

LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES • CITY HALL
October 27, 2025 • 5:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

- Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM October 27, 2025.
- Present: Mayor L. Sik, L. Bittner, D. Irlbeck, A. Cairns, L. Pfarr
- Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, A. Vogel
- Others in Attendance: Susan Beranek, Library Board

A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Cairns/unanimous 5/0) to approve the agenda as given.

2. WORK SESSION

Library Budget Presentation – Vogel handed out an updated budget request. She stated she is hoping that the \$12,000 she is requesting for new shelves could be done over 5 years so money can be set aside. The shelves needing to be replaced are wire ones that are damaging the books. The cost is \$4,000 a shelf and Vogel would like four total. Halter stated there is \$6,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund. \$1,000 is set aside yearly for the Library. Discussion was held. Library Fees on the Fee Schedule was discussed.

Discussion was held on the process of going through the budget. Halter's numbers were questioned salary amounts placed in the budget sheets. Other numbers questioned. Halter ran other reports and found the report used was not accurate.

Capital Improvement fund balances were presented to the council. Halter would like to allocate the \$70,000 a little differently to the accounts. \$70,000 comes from property taxes and \$55,000 comes from the enterprise funds for \$125,000 total.

Chief Determan was present and discussed his equipment needs. The camera system in the squad is out of date. The taser gun is no longer made and will be phased out. We do not have a back-up squad so if a new squad was purchased the old squad would be kept for back-up. If a new squad was purchased it would need additional equipment to outfit it. Chief Determan had pricing on several different squads. Discussion was held.

Halter went over what has been identified as possible capital expenditures in the near future. The white pickup has engine issues and will need to be replaced. There was talk of a side by side to be used for spraying. Thram has suggested to get something like a tool cat instead because it would have more uses. Halter is working on getting state bid pricing from the dealers.

Halter asked Mindi Hesse what things are needed for the pool. Hesse gave her a few items that include chairs and umbrellas for the lifeguards, a CPR sign and some life savers for roughly \$2,000 all together.

Discussion was held.

2026 budget questions. Halter answered questions. Bittner stated that in the HR Committee's meeting with Matt Novak, they talked about wages and outside wage studies. Cairns compared wages over the last few years and questioned increases. Cairns question employee's health benefit pay out.

Halter explained that Kelsi Holman has tendered her resignation. Halter stated the council needs to decide if we will replace this position or not. Mittelstadt will be responsible for the Ambulance/police building, Halter and Vollmer will be responsible for the City Hall building, and Vogel will be responsible for the Library/Community Center. Halter stated she did not think it was fair for Vogel to have to worry about the community center on weekends that there

are back to back events. Halter questioned if the city should look at an independent cleaner that we could call in as needed and then also be called in 1-2 times a year for a deep cleaning.

Going through the street budget Halter stated that Thram will be leaving the city and the street budget will go lopsided next year because Thram fixes so much on his own and we will now likely have to outsource.

Cairns questioned the legality of paying an EDA employee. Mayor Sik said that you cannot pay the board members, but you can have an employee. Cairns stated she will check with Matt to see if she is reading the statute correctly.

Bittner stated in the HR meeting with Matt, they discussed the library position. Questioning if we have a Library Director or a Library Technician based on qualifications. Matt stated what is being done here vs other places with Library Directors are we actually lining up duties actually being done to the job description. Matt will be drafting up suggested changes. Bittner and Irlbeck toured the Wabasso library after their meeting with Matt. Discussion was held.

Mayor Sik stated his stand on taxes and the levy. He stated that in general preliminary levy is set and the city cannot go above that. When the city did the last street project property taxes went up 49% because the city paid for it all through bonds. That meant Lamberton went from one of the lowest property taxed cities in the county to one of the highest. Sik's philosophy is to limit the levy growth and let other towns catch up to Lamberton. Sik feels comfortable doing this because we have such a healthy reserve and general fund. Halter stated that it's hard because the only way to lower property taxes is to cut expenses and or add to the tax base. But it's hard to add to the tax base when your property taxes are so high. Lamberton is stuck because of it.

The proposed fee schedule was discussed. Halter reached out to the ambulance billing company for what rates they are seeing for each service. Other fees discussed.

Halter questioned the council on the use of vacation after a resignation is submitted. Exempt employees are required to give a 30 day notice.

Proposed 2026 wage schedule presented. Performance review structure was developed and will be followed for this year and will be added to the Personnel Policy.

New Mn Family Leave – Halter has it budgeted that the city pays the required .44% and the employee pays the other .44%.

3. NEXT MEETING DATES

- A. Regular Council Meeting November 10, 2025 at 6:30 PM

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Cairns/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Valerie Halter
Clerk


Lydell Sik

Lamberton City Council
Work Session Date: 10-27-2025
Official Record of Attendees

Name - Printed	
1	Karen Beranek
2	Alice Vosh
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