

LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2025 • 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM July 14, 2025.
- Present: Mayor L. Sik, L. Bittner, D. Irlbeck, A. Cairns, L. Pfarr
- Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, J. Thram, K. Mittelstadt, D. Determan, C. Fenger
- Others in Attendance: Scott Kuhlman, Bruce Beussman, Jim Simonson, Marcheale Walz, Troy Harms, Rebecca Christianson, Pat & Lynn Story, Tom Anderson, Perry Sneider

A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

1. Add Resolution 2025-14 Sale of Lamberton Meats Building
2. Add RCA for Payloader
3. Add Year to Date Budget under Financial reports and claims

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

B. Swear in Police Chief Determan

Mayor Sik officially swore in Chief of Police Derick Determan.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. 6-9-2025 – City Council Regular Minutes
2. 6-23-2025 – City Council Work Session Minutes
3. 6-30-2025 – City Council Work Session Minutes

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Cairnes/ unanimous 5/0) to approve the minutes as listed with change to the 6-9-2025 Wetter Camper RCA motion to be deleted.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A.** Scott Kuhlman of Bollig Engineering was present to talk about the USDA-RD funding package offered. The project would be done under two different USDA-RD loan programs for \$1,794,000. The council will have to pass a resolution for a Feasibility study. Lead Service Line Replacement – Bid opening this week. Then the project can move forward. The project is covered by grant funds by the state.

2025-10 – Resolution Authorizing Loans for Grove Street

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve Resolution 2025-10.

2025-11 – Resolution Ordering Preparation of Report on Improvement for Grove Street Project

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve Resolution 2025-11.

- B.** Public Hearing – Zoning Change Request RRC Old School Site 7:00 PM

C. Petitions, Request, Communications

1. Citizen Complaints & Concerns

- a. Meadowland Co-Op – Bruce Beussman and Jim Simonson was present to talk about truck and trailer parking on the side of First Ave. There are several trailers and trucks that park along First Ave. it prohibits the ability to see for those doing business and making deliveries at the feed mill. Also with the parking and limited visibility cars tend to speed along that road and the combination is not safe. They are asking for no parking on the north side of First Ave east all the way to the scale office area. Some of the trucks/trailers do not belong to people living in town. Discussion held.

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairnes/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve No parking on the north side of First east until to the scale office area.

Regular meeting paused for the Public Hearing on rezoning the old RRC school buildings.

Public Hearing on Rezoning the old RRC School parcels

Mayor Sik called the hearing to order. Mayor Sik clarified what parcels were being asked to be rezoned. It is all of the parcels excluding the auto shop addition. Cairns questioned the current letter intent the school has trying to understand the portions of the buildings being separated and what would be the potential use. A resident asked what the intent of the rezoning was. Sik explained that it is his understanding the school is negotiating the sale of portions of the building and for anyone to have a business at that site, needs to have the parcels rezoned. Current zoning is R1 and they are asking for Downtown Commercial Zoning. Questions and comments were heard. Discussion was held.

Public Hearing adjourned at 7:15 PM

Regular meeting resumed at 7:15 Pm.

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairnes/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to deny the rezoning application for lack of demonstrating need for rezoning.

