  
**Motion/Second/Pass Irlbeck/Knutson/(unanimous 5/0) to approve the maintenance report.**
6. Administration/EDA Department – Report submitted. Council questioned the clinic. Halter explained the clinic has requested we have the 3-phase electrical service removed so that their electrical rates are not at a higher rate. The clinic reps were taken back by us wanted to raise the rent and requesting they are responsible for more. Discussion held.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Administration/EDA report.**

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

1. 2024-17 – Resolution Authorizing Child Care Development Grant – passed during RCA discussion.

D. Financial Report & Approval of Claims

1. October 2024 Financial Report
2. Approval of Claims

***Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Financial Report and Approval of Claims.***

#### **4. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS**

##### A. Information for Council

1. LRIP – was not funded for this year, so we will not be able to apply for it.
2. SW Regional Trail Plan – Also see: <https://www.swrdc.org/regional-trails/>
3. Bidding on Forfeited Property – Halter verified that the city will be able to bid on the property if they so choose.
4. League Membership Dues – notice has been given that their rates will be raising.
5. The lobbyist reached out and Halter explained the council's desire to wait they then decided they would rescind their contract proposal.

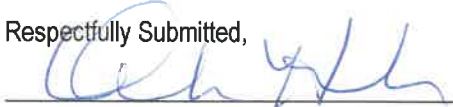
#### **5. NEXT MEETING DATES**

- A. Regular Council Meeting November 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM (Tuesday because of Veterans Day)

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie Halter  
Clerk



Lydell Sik  
Mayor