

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Planner Benjamin Baker, and Public Works Director Russ Vlasak

4. AGENDA

Mayor Rud asked if anyone had any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

7. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

None

8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. CapX 2020 – Delores Salaba

Erickson provided the Council with taskforce meeting notes, background on past route voting, and maps of the proposed routes. Delores Salaba, of Wheatland Township, came before the Council to talk about the CapX 2020 project. She expressed her displeasure with some of the CapX 2020 Taskforce members, including Administrator Erickson (City of Lonsdale), and their vote to recommend locating the NE Alternate # 2 Route along 60th

Street, west of Hwy 19. She said that she was under the impression that Wheatland Township and the City of Lonsdale were working together, but she mentioned that wasn't the case. She went on to provide statistics and arguments why the route should not go along 60th Street. Salaba suggested that the route go south down the I-90 corridor, and she expressed her concern that not all of the taskforce members voted for the I-90 route.

Erickson explained that he doesn't want the route to go through Rice County at all or within two miles of City limits. He said that although he was opposed to the taskforce's recommendation, he voted to keep the 60th Street route on the map for the simple reason that it is the lesser of two evils. He said that he suggested having one more taskforce meeting, but the Office of Energy Security (OES) said that the taskforce had already fulfilled its duties and that another meeting is not necessary. He said that because of that decision by the OES, the taskforce did not take a vote on any alternative routes and all routes identified will be investigated. Erickson also mentioned that he recently met with Commissioner Jeff Docken and Town Board Member Clarence Salaba to discuss other possible routes. Rud asked where the state representatives are on this issue, and he said that they need to do their job and represent the area. Salaba thanked the Council for their time.

- b. Consider Approval of a Quote Submitted by Equipment Coating, Inc. in the Amount of \$3,961.37 to Sandblast, Prime, and Paint the Frame, box and Plow Equipment for the 1999 Sterling Truck

Vlasak provided the Council with two new detailed quotes: 1) Equipment Coating Inc., \$3,961.37 and 2) Fredrickson's Paint & Body Shop, \$5,600.00. He also provided pictures showing the condition of the truck. Daleiden approved of the quotes.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to approve a quote submitted by Equipment Coating, Inc. in the amount of \$3,961.37 to sandblast, prime, and paint the frame, box and plow equipment for the 1999 Sterling Truck. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- c. Consider Approval of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Street and Trail Patching
Vlasak and Erickson provided the Council with a detailed RFP to review. Vlasak asked the Council for their comments. Rud asked what should be done with Singing Hills Drive. Kodada mentioned that the proposed patching and overlay work would take the place of this year's funds for seal coating. The Council also discussed completing the western 100 ft. of Commerce Drive SE with the use of the Willow Creek Commons Letter of Credit.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve a request for proposals (RFP) for street and trail patching. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider Approval of Community Days Committee Requests for Community Days 2009

Eva Buckingham and Bonnie Simon, Lonsdale Community Days Executive Board of Directors, provided the Council with a request letter similar to last year's. They asked the Council to consider funding portable restrooms and extra hours for the Police and Street Departments. They also asked the City to provide liability insurance and a liquor license. They said that they will only have one beer garden this year and that private security will be on hand. Rud asked about traffic. Buckingham said that Police Chief Schmitz has been talking with MnDOT about the Hwy 19 road closure and detour. Simon said that an inflatable screen will be placed at the Rolling Ridge Market Place. Daleiden said that he wants to see Community Days continue, and the rest of the Council agreed.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to approve the Community Days Committee request for Community Days 2009. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

b. Consider Approval of a Quote Submitted for 2009 Mowing and Weed Abatement Services for Properties in Violation of City Code §91.04 (Public Nuisances Affecting Health)

Erickson provided a bid tabulation sheet showing six contractor's bids. Erickson went through each bid, and he said that 4.0 Services of Webster provided the low bid at a rate of \$40.00/full lot. Erickson recommended approving the low bid, but he said there is nothing that requires the City to approve low quote. He mentioned that other items such as past performance and quality of work can also be considered.

Ryan Skluzacek, Grass Master Lawn Service, asked the Council for a few minutes to talk about his past experience with the City. He talked about the good working relationship that he has had with the City and the fact that he local. He also talked about his prompt service and quality of work provided. Mike Jensen, 4.0 Service - Webster, described the quality of his mowing service too. He provided the Council with a list of references and talked about their complete bid.

Erickson explained the process and described the reason for four categories of lot mowing and trimming services. Smith suggested going with Grass Master because the business is local, the City is familiar with his service, and the costs are eventually passed through to the property owners. Daleiden agreed with Smith in that the City should stick with Grass Master. Furrer asked if the City would be doing property owners a disservice if they went with a higher bid.

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Daleiden to approve a quote submitted by Grass Master Lawn Care (\$58.00/full lot mowing; \$30.00/half lot mowing; \$10.00/full lot trimming; and \$10.00/half lot trimming). Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, and Smith. Against: Furrer. Vote: 4-1. Motion carried.

c. Consider Approval of the First Day of Each Month as the Due Date for Utility Bills

Erickson explained that residents have been calling for a more consistent due date for water bills. He recommended that the 1st day of each month become the due date for

utility bills. Daleiden stated that he just wants to make sure that the average household isn't hit with all their bills at one time.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Furrer to approve the first day of each month as the due date for utility bills. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Discuss the 10% Late Fee for Utility Bills

Erickson explained that at the April Meeting with the Mayor a resident expressed concern and opposition regarding the City's late fee policy, charging 10% on all unpaid balances. He said that residents that get more than one month behind in payments begin to get charged a late fee for a late fee as part of the unpaid balance. He said that surrounding communities, such as Montgomery, New Prague, and Elko-New Market, also charge 10%, but he explained that its only charged once and not on the unpaid balance. Erickson also said that there are cities that do charge a late fee on the entire unpaid balance and have up to an 18% per month late fee on all unpaid balances. He asked for direction from the Council on how to proceed with the issue.

Furrer asked if a flat late fee would work. The Council discussed using a onetime late fee of 10% as a deterrent for late payments instead of the current accumulative method. No action was taken on the issue. The Council directed City staff to revisit the issue at the next fee schedule public hearing or at the annual meeting in January.

e. Award of Small Cities Development Program Grant in the Amount of \$225,000

Erickson explained the history behind applying for the Small Cities Grant, and he announced that the Cities of Montgomery and Lonsdale were awarded the grant. He explained that the City of Lonsdale will receive \$225,000.00 for the rehabilitation to 6 owner-occupied homes and 4 commercial properties within the targeted area. He went on to explain the details of the grant procedure, and he mentioned that rehab projects will probably not begin until late summer or next spring. Rud expressed his gratitude towards City staff and the Council for a job well done in landing the grant.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Reminder – Special Meeting on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 6:00 pm to Discuss the 2010 Budget

Erickson stated that the Council will start off the 2010 budget process at a special meeting on May 18th.

Council Member Daleiden

Daleiden provided an update on Liquor Store statistics. He said that the customer count numbers are up from last years. He mentioned that the wine tasting event was a very big day, and it bought in a considerable amount of money. Overall, Daleiden was encouraged with the direction of the Liquor Store.

Council Member Kodada

Kodada said that the Park Board is currently working on a tree preservation ordinance. He mentioned that the Lonsdale Aces are considering doing a seating area project in-between the first base line fence and the concession stand. He also said that the Park Board discussed design ideas for the Hwy 19 and Main Street intersection, but they found that with maintenance and cost restrictions of stamped concrete and pavers not allowed by MnDOT, typical crosswalks would be the most feasible option.

Council Member Smith

Smith commented that he attended the last Meeting with the Mayor.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer said that Skywarn discussed the new 50 ft. weather tower that was recently approved by the City as a Conditional Use Permit and to be erected soon.

Administrator Erickson

Erickson commented on the recent 800 MHz meeting with the county. He said that by 2011, the FCC is requiring that everyone update their communication systems to 800 MHz. He said that the system upgrade will cost approximately \$200,000 for the City, but he said that Rice County may bond for the entire upgrade.

Council Member Rud

Rud said that he recently met with the property owner and APRO development regarding the proposed industrial park. He said that if the City can land one business or spec building, that the industrial park is a go. He mentioned that the Lonsdale Jaycees recently planted 16 flower planters around Downtown Lonsdale, including one at City Hall. Rud stated that the annual Fire Department Steak Fry is scheduled for May 16th.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator