

**LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 8, 2023 • 6:30 P.M. • City Hall**

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

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM May 8, 2023.
- Present: Mayor L. Sik, D. Knutson, D. Irlbeck, L Bittner
- Staff in Attendance: J. Thram, T. Bikemeyer, A. Vogel, V.Halter (via Zoom)
- Others in Attendance: Barb Lagrue, Ron Kelsey, Richard Weedman, Carol Wetter, Eric Satterlee, Roger Sackett, Noel Wetter, Pete Furth, Tony Sauer, Sandy Anderson, Nick Anderson, Edie Coulter, Matt Lenning, Tim Helmer

**A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

1. FCI – Kuhar Park Tree Layout Plan
2. Delete RCA – 6b Traps for Citizen
3. Citizen Complaints and Concerns: Dollar General

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

4. RCA – 6f – Advertise for Library & Custodial Help

***Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 4/0) to add the additional item to the agenda.***

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. 3-29-2023 – EDA Meeting Minutes
2. 3-31-2023 - Special City Council Meeting Minutes
3. 4-10-2023 – Regular City Council Meeting
4. 4-24-2023 – Special City Council Meeting Minutes

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

**3. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. Petitions, Request, Communications**

**1. Citizen Complaints & Concerns**

Halter updated communication with the Dollar General developers. The developers are looking for site plan approval. Halter explained to the developers that the City Engineer would have to give approval for the plans. The developers would like approval by the end of the month. Several community members were present to express their concerns about Dollar General's interest in building in Lamberton. The citizens don't want to do anything to hurt the grocery store or put the grocery store at risk. Comments were made about the ability of the town of Lamberton's size to be able to support both businesses. Citizens expressed their gratefulness for Maynard's coming into Lamberton. A citizen asked if anyone was for the Dollar General. Mayor Sik expressed that he is not against the project because you are asking to pick between corporations. Sik also expressed that being on the council and EDA, you try to bring new business to Lamberton. Sik used the example of storage sheds. Lamberton has a request for a new storage shed building. Does the Council deny it because we already have a storage shed facility across the street? Dollar General has not asked for any tax abatement. Sik also expressed that the City does not have a way to stop them from building. Sik also explained one way to alleviate higher property taxes, is to increase the tax base of the community – the Dollar General building would do this. The City can deny permits, but Dollar General can appeal it and the City would need justifiable legal reasons for the denial. The statement was made that the best way to make sure Maynard's survives, is to support Maynard's by shopping there. Council member Bittner expressed that she has people approach here that are for and against the project. Mayor Sik explained that the Dollar General people have not applied for a building permit or anything at this time.

**2. Building Permits –**

- a. 2023-04 – James DeWire – 209 4<sup>th</sup> Ave – Move Fence & Install Cement Patio

***Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to approve building application 2023-04 for James Dewire.***

- b. 2023-05 – Elizabeth & Lee Schaffran – 208 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave W – Front Steps

***Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 4/0) to approve building application 2023-05 for Elizabeth & Lee Schaffran.***

- c. 2023-06 – Rebecca Christensen – 701 S Cherry St – Install Fence

***Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 4/0) to approve building application 2023-06 for Rebecca Christensen.***

3. Zoning Change Request –

- a. Tony Sauer – 200 Third Ave W – Would like zoned for Storage Shed Business (Downtown Commercial or General Commercial)  
Sauer is looking at purchasing the lot at Douglas and Third to build a storage building to rent out to people. Before he goes through the work on purchasing the lot and getting plans for the building, Sauer was wanting to get a feel for if the council would be willing to re-zone the property. Bittner questioned the setbacks for a business vs residential. The council expressed they did not feel they would deny the zoning but would need to go through the rezoning process and vote on the subject at that time.

4. Vacant City Council Seat

- a. Applications for vacant City Council Seat

Applications were received from Matt Lenning, Brett Baumann, Marchelle Walz, Lynn Pfarr. Mayor Sik expressed that B Baumann is his brother in law.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to appoint Marcelle Walz to fill the vacant City Council seat.**

- b. 2023-16 Resolution Appointing Candidate to City Council

**Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to approve Resolution 2023-16 Appointing Marchelle Walz to the Lamberton City Council seat.**

5. Sale of Surplus City Owned Lot

- a. Bid for empty lot purchase – 3<sup>rd</sup> & Fir

City owns the vacant lot at the corner of Fir & 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The City has received a bid of \$2,500 for the vacant. There will be a house moved onto the lot.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Irlbeck/unanimous 4/0) to approve sale of the lot on 3<sup>rd</sup> & Fir for \$2,500.**

