Minutes for a Regular Meeting of the

Lamberton City Council

October 9, 2018 – 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

 Present: Mayor T. Neperman, L. Sik, D. Knutson, L. Bittner, D. Irlbeck

 Others in Attendance: Clerk M. Peterson, J. Thram, N. Hacker, N. Anderson, D. Vollmer, T. Birkemeyer, C. Vollmer, D. Williamson, D. Gary, R. Raden, A. Rue, A. Kehren.

II. ADOPT AGENDA

A) Bittner moved, Knutson seconded for unanimous approval to adopt agenda as amended. R. Krueger was added to nuisance violation extension and the 2019-2020 Street & Utility Improvement was added to new business. December 10, 2018 EDA minutes was deleted.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Bittner moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of September 10, 2018 City Council Minutes.

B) Knutson moved, Bittner seconded for unanimous approval of the September 28, 2018 Special City Council Minutes.

C) Bittner moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of September 13, 2018 Library Board Minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

A) Irlbeck moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of checks #43378-#43440, #114E-#129E, and #500184-#500255 in the amount of $136,526.94.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident from Ash Street was present to report concerns regarding an animal noise complaint as well as how it had been handled. The resident further questioned compliance with the number of animals allowed at a residence, the seriousness of these issues and the lack of enforcement.

VI. REPORTS

A) Irlbeck moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of the Maintenance Department report as discussed by Thram. Activities include:

-Thram was asked to investigate options regarding trash/garbage companies and the use of their heavy trucks on our city streets. The city wonders if lighter and smaller trucks should be required. Don Williamson, West Central Sanitation, was present to share his wish of continued business with the City of Lamberton and opened discussion for questions and answers regarding the city’s concerns. Don ensured the trucks are empty upon entering Lamberton. He further explained, even though his company has bigger trucks, the pound per square inch on the tires is less than that of the smaller trucks because the bigger truck has more axles and is longer which distributes the weight more evenly. The other thing that can ease the distribution of the weight is when the tag axles are used. Don ensured he would order his drivers to use the tag axles if that is what the city would like to see. Don stated his experience with the smaller trucks has proven their use is not the best value because they are not big enough to do the entire town making a second trip necessary which increases the cost. Don stated his company’s goal is not to wreck any roads but wants to offer the most efficient and cost-effective pickup as possible and believes that is what is being done. Don said another option would be to have pickup on one side of the street. The routes would be changed for the trucks to go down the street only one time if all the cans were placed on one side of the street. The public is welcome to share their opinions on this.

-Thram is waiting for the engineer’s report regarding the swimming pool. The slide side of the deck has been opened as requested by the engineering firm. The pipes do not appear to be broken but appear to be cemented into the wall. Justin cannot get any air or water to come out of some of the return line jets. The life of the existing pool does not look promising. It was suggested to put a poll on the website for citizen input regarding the future of the swimming pool.

-Preliminary information has been submitted for the flood damage claim to FEMA for Kuhar Park.

-M&R Paving will be fixing the intersection of Highway 14 and Main Street. The shoulders will be widened and paved.

-Thram informed the council he was going to start working on getting the crown back to the center of the alleys in town. There is money in his budget for this.

B) Knutson moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of the Ambulance Department report as presented by Anderson. Activities include:

-Notification was received from the Walnut Grove Ambulance that North Hero Township was requesting six (6) sections be moved from Lamberton’s service area to Walnut Grove’s service area. These six (6) sections are roughly the same distance to either city. Cost is likely the reason for the request.

-Anderson has reached out to Allina, Sanford, Gold Cross, North Memorial, and Carris Health about the possibility of contracting for EMS Services. He is waiting for these companies to call back with any interest.

-The crew met to review operations. Crew members are researching grants and reimbursement options to assist with the increased operational costs and looking to implement policies regarding training costs.

-The crew is no longer asking the council to reduce the day shift wage. Reducing the number of people responding to a call from three (3) to two (2) reduced payroll by approximately $3,000 for the month. Some EMT are still not comfortable responding with only two people though. Discussion within the ambulance crew will continue.

-Activity for the month of September was presented.

-Sik moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval to accept the resignation of Nick Anderson as Ambulance Director. Nick will continue to be an EMT. The Ambulance Director is not an identified city job in any current job description. Ambulance Association Bylaws do state the Ambulance Director is appointed by the city council and the director would be part of the Ambulance Association and must be a trained EMT. The consensus of the council was to have the ambulance crew choose a director from within and report back to the council for appointment.

