

LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2025 • 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM August 11, 2025.
- Present: Mayor L. Sik, L. Bittner, D. Irlbeck, A. Cairns, L. Pfarr
- Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, J. Thram, K. Mittelstadt, D. Determan, T. Neperman
- Others in Attendance: Scott Kuhlman (Bollig), Edward Gilmore (USDA), Tom Anderson, Kyle Hubert, Sandy Polkow, Debra Jellema, Jadel Forman, Marc Wiedeman, Brenda Derickson

A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

1. Add Snow Plowing Complaint
2. Cat Complaint
3. Remove Swearing in Chief Determan

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. 7-14-2025 – CC Regular Meeting Minutes
2. 7-15-2025 – CC Town Hall Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Bittner/ unanimous 5/0) to approve the minutes as listed.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. USDA RD – Ed Gilmore** was present to explain the USDA loans the city has applied to redo Grove Street. A WEP loan will cover the utility replacement and CF loan will cover the road portion of the project, Gilmore answered questions from the council.
- B. Bollig Engineering – Scott Kuhlman** was present to update the council on Grove Street and the Lead Service Line replacement project, and other funding applications. The city will sign an agreement with Bollig to hire them to do the Grove St. projects. Round two is underway to classify lines that are unknown on the private side. Bids were received to replace the 25 private lead service lines. The lowest bid was from T.E. Underground of Tyler, MN. For \$229,027.50.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to accept the bid from T.E. Underground for replacement of 25 private lead service lines in the amount of \$229,027.50.

Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve execute the MPFA grant once available.

- C. Brenda Derickson – Old School Site – Derickson** was present to talk about the school's request for the zoning change request. Derickson explained that the building is currently zoned R1. By having the building rezoned to commercial or downtown commercial it is more attractive for someone to come in and buy it. Council explained that they were unable to answer the questions of residents at the zoning hearing and there was no one present from the school to answer the questions so they could not vote for the change without some questions being answered. Derickson encouraged the council to be open minded to different uses for the building that may require a zoning change.

D. Petitions, Request, Communications

1. Citizen Complaints & Concerns

Complaints that were included in this packet: T Anderson Voicemail, 408 Ash St, 410 Fir Street – (2 Complaints), 5th & Fir Stop Sign, 5th Street, Tree Stumps, Garbage on Water Bill, 202 3rd Ave E, Douglas & 1st St., Grove & 4th

Tom Anderson – Tom Anderson left a voice mail on the City Hall office on July 18, 2025 at approximately 9:00 PM. The message was played in its entirety at the meeting. In the message Anderson states that he had dead squirrel in his driveway with foam around its mouth and he has it in his freezer. Anderson stated they will be hell to pay if people are poisoning animals on his property. Anderson states "you are done inflicting misery on the populous. People, not just me, are to bashful to say anything. " Anderson continues to talk about retribution from previous employees going back to Randy Tordsen. Anderson states that a city employee plowed the catholic church shut after he had been done cleaning it out. Anderson states the message had better be brought to the city council and that he would be talking to other people as well. Anderson goes on to state he is tired of this city running amuck. Anderson continues in the message to talk about the grocery store meeting that was going well until Val got up and talked about the coop thing. Anderson states that there is no other explanation other than having another big box store wanting to come in and to follow the money.

Mayor Sik explained to Anderson (present at the meeting) that Halter was doing due diligence because going into that meeting that night the last we had known was the grocery store was going to close. Halter was coming up with options. Sik stated that she was doing what she was told. Halter stated that Carlson came up to her after the meeting and thanked her for all the work and information about what rural grocery stores are going through. Discussion turned to Dollar General. The grocery store was stated to close before Dollar general came into the picture. Kyle Hubert complained about alleys. Anderson then talked about the dogs and cats being poisoned in the past. Discussion was held. Kyle Hubert then complained about animal control. Mayor Sik stated the city would have less problems if pet owners would just take care of their animals. Mayor Sik also stated that all these complaints need to stop. People need to go through the correct process, if at that time they are not getting response, they can come to the council. Halter stated that people will come to the council because they don't think anything is being done, or what they feel should be getting done is not getting done. Halter asked what does the council want to do with the houses that should be torn down, but owners will not cooperate or respond. Halter stated that these properties are someone's personal property. We may not like the way they are kept and all of our standards are different, but they are someone's personal property and it's not easy to take them down. Halter feels this is a conversation the council needs to have. Mayor Sik stated to those present making comments, that he would like them to come with solutions. Discussion was held on stop signs. Tree stumps will be done when they have time, not high priority. Kyle Hubert brought up weeds at the end of his street. Jadel Morales questioned the council on what happens if nothing gets done. Mayor Sik stated they should come back to council. Morales brought us some other person's problem of corner getting seeded. Discussion held. Morales questioned what a reasonable time frame is. Mayor Sik felt my the next council meeting. Morales stated that three other people have come to her and stated Justin does not do his job and excuses himself as a farmer and terrorizes people and they are afraid to come to council and that the council won't do anything. Morales continued about snow in her driveway and snow removal on corners. Morales then addressed Halter stating she had come in and said Justin ruined her curb lawn by using his machinery to blow snow onto the her park. Halter stated she had said it is his responsibility to move snow off the corners. Morales said no that's not what happened that Halter stated this was a neighbor to neighbor issue. Morales then asked if this was still a neighbor to neighbor issue or a city issue. Halter stated she does not recall the situation. Halter continued by saying Morales came in to ask why Justin was removing snow on your corner and told Morales that it is Justin's responsibility to clean off corners and the neighbor thing was brought up because Morales tends to turn blame on anyone friends with Brian K. her neighbor she does not get along with and the fact that Justin and Brian are friends is probably why the neighbor to neighbor thing came up. Mayor Sik stepped in and stated Morales is starting to accuse city employees of property damage and said we need to talk to our city attorney before talking to her. Mayor Sik also suggested Morales get an attorney because we are getting into legal territory and if she has an official complaint direct to our attorney.

2. Building/Zoning Permit Requests – none
3. Request for Council Action
 - a. RCA – First Security Bank Request
 - 2025-14 Resolution to Release Pledged Collateral

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve resolution 2025-14 to release pledged collateral requested by First Security Bank.

- b. RCA – Handicap Sidewalk Access – Handicap access was requested at the corner of 2nd and Birch. Discussion held. Halter will give it to the county. Council tabled.
- c. RCA – Water Storage Tank Exterior Cleaning and Painting – Discussion was held. Thram stated it needs to get repainted and two bids have been received.

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Irlbeck /unanimous 5/0) to approve resolution 2025-14 to release pledged collateral requested by First Security Bank.

E. Department Reports

1. Library – Report as submitted to council prior to meeting.
Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Irlbeck/unanimous 4/0) to approve the Library report as submitted. (Bittner absent for vote.)
2. Ambulance Department – Director Mittelstadt was present. There were 15 calls in July. There are two people in EMT class now.
Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Irlbeck/unanimous 4/0) to approve accept the ambulance report as given. (Bittner absent for vote.)
3. Fire Department – Chief Neperman was present. There have been repairs on a couple of trucks. Trainings coming up and getting ready to fundraise for new equipment.
Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Fire Dept. report.
4. Police Department – Chief Determan was present and present his report. There were 35 calls for service in the last month. Council stated the varied hours are much appreciated.

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

5. Maintenance Department – Thram was present. They have been working on the park and working on alleys. Alleys have not had gravel or rock on them in over 14 years. Hopes to work on street patching next. Lions Club installed turf in the bottom of the gaga ball pit.

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

6. Administration/EDA Department – Submitted report. Halter asked council for guidance as what her focus should be ordinances, complaints, housing, child care, getting new business to town. Halter stated she is more than frustrated by the number of complaints and the constant feeling of inadequacy and the constant negativity of residents. Halter stated she would love to have a community that is more supportive of their neighbors, she would like to see more involvement in trying to get positive things done. Mayor Sik stated to keep doing what she's doing. Discussion was held.

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

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

1. 2025-15 – Resolution Accepting Donations

G. Financial Report & Approval of Claims

1. August 2025 Financial Report
2. Approval of Claims
3. July Pool Information – was not included in the council packet by mistake.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Cairns/unanimous 5/0) to approve resolutions 2025-015, the August 2025 Financial Report and Approval of Claims.

4. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A. Information for Council

1. Tax Forfeiture Sale – The first sale for the Wetenkamp property will be September 17th. If not sold the second sale will be October 20th and the final sale would be December/January if the property does not sell with the first two sales.
2. Redwood County Child Care Initiative – Halter explained that the Redwood County is working on child care solutions that can be used in the communities. According to the latest numbers the RRC school district is short 81 child care spots. The Redwood County Child Care initiative has surveys out to collect information from parents, providers, and employers. Everyone is encouraged to take the survey. Then in October there will be a county wide town hall meeting with the results that the group will use to work towards solutions. Halter put out a separate survey and she received responses which is giving some direction. Halter met with a facility person from the nursing home. There is possibility that they could house childcare in empty rooms of their facility.
3. Amy Klobuchar's Office called to say our funding request made the next hurdle, now we wait for the senate to pass the budget (September/October timeline).

5. NEXT MEETING DATES

- A. Regular Council Meeting September 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairns/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Valerie Halter
Clerk


Lydell Sik