- b. 2023-17 - Resolution Approving Sale of Property

**Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 4/0) to approve Resolution 2023-17 approving the sale of the vacant lot on 3<sup>rd</sup> & Fir.**

- c. Building Permit for 3<sup>rd</sup> & Fir Property

- 2023-07 – Russel Derickson – 3<sup>rd</sup> & Fir – Construction of basement and to move a house in.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 4/0) to approve 2023-07 building permit for Russell Derickson.**

6. Request for Council Action

- a. RCA – Pay for Nick Anderson

Halter requested being able to call in and pay Nick Anderson when and if needed.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Bittner/unanimous 4/0) to hiring Nick Anderson on a as needed basis for \$25/hour.**

- b. RCA – Rescind Resignation

Debbie Vollmer would like to rescind her resignation as Assistant Ambulance Director.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to rescind the resignation of Debbie Vollmer as Assistant Ambulance Director.**

- c. RCA – Set Work Session Date/Time/Topics

The City Council is due to have a work session. Topics needing to be discussed are ordinances, tax forfeit properties, existing school campus, Name for Industrial Park Street, wild animals/traps, and the pool.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to hold a council work session on June 6, 2023 at 5:30PM.**

- d. RCA – Advertise for Pool Manager, Lifeguards & WSI Instructors

Halter would like to advertise for Pool Manager, Lifeguards/WSI for the pool. She would like the clause added – position open until filled.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 4/0) to approve advertising for a Pool Director and Lifeguards/WSI for the swimming pool.**

- e. RCA – Advertise for Library & Custodial Help

Halter did not receive any applications for the Library Aide/Custodial position. She would like to advertise them as separate positions. Halter will also encourage students to apply.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to approve advertising for the Library Aid and Custodial position.**

B. Department Reports

1. Library – Written Report Submitted

A. Vogel was present to answer any questions. Bittner asked how events are advertised. Vogel stated they are sent to the paper, on Facebook and flyers are hung. Summer Reading program is sent home with the students and it is on the community calendar as well.

**Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to approve the Library report.**

2. Ambulance Department

T. Birkemeyer handed out a written report. Lamberton covered 9 out of the 10 calls for service this last month. All transports were billable. Birkemeyer presented at the school about EMS careers. He will be working with the school to hopefully offer an EMR class at the school. Birkemeyer, D. Vollmer and H. Conyers have identified goals they would like to work towards and achieve.

**Motion/Second/ Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 4/0) to approve the ambulance report as given.**

3. Fire Department – no report given.
4. Police Department – no report given.
5. Maintenance Department

Thram stated Beermann began May 1<sup>st</sup>. Thram received a layout plan for the trees in Kuhar Park. Thram asked permission to plan slightly larger trees by each camp site. Thram gave a pool update. He feels there is only one skimmer broken. So they are working on that repair and getting the cement poured. Thram did fill some potholes in town. Storm Sewer is being installed for the new school. Dunnick was in town and re-did the dirt work needed. The concrete guy will be in the next couple weeks. Thram has began the discharge process on the ponds.

**Motion/Second/ Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 4/0) to approve the maintenance report as given.**

6. Administration/EDA Department – Written Report Submitted

Halter added people are not getting animal licenses like they should. Halter has been posting her schedule on the door so if she is not there when someone comes – they have an idea when she will return.

**Motion/Second/ Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 4/0) to approve the Administration/EDA report as given.**

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

1. 2023-18 – Resolution of Annexation of Certain Property

**Motion/Second/ Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 4/0) to approve Resolution 2023-18 Annexation of Certain Property.**

D. Financial Report & Approval of Claims

1. April 2023 Financial Report
2. Approval of claims.

**Motion/Second/ Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to approve the April 2023 Financial Report & Approval of Claims.**

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

A. Information for Council

1. Location Change for City Wide Clean Up Day – Will now be in the alley between the City Office and the shop.
2. Ash Street Project Repairs Update – Thram addressed during his report.
3. Assessment Values & Sales -
4. Peddler License for Food Truck – Halter explained they contacted us for a license.
5. Wastewater Treatment Facility Operational Award (248 operations awarded this out of the 1600 operations in the state.) Council congratulated Thram. Information has been submitted to the paper.
6. UCAP Summary – There is one slot still available for a house.
7. Ambulance Appreciation Week Burger Feed – May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Legion.
8. Kuhar Park Tree Plan – Thram addressed during his report.

**5. NEXT MEETING DATE**

- A. June 6, 2023 at 5:30 PM for a Work Session
- B. June 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM Regular Council Meeting.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie Halter  
Clerk

  
Lydell Sik  
Mayor