C) Knutson moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval of the Police Department report as presented by Chief Hacker. Activities include:

-The activity report and out-of-town mileage log for the month of September was presented.

-Chief Hacker presented two training opportunities he will be taking advantage of.

 -Sick time use and the process of notifying employer was briefly discussed.

-Discussion was held on the compliance of animals at the Robinson residence. Council members report receiving continual complaints and directed Chief Hacker to enforce the ordinance.

D) Bittner moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval of the EDA report as presented by Debbie Vollmer. Activities include:

-Reviewing and updating the EDA’s strategic planning, re: by-law, revolving loan fund guidelines, mission statement, etc.

-Debbie met with Redwood County EDA Coordinator for area awareness and networking updates and opportunities.

E) Irlbeck moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of the Administration Department report as discussed by Peterson. Activities include:

-2019 Fire Contracts have been prepared, billed and sent with a rate increase per section. Chief Neperman advised the increase of $225 per section Clerk Peterson advised when adopting the fee schedule, to take the fire contract rate into consideration to prevent billing the per section rate before it is formally adopted.

-2019 Liquor application renewals have been sent.

-2018 Ambulance contracts have been billed.

-CenturyLink confirmed providing the Southside Addition infrastructure to a centralized location at no cost to the city; however, they will not be providing individual stubs to each lot. If individual lot owners choose to connect to this infrastructure, they will need to contact CenturyLink.

-Clerk Peterson informed the council of concerns regarding certain activities with one employee. Bittner said she and Peterson had been working on getting the policies and job descriptions up-to-date to eliminate any loopholes they see exist in current documents. Bittner further stated we need to do employee job evaluations on a regular basis and have a clearly defined chain of command.

-Irlbeck moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval to deny a request from the City of Sanborn to be allowed to bill a recent fire call in their fire service area that Lamberton billed because we were paged as the primary department. Mutual aid departments do not receive revenue when responding to fire calls; however, Sanborn felt Lamberton was the mutual aid department. Peterson was advised to ask Sanborn to discuss the page with Redwood County.

VII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A) There were four (4) requests for extensions to the nuisance violations. Sik moved, Knutson seconded for unanimous approval of a 30-day nuisance violation extension to 18M (100 Elm St). Knutson moved, seconded by Bittner for unanimous approval of a 30-day nuisance violation extension to 18G (311 1st Ave) & 18S (corner of 1st & Douglas). Knutson moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of a 60-day extension to 18D (406 2nd Ave W).

B) Knutson moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval of two Zoning Permits; one for a storage shed located at 1003 S. Elm St, the other for a deck at 204 4th Ave E.

C) Knutson moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval to renew the Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan presented for employee health insurance in 2019. Even though there is an increase to the deductible and out-of-pocket maximum, Clerk Peterson does not recommend an increase to the employee HSA contribution citing the employees need to realize their health insurance benefits provided by the City of Lamberton are better than average.

VIII. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Irlbeck moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of Resolution 2018-16 A Resolution Authorizing Sale of Real Property to Timothy and Kelly Birkemeyer.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A) Bittner moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval of the October 2018 Financial Report. Donations were accepted in the amount of $13,044.65. There was three (3) new vendors and no transfers. A full report is available upon request.

X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A) Andy Kehren, Bolton & Menk, Inc., was present to discuss the feasibility report for street and utility improvements on Ash Street between 1st & 5th Avenues and 4th Avenue between Douglas and Ash Streets. Bittner moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval to accept the Feasibility Report as amended and call for an Improvement Hearing for the 2019-2020 Street & Utility Improvement on November 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lamberton Community Center. This project will be replacing the 2018-2019 Infrastructure Improvement by including additional improvements to the project. The estimated costs for the project with the additions is $3.592,000.

XII. MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A) Councilman Sik stated he and Bittner met again with Walnut Grove representatives regarding the idea of future sharing of the two police departments. The two main officers were present at the meeting and asked to come up with a possible schedule to visualize what the coverage would look like. Sik stated Walnut Grove wants more coverage hours than Lamberton does so they would likely hire part-time to patrol only their city. The sharing merger would only involve the two main officers. Sik and Bittner will continue meetings regarding this joint venture.

B) Bittner moved, Sik seconded to call for a closed meeting on October 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at city hall to consider misconduct allegations against Chief Hacker.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, Bittner moved, seconded by Irlbeck for unanimous approval to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

Madonna Peterson, Clerk Terry Neperman, Mayor

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