

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 7, 2010**

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, Kodad, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson and City Planner Benjamin Baker

4. AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Ordinance 2010-234 (2010 Fee Schedule), an Ordinance Amending City Ordinance 2009-228

Rud read the public hearing notice and opened the hearing. Erickson read through the proposed amendments to the 2010 Fee Schedule. He noted that the sewer base fee will increase by \$2.00 per month, that commercial accounts will be based on actual water usage, and that a finance charge will kick in after 1 day for past due amounts. He listed a few items that were categorized under building permits and relisted under Zoning and Public Works / Engineering as requested by State Building Code Representative Jack Herrley. He said that the snow removal fee would be increased by \$0.25 a square yard. Erickson mentioned that the 2-year dog license fee was proposed to be cut from \$25.00 to \$12.50. He also mentioned that a dump truck with attachment was being added at a fee of \$95.00. After Erickson finished reviewing the proposed amendments, the Council briefly discussed the changes, and Rud asked for any comments off the floor. No one responded to the invitation to comment.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to close the public hearing. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried. The hearing closed at 7:18 pm.

7. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

None

8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. None

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Oath of Office – Recently Elected Officials

Erickson stated that at the City's general election held back in November 2009, Mayor Tim Rud, City Councilmember Joe Daleiden, and Scott Pelava were elected to the City Council. Rud, Daleiden, and Pelava were sworn in as they recited the Oath of Office.

All the Council Members congratulated each other on their recent election victories.

b. Consider Approval of Resolution 2010-01, a Resolution Designating Official Appointments

Mayor Rud thanked everyone on the advisory boards and all the applicants who interviewed for the 2010 advisory board position openings. He read through Resolution 2010-01, announcing the official appointments, representatives, and liaisons for all the departments and advisory boards. New appointments included Scott Pelava to the Water & Sewer Department and Planning Commission, Phil Sheridan as Sky Warn Director, Shelly Narum to the Park & Recreation Commission, Ben Sticha to the Planning & Zoning Commission, Joe Daleiden to the EDA, and Patricia Langer to the Library Board. Rud said that there were a number of good applicants for the advisory board openings. And he specifically thanked Chris Kraimer and Gary Skluzacek for their great service on the boards. The City's current consulting engineer, attorney, and building inspector were all reappointed for 2010. Rud asked the Council to consider his nominations.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2010-01, a resolution designating official appointments for 2010. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

c. Consider Approval of Resolution 2010-02, a Resolution Designating Official Depositories for the City Funds

Erickson stated that the City's depositories need to be adopted within 30 days of the new fiscal year according to State Statute. He listed the same depositories that were approved in 2009 including Frandsen Bank & Trust of Lonsdale, MN, Premier Bank of Northfield, MN, MBIA-4M and 4M Plus Fund, Pershing, LLC, and Bank of New York.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Pelava to approve Resolution 2010-02, a resolution designating official depositories for the City funds. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Approval of Resolution 2010-03, a Resolution Designating Official Newspaper for 2010

Erickson said that Minnesota State Statute requires cities to designate an official newspaper at their first meeting of the year. He mentioned that the Lonsdale News Review is the only qualified newspaper according to State Statue.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2010-03, a resolution designating the Lonsdale News Review as the official newspaper for 2010. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval of Ordinance 2010-234 (2010 Fee Schedule), an Ordinance Amending City Ordinance 2009-228

The Council discussed the proposed changes to the fee schedule talked about earlier during the public hearing. Kodada mentioned that increasing the sewer base by \$2.00 would generate approximately \$30,000 for the City, even though the City still wouldn't break even. Erickson mentioned that the City wastewater treatment plant bond is based on 77 new homes per year. Furrer and Daleiden stated that small increments over time are better than an immediate \$5 jump. Rud mentioned that the City did hold the line on 2010 property taxes. The Council discussed billing commercial accounts on actual usage for both water and sewer. They also talked about payment plans and late fees. Rud stated that he is concerned with people that can't keep up with their payments. Daleiden stated that the City should pursue an automatic/electronic payment system for utility billing. He mentioned that an automatic payment option would help account holders make timely payments. Erickson mentioned that the City generated approximately \$70,000 in late fees in 2009. The Council discussed the process for collecting payment from foreclosed homes and delinquent accounts.

The Council agreed that \$1.00/sq. yd. is a fair price for snow removal considering staff time and equipment uses. They also discussed a reduced dog license fee and finding new ways to encourage citizens to license their dogs. Pelava said that residents should be motivated to get their dogs licensed so that their contact information is easily available in case that their missing dog is found. The Council agreed to try the reduced \$12.50 dog license fee for 2010 to encourage more licenses, but they also decided that dogs picked up from Critter Getters or the City would require a \$25.00 license fee.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Ordinance 2010-234 (2010 Fee Schedule), an ordinance amending City Ordinance 2009-228. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Community Development Report

Baker stated that Lonsdale issued 31 new single family home permits for 2009. He mentioned that a more detailed report would be available for the January 14, 2010 Council meeting.

Council Member Daleiden

Daleiden stated that the liquor inventory at Lonsdale Liquor is doing better. He mentioned that the next Liquor Store meeting will be on January 11th.

Council Member Kodada

Kodada congratulated Mayor Rud, and Council Members Daleiden and Pelava on their election to the City Council. He mentioned that the Park Board will be meeting on January 12th.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer stated that first prize drawing for the EDA's Lonsdale First Program will take place at their meeting on January 21, 2010. She said that the Lonsdale First Program has been very successful. She also stated that the Library will not open until February due to a delay in the shelving and furniture. She mentioned that good things come to those who wait.

Council Member Pelava

None

Council Member Rud

Rud stated that he will be attending a very important meeting on January 11th to discuss the industrial park. He also mentioned that Senator Kevin Dahl and Representative David Bly will be attending the January 14th Council meeting. Rud thanked all the applicants who applied for the 2010 advisory board openings.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Smith, Furrer, Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator