

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2008**

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: Duban, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer

Absent: Smith

Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Planner Benjamin Baker, Public Works Director Russ Vlasak, Police Chief Jason Schmitz, and City Engineer Kevin Kawlewski

4. AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Duban to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2008 City Council meeting. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

7. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

None

8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Monthly Bills
- b. Treasurer's Report
- c. Board and Commission Minutes
- d. Consider Approval of Ed. Keogh's Letter of Resignation
- e. Consider Approval of Bonnie Parkos's Letter of Resignation

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Duban to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider approval of Resolution 2008-10, a conditional use permit for the construction of a wireless telecommunications tower to be located at 140 Delaware Street SE

Erickson presented the staff report to the Council detailing the request, applicant, owner, location, zoning, applicable regulations, and proposed project. Erickson said the proposed tower would be located near the Welco Development. He mentioned that staff did change the official address to 415 4th Avenue SE (previously addressed as 140 Delaware Street SE) based on comments from the Planning Commission meeting regarding 911 emergencies. Erickson stated that the applicant will need to provide proof of no-interference by a licensed engineer. He also said that grading along the southern side of the structure shall be at a 3:1 slope. He said that the applicant has agreed to raise the fence height to 8 feet to meet zoning requirements. Erickson reported that two people talked at the public hearing, and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit.

Duban asked how close the current tower is to the proposed tower site. Erickson said about 75 feet away. Rud stated that the tower was designed to allow for two additional providers in the future, and he asked about tower rent. Although the lease agreement is not finalized yet, Erickson said that \$19,200 per year will be the approximate rent payment. He explained that tower rent revenue goes into the Park fund and is good for the City now that development has slowed down. Duban asked how long the lease agreement is good for. Erickson said that the agreement is based on four – 5 year terms or 20 years total. Erickson said he would have a final lease agreement ready for the next meeting.

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Kodada to approve Resolution 2008-10. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

- b. Consider approval of the Lonsdale Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department's 2007 annual report and proposed 2009 budget

Fire Chief Yetzer provided a brief overview on 2007 activity, training, expenses, and revenues. He mentioned that the City of Lonsdale totals 45% of the fire and rescue calls. He broke down the yearly expenses totaling \$119,012.34 and mentioned that they overspent the budget by \$9,167.34. He then listed all the revenues totaling \$154,558.36. He said that the Department recently started charging \$500.00 per call for actual fire calls.

Yetzer also reviewed the Fire Department's proposed 2009 operating budget. He said that salaries need to increase by \$6,000 because of the full roster. He mentioned that insurance rates have gone up too. He asked the Council to consider a 5% increase from the 2008 budget.

Rud said Yetzer has been doing a good job so far as the new Fire Chief. Rud also commented about the upcoming 2008 Fire Department Centennial Celebration on July 13th.

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Kodada to approve the Lonsdale Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department's 2007 annual report and proposed 2009 budget. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

- c. Consider approval of a proposal submitted by WSB & Associates in the amount of \$6,500.00 to complete the City's drinking water revolving loan fund application
City Engineer Kawlewski asked the Council to consider a proposal for professional services for submitting applications to place a radium removal water treatment plant in Lonsdale on the Project Priority List (PPL) and Intended Use Plan (IUP). He said radium content in the water is high. He said submissions are now being accepted to place public drinking water infrastructure projects on the Drinking Water Revolving Funds respective 2009 project priority lists. Kawlewski said the application deadline is May.

Rud asked if Lonsdale is headed towards a future water treatment plant. Kawlewski said that blending is an uneconomical option. Rud said that residents probably are not ready to pay for a new plant, and he directed staff to explore a funding plan. Kawlewski said the process will help determine how much the City will need to borrow and what type of interim treatment may work. Erickson said staff will explore a plan and research different funding options. Furrer asked if the City could be fined by the State if no action is taken to solve the radium problem. Kawlewski said he would check on that.

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Kodada to approve the proposal submitted by WSB & Associates in the amount of \$6,500.00 to complete the City's drinking water revolving loan fund application. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

- d. Discuss blight issues and enforcement process
Erickson explained that blight issues come up every year. Erickson put together a packet of information together for the Council including addresses of violators, pictures of blight issues, City Code Chapter 91 - Nuisances, and a summary of Minnesota State Chapter 463 – process to remove or rehabilitate hazardous buildings along with a administrative search warrant example. Rud said that blight issues need to be taken seriously and a top priority. Rud said that the City needs to have a plan in place by April 1st. Furrer said that neighbors are frustrated with the unresolved blight issues around them. Chief Schmitz said he is frustrated too, because issues are not being resolved after tickets are issued to property owners. Rud asked at what time can the City come on the property to correct the violation. Erickson said the 463 process takes approximately a 6 weeks. Erickson said that he was going to set up a meeting with some of the violators to let them know the issues and concerns and what the process is. Duban suggested hosting a special public comment and educational open house for both concerned citizens and violators to attend. Rud agreed that a public hearing on blight would be a good idea. Duban said it could be an informational meeting to make residents aware of the blight issues and a time to listen

to comments from the public. Rud said that the public hearing meeting should be in three weeks. Furrer asked what constitutes a fix it up. Erickson said that is where the local building inspector comes in. Erickson said he would research possible dates for a public hearing and contact the council members to schedule an official data for public comment.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Planning & Zoning Report

Baker presented the Council with yearly building permit statistics from 2000 – 2007. He said reroof and residing permits were much higher in 2007 than in previous years, but new home permits have dropped by almost 100 since 2004.

b. Comments & Reports

Public Works

Public Works Director Vlasak reported on the Lonsdale Water Protection Tabletop Exercise that was presented to community leaders on February 26th by Pre-Emergency Planning LLC. The exercise was funded through a US Environmental Protection Agency Critical Water Protection Grant. He said the group went through a realistic scenario in order to practice the emergency response plan and problem solving. The exercise gave participants a greater understanding of roles and responsibilities, development of effective partnerships, and verification of emergency operation plans and procedures. Vlasak said a final report should be coming soon. Vlasak said that New Prague was interested in hosting a similar event. Rud said he was glad Vlasak initiated the project.

Streets

Kodada said that Vlasak is working on obtaining numbers for a street sweeper, a standard snow plow truck, and a combination vehicle.

Planning & Zoning

Furrer said that the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing at their previous meeting for the Verizon Conditional Use Permit.

EDA

Furrer said the EDA discussed their goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

Mayor

Rud said another meeting with the Mayor will be held from 8:30-10:30 on March 15th. He said the City should recognize Karmin Stanley for her community service. He mentioned that former Council Member Robert Malecha recently passed away. He read the official thank you from the Cub Scouts for the tour of City Hall and the Fire Department. He mentioned that the Lonsdale Showcase was coming up.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Kodada to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Duban, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator