

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
April 8, 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, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. Ordinance 2010-235, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2010-234 (2010 Fee Schedule – Abatement of Noxious Weeds and Other Rank Growth of Vegetation)

Rud read the notice and opened the public. Erickson stated that the City has taken an aggressive approach over the last few years in abating properties that are not in compliance with City Code 91.04(K), noxious weeds and other rank growth of vegetation. He said that during that time, the City solicited and received bids from contractors to abate tall weeds /grass. He mentioned that due to an expected reduction of State Aid, staff is recommending the City abate tall weeds/grass internally with the City's current Public Works staff. Erickson said that the City charged a per lot fee of \$110.00 last year for abatement services, and he asked the Council to consider amending the fee schedule to match that same cost. Erickson estimated that the City could net approximately \$26,167.63 based on expenses of \$12,882.37 for cutting 355 lots. Rud asked if anyone from the floor would like to speak on the issue.

Patrick Hughes, 522 Delaware Street SW, stated that he has been very happy with the City's strict enforcement on tall weeds/grass over the last couple of years, and he suggested that City's Public Works staff do the job. The Council also reviewed a written objection from Grass Master Lawn Service.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to close the public hearing. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

None

## **8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Monthly Bills
- c. Consider Approval of a Gambling Application for Exempt Permit for the Church of Immaculate Conception for August 1, 2010
- d. Consider Approval of an Application and Permit for a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the I.C. Church for August 1, 2010
- e. Consider Approval to Authorize Staff to Advertise for Sale by Sealed Bid a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor With a Minimum Bid of \$350.00  
This item was pulled for discussion (see below).

Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- e. Consider Approval to Authorize Staff to Advertise for Sale by Sealed Bid a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor With a Minimum Bid of \$350.00  
Rud stated that the advertised minimum bid should match the quoted price from Viking Auto of \$500.00.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to set the advertised minimum bid at \$500.00 for the 2006 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor. presented. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Consider Approval of a Bid Submitted by Whistle Stop Tavern & Grill in the Amount of \$400.00 for Two (2) Railroad Signs  
At their meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the City Council approved a motion to sell the City's

unused railroad signs to Whistle Stop Tavern & Grill. Erickson recommended that the Council approve the sale of the two railroad signs to Whistle Stop for \$400.00.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve a bid submitted by Whistle Stop Tavern & Grill in the amount of \$400.00 for two (2) railroad signs. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

b. Lonsdale Fireworks Update – Jeff Smisek

Jeff Smisek provided an update to the Council on the Lonsdale Fireworks Fish Fry fundraising event. He mentioned that there was enough money raised to not only save the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Fireworks show, but increase the display compared to previous years. He thanked all the local organizations and volunteers for coming together as a community to help make the event such a success. The Council and audience gave Smisek a round of applause for his work with organizing the event.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Consider Approval of Resolution 2010-07, a Resolution Proclaiming April 14, 2010 as “Wear Blue and Teal Day” in Recognition of April Being National Sexual Assault Awareness / Child Abuse Prevention Month

Trondhjem Lutheran Church Pastor Howard White talked about the Rice County HOPE Center and the services that it provides. Pastor White asked the Council to recognize April 14<sup>th</sup> as Wear Blue and Teal Day, to bring awareness to the issue of sexual assault and child abuse. Rud read through Resolution 2010-07 in its entirety.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to Approve Resolution 2010-07, a resolution proclaiming April 14, 2010 as “Wear Blue and Teal Day” in recognition of April being National Sexual Assault Awareness / Child Abuse Prevention Month. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

b. Consider Approval of Ordinance 2010-235, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2010-234 (2010 Fee Schedule )

Erickson said that a public hearing was held earlier in the meeting, and he asked the Council to consider approving Ordinance 2010-235. Erickson explained the abatement process including the courtesy notices, calendar of enforcement dates, warning letters, regulations, and assessments. Rud said that the citizens of Lonsdale do want the tall grass/weeds to be cut, but he mentioned that some developers are saying that the City may be over doing it. Rud asked if City forces should be doing the cutting. Kodada asked if the City has the right equipment to be cutting vacant lots. Vlasak said that the equipment used will be dependent on the height of the grass/weeds. Kodada directed City staff to be as accommodating as possible when enforcing tall grass/weeds throughout the summer of 2010.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Furrer to Approve Ordinance 2010-235, an ordinance amending Ordinance 2010-234 (2010 Fee Schedule ). Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

c. Consider Approval of Resolution 2010-08, a Resolution of Commitment of Funds Towards an AFG Grant for 800 mHz Equipment

Erickson said that all the Fire Chiefs in Rice County met and decided to apply for an AFG grant, which is specific to fire departments to assist in financing the upcoming conversion from VHF radio Frequency to 800 mHz that Rice County is planning to implement in 2011. He said that the Lonsdale Fire Department could save \$80,000 if awarded the grant. Furrer asked if the grant money could be used to help SkyWarn. Erickson mentioned that the AFG grant money was only good for fire departments.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Kodada to Approve Resolution 2010-08, a resolution of commitment of funds towards an AFG Grant for 800 mHz equipment. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Approval of Montgomery-Lonsdale Early Childhood Coalition as the April, May, June Youth Recycling Green Team

Baker presented the Council with the three applications currently on file for the Green Team Youth Recycling program. He said that at their March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Park Board recommended approval of the M-L Early Childhood Coalition as the next Green Team because they had not previously been a Green Team before.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Montgomery-Lonsdale Early Childhood Coalition as the April, May, June Youth Recycling Green Team. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval of a Quote Submitted by Knecht's Nurseries & Landscaping in the Amount of \$2,280.00 for Trees

Baker provided three quotes for the Council to review. He mentioned that at their meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Park Board recommended approval of the lowest bid, a quote submitted by Knecht's, in the amount of \$2,280.00 for 12 trees plus 3 donated trees.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve a quote submitted by Knecht's Nurseries & Landscaping in the amount of \$2,280.00 for trees. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

f. Update on the Well # 4 Pilot Water Study

Erickson provided a brief update on the Well # 4 Pilot Water Study. He mentioned that BDM will be attending an upcoming meeting to present the final report with the Council. He said that City staff recently attended a MN Rural Water seminar specific to agencies considering a treatment plant. He stated that PCA and USDA loans may be available for the project. Erickson said the next step in the process will be to select an engineering

firm to create plans and specifications for bidding. Rud stated that the project needs to move forward.

- g. Discuss Options for the Development of the Willow Creek Heights - Kalina Park  
Mayor Rud recently received an email from a resident in Willow Creek Heights about the establishment of a park somewhere within the development given the fact that the closest park is located on the far west side of Singing Hills Drive SE. Kodada stated that the Park Board has discussed future plans and amenities for Kalina Park including a passive park/disc golf course idea and a ball field complex plan. Daleiden mentioned that years ago the Planning Commission discussed having trails running throughout the park and possibly adding a band shelter area in the future. The Council directed the Park Board to discuss the issue at their next meeting.
- h. Consider Approval to Pay James & Sharon Schmitz \$100.00 per Acre for the Application of Bio-Solids  
Vlasak said that the City needs to haul bio-solids twice a year now because only one of the City's wastewater aerations ponds is operational. He mentioned that Public Works will be hauling bio-solids sometime within the next week. Erickson stated that James Schmitz, 7684 30<sup>th</sup> Street West, has requested a \$100 per acre reimbursement fee because of compaction caused by the City's bio-solid application. City staff asked the Council to consider approving a \$100.00 per acre fee for the spreading of bio-solids. Rud stated that the City should obtain a signed contract from Mr. Schmitz for the use of his land. The rest of the Council agreed.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Department Reports:

### *Council Member Daleiden*

Daleiden provided an update on the Liquor Store, and he mentioned that some good changes may be coming soon.

### *Council Member Kodada*

Kodada provided an update from the March 30<sup>th</sup> Park Board and MnDOT Landscaping Partnership meetings. He said that MnDOT will be funding a landscaping project at both of the new welcome signs. Kodada also announced that Lonsdale now holds the official title of Tree City USA. He mentioned that the City will be planting new trees at the Idaho Street tree nursery on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### *Council Member Furrer*

Furrer announced that the Library Grand Opening will be held on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 2:00pm. She also stated that the EDA will do another Lonsdale First drawing at their meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### *Council Member Pelava*

Pelava said that the Planning Commission will be meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Council Member Rud*

Rud thanked Erickson, Furrer, the Library Board, and the Library staff for their work with getting the library up and running. He also relayed a thank you to the Public Works Department for their recent work on broken water mains and the DRS ball field.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Daleiden to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Smith, Furrer, Pelava. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator