

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 30, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava

Members Absent: None

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Rud asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the agenda. Erickson asked if one item could be added to the agenda: Discuss Resolution 2014-42, pertaining to Heselton Construction.

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Pelava to approve the agenda with the noted addition. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the Minutes from the September 25, 2014 Regular Meeting, the October 9, 2014 Regular Meeting, and the October 13, 2014 Special Meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

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. Monthly Bills
- b. Treasurer's Report
- c. Board and Commission Minutes

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

9. OLD BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-43, a Resolution Approving a Request to Vacate a Portion of the Colorado St. SW Right of Way Between 3rd Ave SW and 4th Ave SW

Baker read through a detailed staff report and he reviewed the proposed Resolution along with the associated maps and pictures. He provided the Council with information on the applicants, neighboring properties, zoning, current conditions, alley access, utilities, staff comments, parcel value, and pros/cons considerations. He stated that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the matter at their meeting on October 16th, and they recommended approval of the proposed vacation of Colorado Street SW, between 3rd Avenue SW and 4th Avenue SW. Baker suggested that the City Council may want to complete a comprehensive plan on unused and/or periodically used rights-of-way and alleyways throughout the City. Rud agreed that the Planning Commission should initiate such a study in the future. The Council reviewed a petition submitted by Mike Walters, 326 4th Avenue SW, at the October 16th public hearing, that listed neighbors opposing the vacation request. Rud asked if any of the petition signers attended the public hearing. Baker said that no petition signers were at the meeting except for the Walters.

Applicant Frank Breimhorst, 332 4th Ave SW, stated that he does not plan to build anything on the subject right-of-way. He said that after maintaining the property for the last 30 years, he just wants the property to legally be under his ownership. He said that he is not opposed to re-curb-ing the existing curb-cut along 4th Avenue SW once the next reconstruction project happens. He said that it is convenient for him to access to his detached garage via the 30-year-old curb cut. Breimhorst stated that he has spent a lot of time and money into this vacation request application, and he just wants to see the right-of-way officially vacated.

Vlasak asked the Council if there would be any change in the City's maintenance responsibility for the rear yard alleyway. Kodada told Vlasak not to change anything. After thoroughly analyzing and discussing the proposed right-of-way vacation request and the associated conditions of approval, the Council members agreed that the proposed Resolution seemed fair to all parties involved. The Council did agree that the existing curb-cuts along 3rd Avenue SW and 4th Avenue SW should be closed at the time of a future street reconstruction project along those roadways. They also agreed that the

applicants should pay for a new curb-cut along Alabama Street SW to provide access to the alley. Baker stated that both Bonnie Simon and Frank Breimhorst agreed with paying for the Alabama Street SW curb-cut.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to approve Resolution 2014-43, a resolution approving a request to vacate a portion of the Colorado St. SW Right-of-Way, located between 3rd Avenue SW and 4th Avenue SW, with the additional condition of eliminating the existing curb cuts by constructing high-back curb along 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue during the next street reconstruction project. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

b. Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-44, a Resolution to Contract with a Councilmember

The Council reviewed the report submitted by Water Conservation Services identifying two leaks to the City's water distribution system. Erickson explained that two local contractors were contacted, but that only Rud Construction could perform the needed repair work right away. The Council reviewed a bid from Rud Construction to repair the 2nd Avenue SW water leak. Erickson explained that the work needs to be done soon because blacktop plants typically close around Thanksgiving.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Daleiden to approve Resolution 2014-44, a Resolution to contract with a Councilmember. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: Rud. Vote: 4-0-1. Motion carried.

c. Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-45, a Resolution Approving the Installation of "School Bus Stop Ahead" Signs Near the Intersection of Industrial Dr. SE and 4th Ave SE

Erickson stated that Palmer Bus Service recently contacted the City to see if the City would support adding two "school bus stop ahead" signs along Industrial Drive SE for the bus stop at 4th Avenue SE. Erickson said that Palmer stated that the parents of children using that bus stop have expressed concerns about safety, including visibility around the sharp curve and the amount of truck traffic near the bus stop. Erickson stated that City staff is hesitant to install more signs that may not be as effective as having the Police Department monitor that area more frequently or by talking with nearby businesses about the safety concerns. Erickson recommended approval of the request by Palmer Bus Service stating that the: 1) sharp curve, 2) amount/type of traffic, and 3) "collector" roadway classification are all justification factors for installing the signs. He also said that if the "bus stop ahead" signs prevent even one accident, then it was worth installing them. Daleiden suggested installing the signs temporarily until the bus stop is eventually moved or eliminated. Furrer questioned how much signs will really do to slow down traffic. The Council questioned why Palmer/TCU School District doesn't just move the bus stop up to safer location on the WELCO hilltop. Rud suggested that future sign requests should go through the Planning Commission for a recommendation.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to Resolution 2014-45, a resolution approving the installation of "School Bus Stop Ahead" signs near the

intersection of Industrial Dr. SE and 4th Ave SE with the additional condition that if the bus stop is moved in the future, then the signs shall be taken down immediately. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- d. Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-46, a Resolution Approving a Rice County Partners Conservation Sub-Grant Agreement Between the Lonsdale Lions Club and Rice County