- b. Hubert Alley – 305 5th Ave – holes in the alley. Cairns question alley maintenance schedule. Thram explained they usually go through with the box scrapper in the spring and some other time in the summer when there is moisture. He explained it is on the list for August and he has fill to use in the alleys. It was explained that alleys have not been regularly maintained with fill since Thram began with the city. Thram also explained that water sits in the alley ways because they are lower than the grass areas and that causes potholes.
 - c. Corner of Douglas & First – this has been moved.
 - d. 605 3rd Ave W – Halter has talked to him. He says he has a plan. Halter explained to him that as long as we see progress, the city will work with him.
 - e. 701 Elm St – Trailer in the way – Discussion was held that the trailer did not obstruct the corner.
 - f. 206 4th Ave E – Discussion held. Chief Determan said he has spoken to her.
 - g. 204 3rd Ave W – Halter stated she had public works set traps. Discussion held on abandoned properties.
 - h. Walz – Street Department – Walz was present to complain about the weeds and lack of string trimming. Walz feels with three people, there should be things done. Discussion was held on the street sweeper and spraying weeds in the gutters.
2. Building/Zoning Permit Requests
- a. 2025-03 – Stevenson – Deck
Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve Building Permit 2025-03 Stevenson deck.
 - b. 2025-04 – Senst – Patio
Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Cairns/unanimous 5/0) to approve Building Permit 2025-04 Senst patio.
3. Request for Council Action
- a. RCA – City Hall Electrical Pannel – Anderson electric stated that he would recommend having it changed because of age and the brand is known to cause fires. Discussion held.
Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to wait to replace the electrical panel at city hall until next year budgeting.
 - b. RCA – Community Center Policy on Rental Fee Waiver – Discussion held on policy presented.
Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/Cairns Abstained 4/0) to approve Community Center Policy on Rental Fee Waiver.
 - c. RCA – Police Officer Wages & Charles Fenger – Halter stated that as discussed at the last work session, the city's wage scale for police officers does not work currently. The council had asked to see a small step scale with three steps. Hater suggested Grade 5 Step 1 \$28/hour, Grade 2 \$29/hour and Grade 3 \$30/hour. Officer Fenger stated he makes more at his other jobs and would like the current arrangement to continue. Discussion was held about the new chief's hours, changes in how calls are taken, and the county contract cost.
Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve new step rates for part-time police officers.
Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to discontinue the current contract with Chuck Fenger and move both Fenger and Walker to Step 3 of new pay scale.
 - d. RCA – School Speed Zone – Halter explained that during the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) planning grant process, one of the issues that was identified was slowing people down in front of the school. This is something the city can do at relatively low cost before we apply for the SRTS Infrastructure grant. Halter reached out to the Superintendent and the Colby Pack about speed and hours. They suggest 15 MPH with the hours of 7:30 AM-8:30

AM and 3:00-3:30PM. This would be from 5th Street to 7th Street.

Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve a school speed zone at the suggested hours and speed.

- e. RCA – Stavnes Container – Halter explained she received a response from Stavnes and is asking for direction from the council. Discussion was held. Council asked Halter to contact the company and then obtain a second opinion.
- f. RCA – SWIF Donation – requested donation of \$350. Cairns questioned if we benefit from their services. Halter explained the Lamberton Community foundation uses them, Halter has used them for information and contacts.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Cairns/unanimous 5/0) to approve the donation to SWIF.

- g. RCA – Lamberton Meats Building – Halter has the signatures needed to change the building back to the City. Marc Weideman would like to purchase the building for \$1. Discussion held.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve Marc Weideman to purchase the Lamberton Meats building for \$1.

- h. RCA – Payloader – Halter explained this was discussed during work session. The tractor is tired and wasn't made for how it is used. RDO has a payloader available that is a trade in from Highwater Ethanol. We would not get the payloader until fall.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Cairns/unanimous 5/0) to approve entering into a purchased agreement for the payloader.

D. Department Reports

- 1. Library – A report was submitted.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Library report as submitted.

- 2. Ambulance Department – Director Mittelstadt was present. She reported they have added an EMR and there is potential for a couple more. Since the first of the year they have only been out of service for 3 hours due to lack of coverage. 23 calls in May 14 calls in June.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Ambulance report as given.

- 3. Fire Department – Chief Neperman had texted Halter with the FD purchased 5 new pagers, and will demo a soy based foam alternative.

Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Fire Dept. report.

Pfarr questioned if Fire training could be changed so that Tom could attend the meetings. There was no support for the request.

- 4. Police Department – Chief Deteman was present. There were 18 calls for service in June. He asked for an impound lot option and for the city to consider having fees for towing and storage. Chief also asked for the city to consider forfeiting vehicles when applicable. Discussion was held.

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Police report as given.

- 5. Maintenance Department – Thram was present. They installed the new playground equipment in the park. August is set for street repair work.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Maintenance report as given

- 6. Administration/EDA Department – Halter explained she has been working on the grocery store, child care, complaints.

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

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

- 1. 2025-13 – Resolution Accepting Donations

F. Financial Report & Approval of Claims

- 1. July 2025 Financial Report
- 2. Approval of Claims
- 3. June Pool Information

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve resolutions 2025-013, the July 2025 Financial Report and Approval of Claims.

4. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A. Information for Council

- 1. Demographics – Lamberton population 778 as of April 1, 2024 with an estimated 345 households.
- 2. Child Care Town Meeting – October 25, 2025 there is a town hall meeting about child care in Redwood County. Halter asked to fill out the surveys that come along and consider coming to the town hall meeting.

5. NEXT MEETING DATES

- A. Town Meeting regarding Grocery Store July 15,2025 at 6:00PM at the Community Center
- B. Regular Council Meeting August 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Cairns/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Halter
Clerk

Lydell Sik
Mayor