

LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES • CITY HALL
February 12, 2024 • 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM February 12, 2024.
 - Present: Mayor L. Sik, D. Knutson, L. Pfarr, L. Bittner, D. Irlbeck
 - Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, J. Thram
 - Others in Attendance: Nadya Bucklin SWRDC, Tom Anderson, Jadell Morales, Randy Tordsen, Wade Mathiowetz, Ed Iverson
- A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

- Randy Tordsen – Building Zoning Request

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes (can all be done in one motion)
1. 12-27-2023 EDA Meeting
 2. 1-8-2024 Regular CC Meeting
 3. 1-31-2024 Special CC Meeting – Sik noted resolution passed by 4/0 not 5/0 as stated.

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

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Nadya Bucklin – Southwest Regional Development Corporation presented the regional trail planning efforts. The SWRDC is in the process of updating the Regional Trail plan that can be used as a reference or as a tool for those looking to make trail improvements or additions. Bucklin conducted her research by asking everyone present questions. Bucklin encourage anyone to reach out if they want more information.
- B. Petitions, Request, Communications
1. Citizen Complaints & Concerns
 - a. Douglas Ave Parking – Forwarded to Police
 - b. First Ave House – Letter sent to new owner. Bittner asked questions on the property. J. Morales was present and said the deputy sheriff wants to know why we are not enforcing the ordinances. Members of the council ask if there were specific ordinances being referred to. Morales asked Halter if Halter stands behind the previous statement of not enforcing ordinances because of lack of time. Halter stated that lack of manpower yes. Morales was asked what ordinances she is referring to and she said all of them. Mayor Sik stated the city is trying.
 2. Building/Zoning Permit Requests –
 - a. Randy Tordsen was present to ask the council about a plan to build a shed on his property. Tordsen is still in the planning stages. Mayor Sik stated when a variance request would be needed and what would be needed for a building permit. Discussion held. No decision can be made without an application.
 3. Request for Council Action
 - a. RCA – Pool Help Wanted – The swimming pool positions are seasonal and therefore mew applications need to be taken for the 2024 swim season. Halter would like to advertise for the pool manager position and lifeguards.
Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve advertising for swimming pool help for the 2024 season.
 - b. RCA – Utility Bill – Halter ran the high usage report after the February 1 billing and this house came up on the high usage report. Halter tried contacting someone in town that has access to the house to check it out. Halter also messaged the daughter to let her know there was a problem, and the water would be shut off. Thram shut the water off at the street. There was a leak in the basement. The person in charge of the property is asking for some forgiveness. The city has forgiven half of the average bills in the past, but they have not been this large. Discussion was held.
Motion/Second/Failed (Knutson/Sik/ 2/3 Failed voting against Pfarr, Irlbeck, Bittner) to approve one-time forgiveness of \$1,534.32 on the utility bill for 706 S Douglas.
Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Bittner/3/2 Passed voting against Knutson, Sik) to approve one-time forgiveness of \$500 on the utility bill for 706 S. Douglas.
Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve one-time forgiveness of half of a person's utility bill up to \$500 if they have experienced a leak resulting in a higher-than-normal utility bill.

- c. RCA – Police Computers – Halter discussed the one-time public safety money received by the state. The police computers are out of date and are not working as they should. Chief Walker is requesting a new computer in the office and in the squad. Two quotes were received.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve the police department up to \$11,000 of the public safety aid funds.

- d. RCA – Letter to PUC regarding CO2 Pipeline – The City has been contacted by people concerned about the potential CO2 pipeline. Bittner asked if the city was ever asked for an easement. Halter stated the city received a sample easement, but nothing official has been asked for from the pipeline company. Mayor Sik and Council person Bittner feel the city does not need to have a position on the topic as of yet. T. Anderson made comments. W. Mathiowetz made comments. E. Iverson made comments. Discussion was held.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/Passed 3/2 voting against Sik, Bittner) to approve Halter sending a letter to the PUC stating concerns of the CO2 pipeline Docket 22-422.

- e. RCA – Congressional Direct Spending requests for 2025 – The city has requested congressional spending dollars for two projects. One for infrastructure improvements and one for an assisted living facility. We will need to request these projects again for the 2025 funds. Bollig applied for these on our behalf in the past.

Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to have Bollig apply for the congressional funding.

- f. RCA – Using a Lobbyist for State Bond ask – Bollig brought the idea of using a lobbyist for the state bonding funding ask. A lobbyist has daily connections to the decision makers and can keep Lambertson's needs known to them. Discussion held. The state bonding ask was for infrastructure needs. The bill is jacketed and will be introduced during this session.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/Passed 4/1 voting against Pfarr) to hire the lobbyist DeLaForest Consulting for the state bond ask.

C. Department Reports

- 1. Library – Report Attached

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

- 2. Ambulance Department – no report submitted.

- 3. Fire Department – no report submitted.

- 4. Police Department – no report submitted.

- 5. Maintenance Department – Halter stated there was a water leak from the toilet in the men's bathroom at the community center. Discussion was held on the community center bathrooms. Thram stated the meter placed on the well line – usage over the past 63 days averages 5,391 gallons. Thram stated the water main break by the school was 15 feet from the last break. The pipe is deteriorating. Beermann passed his first water license. The clinic building waste pipe needed to be cleaned out again. Thram and Beerman are working on building new Christmas ornaments for the streetlights.

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

- 6. Administration/EDA Department – Halter stated the Audit with ABDO is complete. ABDO will present the audit once they have everything done. The city should have asked for bids on the used snowplow. Safe Routes to School Planning grant is complete and ready to be submitted. Halter attended an EDA conference. Halter had the second interview for the Empowering Cities grant with the U of M – probably won't hear back from them until March/April. Halter talked about POD daycare model. Primary Presidential Election is March 5th.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to accept the Administration/EDA report as given.

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

- 1. 2024-03 – Resolution Supporting Safe Routes to School Planning Grant Application

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to accept resolution 2024-03 supporting the Safe Routes to School planning grant.

E. Financial Report & Approval of Claims

- 1. January 2023 Financial Report

- 2. Approval of Claims

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

4. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A. Information for Council

- 1. EDA Disaster Application – Lambertson's application was ranked but they ran out of money by the time they got to us.
- 2. Regional Safety Group Training – Price Increase notification.

3. Redwood Electric Price Increase notice.
4. 2023 Report of Indebtedness – filed with the county and state.
5. **NEXT MEETING DATES**
 - A. Match 11, 2024
6. **ADJOURNMENT**
7. ***Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie Halter
Clerk



Lydell Sik
Mayor