Erickson stated that grant funding is currently available through Rice County for water quality improvement projects. Erickson explained that the City would like to apply for funding to improve and enhance the Kalina Park wetlands. He said that the Lonsdale Lions have already agreed to be the City's sponsor, since municipalities are not allowed to apply for the grant funds. He noted that the Lions will pass the funds through to the City similar to what the City does for the SnowWizards Snowmobile Club. Erickson stated that the project will be completed in phases as money becomes available. Vlasak stated that it would be harder to install the proposed boardwalk trail if the water level is higher. Furrer supported the City's pursuit in using grant money to fund the project. Overall, the Council agreed that this is good opportunity to raise the wetland's water level and turn it into an attractive focal point and not just a slough.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to Resolution 2014-46, a resolution approving a Rice County Partners Conservation Sub-Grant Agreement between the Lonsdale Lions Club and Rice County. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- e. Consider Approval to Schedule a Special Meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 6:00 pm to Finalize the City's 2015 Annual Budget and Property Tax Levy

Erickson said that the City Council has already held five public budget meetings in 2014. He said that historically, the Council has held one last budget meeting in November to finalize the budget prior to public comment and adoption of the final budget and tax levy. He recommend meeting on November 17th @ 6:00pm.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to schedule a Special Meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 6:00 pm to finalize the City's 2015 Annual Budget and Property Tax Levy. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- f. Consider Approval to Accept Dick Patch's Letter of Resignation as Seasonal Public Works Employee

The Council reviewed Dick Patch's Letter of Resignation. Erickson said that Patch was a hard worker and did a good job for the City. The Council agreed that Patch was a good guy and will be missed. Erickson stated that there is no agreement to allow Patch to work any hours next season.

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Pelava to accept Dick Patch's Letter of Resignation as Seasonal Public Works Employee. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

g. Consider Approval to Set the Hourly Rate Paid by the City of Lonsdale for Snow Removal at \$77.00 per Truck

Vlasak stated that area snow haulers are charging around \$77.00 hour for snow hauling over the 2014-2015 winter season. He recommended that the City set that amount as the standard rate. Kodada asked what the City's cost for hauling snow would be.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Pelava to set the hourly rate paid by the City of Lonsdale for snow removal at \$77.00 per truck. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

h. Discuss Resolution 2014-42

Rud asked if the City Council could further discuss, clarify, and reevaluate Resolution 2014-42, originally passed at the October 13, 2014 Special City Council meeting. Rud stated that the City Council should carefully reconsider the "is not a responsible bidder" wording that was used in regard to Heselton Construction. Rud stated that it was not his intent to ban Heselton from bidding on future City projects. Kodada stated that Heselton could take the City to court over such a statement. Rud stated that project-related issues have recently been or are currently being resolved, and he suggested that liquidated damages may be a better route to pursue. Rud stated that Heselton has been a good contractor and competitive bidder in the past; however, certain issues have come up over the last three years. Pelava stated that the City should enforce liquidated damages. Furrer stated that the City will be wiser the next time around.

The Council directed City staff to relook at Resolution 2014-42 at a future Council meeting once the Lonsdale Business Park Project is completed. They said that the current contract should be resolved first, then the Resolution can be discussed.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Department Reports

- Vlasak said that the Public Works Department is busy with bio-solid hauling. He mentioned that they are also patching and repairing streets with blacktop.
- Kawlewski said that the DRS Sewer Project has been completed and final payment will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.
- Erickson reminded everyone that Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm.
- Baker stated that the City of Lonsdale and Tri-City United School District # 2905 partnered together by submitting a letter-of-intent to MNDOT for potential Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding for enhanced crosswalks along

Co. Rd. 4. Baker also provided an update on the Veterans Memorial Project. Rud stated that the Lions Breakfast event, which may have raised over \$3,000.00 for the Veterans Memorial.

b. Council Reports

Council Member Daleiden

Daleiden announced the upcoming Holiday Wine Tasting Show at Lonsdale Liquor. He noted that the numbers for September 2014 showed a profit.

Council Member Kodada

Kodada stated that the Park Board will be meeting on November 18th due to Election Day and Veterans Day falling on the next two Tuesdays.

Vlasak suggested that the Park Board discuss adding a Christmas decoration, such as a giant Santa Clause, to the center of the new Main Street Plaza. Baker noted that it was always planned for the Plaza evergreen trees to be lite up over the Winter Holidays.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer said that the Library will be hosting a history player at an upcoming event. She also mentioned that the Library is promoting “food for fines”, where late fees/fines are forgiven with the donation of a food item for the local food shelf. Furrer said that the Lonsdale First Program will be starting on November 1st.

Council Member Pelava

Pelava provided a brief recap of the last Planning Commission meeting. He also gave an update on new home permits to-date.

Mayor Rud

Rud said that he was going to be on KCHK Radio on October 31st to talk about Lonsdale. In recognition of Veterans Day coming up on November 11th, Rud thanked all the Veterans for their service to the United States.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Kodada to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator