

LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES • COMMUNITY CENTER
November 6, 2023 • 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM November 6, 2023.
- Present: Mayor L. Sik, D. Knutson, D. Irlbeck, L. Pfarr, L. Bittner
- Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, J. Thram, K. Vollmer
- Others in Attendance: 39 People Signed in (see attached list)

A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

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

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Opening Statements from Mayor Sik – Mayor Sik stated the council has not decided anything on the swimming pool. Each year the council looks at the budget for the coming year and looks at what has been spent the previous year to set the budget. The council asks themselves is this what the community wants. The council wants community input and direction with the swimming pool. Mayor Sik stated that after Clerk Halter's presentation, each person will have 3 minutes to make a statement. Mayor Sik also thanked the people for coming. Halter stated that part of the meeting is also discussing what the future plans should be because we know the pool will not last forever.
- B. Informational Power Point from Clerk Halter – Halter started with a brief history of the pool's beginning. The efforts to start the pool began in 1964. There was a board of 12 people made up of city residents and residents from each of the surrounding townships. The cost to build the pool was \$40,000. Halter then went to explain why we are talking about the pool now. The pool was built with a life expectancy of 30 years. We are 27 years past that now. Originally the City and the school split the cost of the school. The school no longer could justify the expense of the pool and gave it to the City. Rising costs of operating the pool.

The next topic explained is who pays for the pool. The pool is subsidized by those who live in the City of Lamberton and pay property taxes to the City of Lamberton. The City does not receive funds from surrounding townships or communities whose residents use the pool. People using the pool and paying admission and lesson fees and donations also help pay for the pool. Halter displayed the expenses and revenues of the pool since 2016. The yearly loss ranges from \$32,862.49 to \$66,166.24. The expenses do not include the wages for the street department personnel and the time they spend getting the pool ready, fixing and daily maintenance. It is estimated \$5,000-\$10,000 a year could be added for that expense. There is \$45,000 in a Capital Improvement Fund for the pool. Halter gave the estimated loss per day open and the estimated loss per admission.

Admission counts were reviewed from 2011 to 2023. Around 3,200 admissions can be considered and average year. The attendance the first year of the pool was 12,400 people. Halter received demographic information from the state for the pool aged children. Over the past 50 years children aged 0-14 has stayed relatively the same. Halter reviewed where users of the pool are coming from. There are more non-residents who use the pool for lessons. The non-residents are mainly from rural Lamberton, Sanborn, Wabasso and Revere.

A history of the repairs made on the pool was reviewed. Repairs are done as needed. The repairs needed were reviewed. This includes new media in the water filter and the decking in the pool area. Water usage indicates there is a leak. This year we used 914,512 gallons were used. Up 400,000 gallons from last year. It is felt that the leak is by the cold joint seam between the deep end and the rest of the pool.

Halter reached out to ISG for three pool projects they have worked on as examples. Those examples were shared. The splash pad example was \$475,000; the aquatic park was \$3.5 million and the zero-entry pool with no bathhouse was \$1.3 million at the time of construction.

Halter ended the presentation with things to think about. The City cannot fundraise. An outside group will need to spearhead the effort to develop a plan and raise funds for a new pool. Even with a new pool the city will lose money because of the operating and maintenance costs. The City continues to work on increasing the tax base to lessen the property tax burdens. The city has cut many department budgets over the years and is running out of options.

- C. Citizen Input and Questions – Mayor Sik invited each person to give a 3-minute statement. Statements included: it is an asset to the community, it employs youth, we need to invest in it, past fundraising asked neighboring communities, must have lesson dates ready to go even if you do not have an opening date, should encourage kids to go more often, if we lose it – we won't get it back, attendance decrease factor is people having their own pool and parents not around to bring them, fundraisers the last couple years have not generated much, it is a positive thing for the children, parks and the pool is a public service like water and sewer, we need places for the kids to go and play, need to focus on things for younger families, property taxes are high, a plan should be created, it is a service that babies to elderly can use, we need to look at the water usage – that water is gone.

Thram reiterated the fact that we will still lose money as a city because of the operating and maintenance costs. That will not go down with a new facility. Thram also stated that there are not any companies willing to work on older pools – especially outstate. The City knew there were problems when the pool closed the summer of 2022 that needed to be repaired the spring of 2023, the extent of the repairs and time needed to make them was unknown.

Mayor Sik stated the consensus is that the City will keep fixing the pool. Mayor Sik then asked the question, do we keep the old pool, and do we want to work on a new pool? Comments made included: we need to have a goal date for raising money and new pool, you can always fix the old pool, at what point do you stop putting money into the old pool, good idea to start a pool committee, a pool was a top three priority at the community meeting in June, the Lamberton Foundation may be of assistance, a plan needs to be established.

Mayor Sik talked about funding options like the local option sales tax. The state has put a moratorium on that option at this point. Sik mention selling bonds to cover the cost but raise taxes and asked how many would vote for that. Discussion was held. Mayor Sik again thanked the group for coming and for the good feedback.

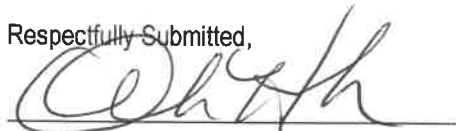
3. NEXT MEETING DATES

- A. November 13, 2023 – 6:30 PM Regular Council Meeting – City Hall

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie Halter
Clerk



Lydell Sik
Mayor

**City of Lambertton Special Countil Meeting
November 6, 2023 6:30PM - Lambertton Community Center**

	Name
1	Kipper Kramin
2	Stephen Martenson
3	Alicia Vogel
4	Justin Thram
5	Stephen
6	Julie Smith
7	Julie Vollmer
8	Samuel H. H.
9	Chris Stencel
10	Jenny Haines
11	Megan Inker
12	Arber Bergemann
13	Trudi Finko
14	Christy Thram
15	Maude Way
16	Shari Keper
17	Matt Lennings
18	Heidi Sarne
19	Virginia Waldsiff
20	Jose Bittner

City of Lambertton Special Countil Meeting
November 6, 2023 6:30PM - Lambertton Community Center

	Name
1	Greg Benedict
2	Perry Snyder
3	Brian Benedict
4	hym Pfarr
5	Barbara J. Laguer
6	Jennie Steen
7	Michelle Anderson
8	Dub Pack
9	Sue Inker
10	Ron Helsay
11	Guerr Batardo
12	Tesa Verniges
13	John John
14	Paul Miller
15	L. H. S.
16	Jonathan Stum
17	Eric Bortolotto
18	Gill Decker
19	Steve Stum
20	