

Minutes for a Regular Meeting of the
Lamberton City Council • Electronic/Telephone
September 14, 2020 – 7:00 PM
(UNOFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL APPROVED)

I. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

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

Staff in Attendance: M. Peterson, J. Thram, R. Hillesheim, A. Vogel and N. Anderson.

A) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Senst/unanimous) to adopt the agenda as presented.

II. CONSENT AGENDA & GENERAL BUSINESS

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Bittner/unanimous) to approve the August 10, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes and the July 13, 2020 EDA Board Meeting Minutes.

B) PETITIONS, REQUESTS & COMMUNICATIONS

1. Four written and one verbal complaint has been received and was acknowledged regarding the turf restoration from the 2019-2020 Infrastructure Project. Discussion ensued. Final payment for the 2019-2020 Infrastructure Project has not been made.

2. Zoning Permits were presented for approval as follows:

a. 903 Cherry St – Fence

b. 208 Third Ave W – Cement Patio

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Irlbeck/unanimous) to approve Zoning Permits 2020-15 and 2020-16 (903 Cherry St and 208 Third Ave W.).

3. ***Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Knutson/unanimous) to hire Kari Redman at the starting step, Grade 1 Position of Library Aide and authorize City Clerk to negotiate a starting date upon acceptance.***

4. Mayor Sik called for a special meeting to be held November 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. to canvass the General Election.

5. A request to end Lamberton peacetime emergency resolutions was considered. No action was taken to end these resolutions.

6. A request to resume utility billing penalty calculation and disconnection of services was considered. Peterson stated Minnesota did not enact law preventing utility companies from disconnecting services; however the MN Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Public Utility Commission requested consideration of suspending disconnections as it was crucial to the health and well-being of Minnesotans during the COVID-19 pandemic to not have to worry about their utility services.

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Knutson) to resume utility penalty calculation and non-payment disconnections. Those voting in favor were: Senst, Knutson, Bittner and Irlbeck. Voting against were: Sik. Motion passed.

7. Peterson updated CARES Act funding activity that was reported to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) as of August 31, 2020. The amount reported as eligible expenses as of August 31, 2020 is \$21,824.81.

8. Peterson presented the Preliminary Levy and Budget for 2020, collectible in 2021. The proposed levy is due to the county auditor by September 30, 2020 as required by state statute. The proposal includes a 5% increase to the levy or \$38,028 for a levy of \$798,586. The final levy, due five (5) working days after December 20 in each year, may be lower than but may not exceed the proposed or preliminary levy.

9. A request was received for additional handicap parking spaces at the United Methodist Church. Disability parking in a residential zone is regulated by local ordinance and the Lamberton Zoning Ordinance does not allow for legal or enforceable designated spaces.

Furthermore, a public purpose expenditure is defined by law as an expenditure that does not have a primary objective to benefit a private interest.

Motion (Senst) to allow the church to proceed on their own with placement and expense of a disability parking place knowing it cannot be enforced.

Discussion ensued. **Motion on table rescinded (Senst).** This is not a matter for the city to become involved in; therefore, no action was taken.

C) REPORTS

1. Thram reported on the maintenance department activities. M.R. Paving has been patching throughout town for the 2020 Street Maintenance Project. Coordination with staff and residents will commence when reconstruction of the larger areas is planned. Lamberton Construction has been replacing low curbs in the locations of where the patching is being done. Fixing the curbs will eliminate the water problems that is causing the damage to the streets. Thram has been coordinating with the county regarding repairs of Ilex Street intersections with Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Avenues. The intersection of Ilex and Third Avenue has a sink hole that is due to CenturyLink boring through a structure when installing fiber optic line. Thram is working with CenturyLink to get this repaired.

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

2. Peterson reported on Administrative and EDA activities. Lydell Sik was the lone filer for Mayor. No one filed for city council. The primary election was held on August 11th. Peterson reported receiving favorable attorney authorization for the city to enter into an "Encroachment Agreement" with the Church of Christ if they choose to proceed with planned construction. The enforcement and status of delinquent EDA loans was discussed.

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

3. Chief Hillesheim reported on the police department activity. He said there was 33 calls for service in August. When conducting an inventory of the office, a radar for the squad found new in the box. Installation of the radar has been completed. Chief Hillesheim updated the council on the code compliance procedures agreed upon between the police and administration departments.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous) accepting the Police Report.

4. Vogel reported on Library activities. She said the outdoor movie night held was very successful. An additional outdoor movie night will be held in October thanks to the ability to grants obtained through the Plum Creek Library System. Storytime will resume in September.

Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Bittner/unanimous) accepting the Library Report.

D) ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Senst/unanimous) adopting the following Resolutions: 2020-27 A Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of CARES Act Funds; 2020-28 A Resolution Allocating CARES Act Funds; 2020-29 A Resolution Accepting Donations to the City of Lamberton; 2020-30 A Resolution Adopting a Preliminary Levy for 2020, Collectible in 2021; 2020-31 A Resolution Approving 2020 Budget CIP Transfers to the 4M Fund; 2020-32 A Resolution Approving 2020 Budget Interfund Transfers; and 2020-34 A Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of State of Minnesota Grant Contract No. 182975.

Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Bittner) adopting Resolution 2020-33 A Resolution Approving a Variance Request from Clayton Senst. Those voting in favor were: Sik, Bittner, Knutson and Irlbeck. Senst abstained. Motion passed.

E) APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

1. The September 2020 Financial Report and Approval of Claims were presented for approval. **Motion/Second/Pass (Senst/Bittner/unanimous) to approve the September 2020 Financial report and authorize payment for checks #44676 - #44719, #466E - #487E and #500986 - #501034 in the amount of \$81,032.78. There were no new vendors. A full report is available upon request.**

III. PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing.

IV. MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A) Peterson stated the ChromeBooks are ready for distribution. Arrangements should be made with Nick for equipment instruction and completion of receipt of company property form.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Madonna Peterson, Clerk

Approved,
Lydell Sik, Mayor
