

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a special meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 415 Central St. W.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Duban, Kodada, Rud and Furrer

Absent: smith

Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, Chief of Police Jason Schmitz and Building Inspector Jim Filipek

4. AGENDA

Mayor Rud asked if anyone wanted any items added to or deleted from the agenda. A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Kodada to approve the agenda. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud and Furrer. Against: None Vote 4-0. 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

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Blight and Nuisance Issues

Mayor Rud thanked everyone for attending. Erickson reviewed the blight ordinance and pictures taken regarding blight according to the City's blight/nuisance ordinance.

1. Jeff Bomount – stated his neighbor's have many vehicles and they are in the process of cleaning them up. Erickson reviewed the City's blight ordinance pertaining to vehicles.
2. Jayne Malecha – stated the property located at 514 3rd Ave NW is a disaster and an eyesore and needs to be condemned. Malecha also stated she has seen skunks on the property.
3. Bob Brezina – asked what the City has done about the vehicles located at 514 3rd Ave NW because they have current registration but do not run?
4. Al Sevcik – asked if there was a timeline for fishhouses to be removed?
5. Bonnie Simon – stated the pictures taken by staff were a waste of time.

Councilmember Duban asked what the City's current regulations are for cars in yards. Chief Schmitz said the maximum is four (4) cars and they have to be parked on a hard surface. Schmitz said there are no regulations for parking vehicles in the rear yards.

6. Mike Breyer – said that when the City publishes an ordinance, most people do not know what it means.

7. Gary Skluzacek – said that blight is government control that is not needed.
8. James Bartusek – said he wants to clean up his property and make the improvements needed at his property.
9. Mike Breyer – asked if the Police Dept. has issued a ticket to snowmobiles for driving on the trail along Fig St. NE. He also asked if the City has a noise ordinance. Chief Schmitz said he personally has not given a snowmobiler a ticket on Fig St. NE. Schmitz said the City does a noise ordinance and it references state rules.
10. Mike Breyer – asked whatever came of the discussion to install speed bumps on Fig St. NE to regulate the speed. He asked if the City could install stop signs of Fig St. NE or have stronger enforcement. Chief Schmitz said the Department has been spending more time in the area of Fig St. NE and most vehicles are traveling at a speed of 30-35 mph. Mayor Rud said since 8th Ave NE and Fig St. NE are collector streets, there should be more patrol.

Duban said the City needs to use common sense when enforcing the Blight ordinance. He also said the City needs to communicate with and educate the residents on the City's blight ordinance. Kodada said his main concern is with the vacant houses. Kodada asked if the building permits for the Parish Marketing homes located on Bluff Heights Dr. will still be valid after one year. Jim Filipek said the building permits are only valid for one (1) year. Filipek reviewed the process he has to follow to contact the mortgage companies regarding ownership and blight.

11. Cheryl Schmitz – said that animals need to be a priority because the animals that lived where the Val-Rose Gardens development was constructed have moved to the surrounding properties.
12. Gary Skluzacek – said the trapper the City worked with last year has made an improvement.

Mayor Rud said the City needs to make the Highway 19 entrances to town aesthetically pleasing.

13. Jeff Bomount – said he has seen an increase in dogs outside and not contained in a fence or on a lease. He said he has seen an improvement lately.

Mayor Rud said the City does have an annual spring clean up. Kodada asked if the spring clean up could be done by curb side pick up.

14. Jeff Bomount – said he has tried to search for ordinances on the City's website but all that comes up is meetings when ordinances were discussed. Another resident said the minutes on the City's website are not up to date.
15. Chris Pierskalla – said that publication of information is not effective and residents should call City Hall for specific information.
16. Jayne Malecha – said the parking lot south of City Hall needs to be stripped so people know where to park for the election. Furrer said parking was an issue with the last election but the City may not always be voting at City Hall.

Mayor Rud thanked everyone for attending and the City Council represents the residents so the City Council needs to know how the residents want the City's ordinances enforced.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Gary and Joyce Skluzacek Settlement Agreement
Duban stated he wanted the settlement agreement added to the March 27, 2008 City Council agenda.
- b. Proposed Business Park
Duban stated he wanted the City to finalize the proposed business park and requested a meeting be scheduled between the City and the developer.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Duban to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud and Furrer. Against: None Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator