

Minutes for a Regular Meeting of the
Lamberton City Council • Electronic/Telephone
Community Center
April 12, 2021 – 7:00 PM
(UNOFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL APPROVED)

I. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

Present: Mayor L. Sik, D. Irlbeck, J. Senst, T. Beermann, and D. Knutson.

Staff in Attendance: M. Peterson, N. Anderson, J. Thram, R. Hillesheim and T. Neperman

A) Peterson requested to add the following items to the agenda:

1. 2B-6 Bollig, Inc. Engineering Presentation

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Senst/unanimous) to adopt the agenda as amended with additions.

II. CONSENT AGENDA & GENERAL BUSINESS

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Beermann/unanimous) to approve March 8, 2021 Regular City Council Minutes.

B) PETITIONS, REQUESTS & COMMUNICATIONS

1. Several nuisance complaints were acknowledged as received.

2. Zoning permits were presented for approval as follows:

- a. 203 Third Ave E – Lean-to storage shed

Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Irlbeck/unanimous) to approve Zoning Permit 2021-01 as presented.

3. Owen Todd, Bolton & Menk, was present to provide an update on the 2019-20 Infrastructure Project. Owen stated last November, it was reported to council the contractor requested the reduction of retainage to zero for the completion of the project, however, council and staff were not comfortable with that because of the lack of turf establishment so it was agreed upon to reduce the retainage to one and one-half percent (1½%) which is about \$60,000. This amount is about two and one-half to three times (2½-3%) the value of the work that is left. The contractor has been in town performing crabgrass control, seeding and filling in low areas. The condition of the turf establishment varies in different areas along the project route. Owen said the two-year (2) warranty period began five (5) months ago and the list of warranty issues continues to compile to ensure these issues are addressed. He encourages council and residents make sure staff is aware of the issues if not previously reported. The issue may not be addressed immediately, rather placed on a list so the contractor can allot time to return.

4. Personnel requests were presented for review.

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Irlbeck/unanimous) reducing Police Chief Hillesheim salary to \$15,000 annually and increase Officer Fenger salary to \$25,000 annually to more accurately represent the number of hours worked by each.

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Irlbeck/unanimous) authorizing the advertisement for a part-time police officer position recently vacated.

5. A letter of interest to purchase city owned property was acknowledged and will be discussed in closed session as allowed by Minn. Stat §13D.05.

6. Brian Bollig, Kris Ambuehl and Scott Kuhlman representing Bollig, Inc., an engineering & environmental company, gave a presentation on the services the company can provide to Lamberton. The presentation included the company overview, objectives, commitments and comprehensive solutions. Bollig, Inc. built a team that specializes in communities under 1,000 population to find an alternative way to understand the scope of a project, find

funding and use resources that smaller cities often do not have the staff to search for. Finding those resources for the development of a community is important to Bollig, Inc. The company representatives presented several diagrams and case studies of other communities they represent. Although an agreement is not necessary, Brian Bollig requested the City of Lambertton enter into a five (5) year task agreement for professional services for specific projects with each engagement being documented by a Task Order effective immediately. The agreement does not guarantee any task order will be pursued and can be terminated as per the terms of the agreement. After a question and answer session, more than one council member shared disappointment that a representative of Lambertton's current engineer firm, Bolton & Menk, vocally rallied against the potential \$40 million development project expansion of the Red Rock School District to our community.

Owen Todd, Bolton & Menk, stated past council was told of the funding opportunities; however, council declined to pursue because more money had to be spent to qualify for grant dollars. Owen further said their firm brought other funding ideas forward that were not pursued. Bill Helget, Bolton & Menk, told the current council of grant dollars secured on past projects and also gave an instance of grant dollars brought to council attention. Owen further asked for the same opportunity to give a similar presentation. As he thanked the council, he further reminded the council of the services which have been provided at no cost but could not comment on the mentioned Bolton & Menk representative rallying against a community development opportunity. When asked who helped secure the funding assistance for the City of Morgan, Bill Helget stated he performed the assistance to the City of Morgan and explained again, the overall cost of the project committed to by the city allowed for qualifying for grant funding. Past council was given a similar grant funding opportunity as that of Morgan as Bolton & Menk presented; however, chose to scale back the overall project which eliminated qualifying for such grant. Both firms thanked the council for the opportunity to represent Lambertton.

Motion/Second/Pass (Sik/Senst) to hire Bollig Inc. as the City Engineer. Those voting in favor were: Sik, Senst, Beermann and Irlbeck. Voting against Knutson. Motion carries.

C) REPORTS

1. Thram reported Central Park has been opened. There will be new basketball hoops installed soon and seeding of grass in certain areas of the park is necessary. Siding has been ordered to replace the existing siding on the shelters as necessary maintenance. Thram said discharging of the wastewater facility has commenced. Back fill and seeding will occur soon to the rights-of-way replaced during the 2020 Street Maintenance project where the curbs and gutters were replaced. As soon as weather allows, Kuhar Park will be opened and preparations for the swimming pool will start. It is anticipated to have the swimming pool ready for the full season. Clerk Peterson said the projected opening date is Friday, June 4, 2021.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Beermann/unanimous) accepting the Maintenance Report.

2. Chief Hillesheim indicated there were 24 calls for service in March. As the weather gets warmer, the department is responding to more criminal damage to property complaints as there has been graffiti and vandalism occurring. Chief asked the public to assist by watching for suspicious activity and don't hesitate to report it. He acknowledged the nuisance complaints and stated the department is handling them.

Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Senst/unanimous) accepting the Police Report.

3. Neperman reported the Fire Department will be performing a controlled burn of a house on Ilex St. this fall for as a training opportunity. Neperman is aware of the asbestos that is in the house as he has reviewed the report. Neperman is trained through other employment to take out small pieces of asbestos at a time and can perform the removal. He informed the council there would be a cost to fill the hole, remove the foundation and remove the ash, then the city could negotiate these costs and

the cost to obtain the land with the property owner as he understands the city had previously been interested in the land for future development.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Beermann/unanimous) supporting the cost of cleanup and negotiate obtaining the discussed land and accepting the Fire Department Report.

4. Peterson reported on Administration and EDA activities. She gave the council a status update on completion of the annual OSHA required training as requested. Peterson informed the council the city had now received \$16,528.30 for the contamination cleanup that was found during the 2019/20 Infrastructure Improvement Project from the Minnesota Commerce Department and thanked Tyler Boley from American Engineering Testing for assisting with the pursuit of this reimbursement. She informed the council the school has requested the city discuss future land use of the swimming pool land as they could be interested in obtaining the land should the city no longer have use for this land. Peterson said the American Legion Club has requested leasing or selling the land that houses the Veteran's Memorial Park. She has also been approached by more than one party interested in purchasing city owned land that can be discussed in closed session. The recent surplus property sale is complete with all items being sold. Peterson said she has received several nuisance ordinance violation complaints and continues to work with the police department to process these complaints. There was not an EDA meeting in March due to lack of a quorum. There are two (2) delinquent loans that she continues to monitor to give status reports to boards. Peterson said the city will be receiving funding in the form of the American Rescue Plan from the federal government. Although details of the funding are not complete, this funding will be like that of the CARES Act funding recently received. She said she will continue to follow updates and attend webinars and/or trainings to keep up on the reporting and requirements attached to this funding. Peterson said this funding was projected to be approximately between \$100-\$110 per capita and the allowable uses are for lost revenue to cities and infrastructure. Upon researching a zoning question, several passed resolutions were found to update the zoning map that had not been completed. The zoning map is now up to date reflecting the corrections. Thram and Anderson continue to pursue the FEMA recovery appeal. FEMA is requiring documentation that is very time consuming to locate and adheres to the format they require.

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Irlbeck/unanimous) accepting the Administration/EDA Report.

D) ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Beermann/unanimous) adopting the following Resolutions:

-2021-07 A Resolution Approving a Variance Request from Phillip & Dawn Davis for Construction of a Garage Located at 315 S Main St.

-2021-08 A Resolution Accepting Donations to the City of Lamberton

E) APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

1. The April 2021 Financial Report and Approval of Claims were presented for approval. Council reminded that we use local vendors when possible.

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Irlbeck/unanimous) to approve the April 2021 Financial Report and authorize payment for checks #44967 - #45009, #609E – #628E and #501223 - #501241 in the amount of \$65,704.33. There was two (2) new vendors. A full report is available upon request.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A) Mayor Sik opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. to give the public the opportunity to speak regarding a request from Phillip & Dawn Davis, 315 S Main St, for a variance to construct a garage that is currently not allowed per Lamberton Zoning Ordinance. If approved and all other conditions are met, the following would vary from the Zoning Ordinance:

1. Section 305.7 - Maximum ground coverage would exceed allowed 30%.
 2. Section 405.3 - Structure would exceed allowed five (5') foot setback from an adjoining lot.
- Mayor Sik closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. with no one from the public taking the opportunity to speak.

IV. MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A) Peterson presented the council with meeting information for the upcoming Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting occurring on April 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

V. CLOSED SESSION

A) Mayor Sik announced the meeting will move to closed session at 8:35 p.m. to determine asking price and develop offers for the sale of real property at 403 Third Ave W, 310 Sixth Ave W and 206/208 Main St S as allowed by Minn. Stat. §13D.05.

B) Mayor Sik ended the closed session at 9:00 p.m. and re-opened the regular April 12, 2021 meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second/Pass (Beermann/Senst/unanimous) to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Sik declared the council meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Madonna Peterson, Clerk

Approved,
Lydell Sik, Mayor
