

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2015**

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
Public Works Director Russ Vlasak

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda.

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

Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained:

None. Vote: 5-0. 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. Discussion and Public Comment on the Proposed 2016 City Budget and Property Tax Levy – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson highlighted the key points of an 8-page Staff Report detailing the main priorities and changes proposed in the 2016 Budget. Along with the line-item budget, the Council and public reviewed a proposed tax change map, a pie chart showing the Budgeted Revenues, and the Final Property Lev & Impact spreadsheet, which shows the tax impact on five residential properties and three commercial/industrial properties with varying values. Erickson stated that the Council decided, at their last budget meeting, to keep the tax rate the same, at 73.409, which results in the preliminary levy being reduced by \$5,000.00. Erickson provided a breakdown of money levied for in 2016: General Fund - \$1.18 million, EDA - \$0.00, and Debt Service - \$754,396.00, totaling \$1.94 million. Rud thanked Erickson, and he said that City Council is trying to keep City taxes affordable for everyone, especially young families and seniors. He asked if anyone had any comments off the floor.

Ryan Skluzacek, 447 Singing Hills Drive SE, asked for more details about the proposed woodchips at Jaycee Park and new lawn mower purchase. Vlasak explained the need for the new woodchips and lawn mower. Skluzacek also asked about water/sewer rates, maintenance expenses, and the overall tax levy and property valuations on his two properties in town. He said that his taxes are proposed to go up significantly. Rud invited Skluzacek to talk with the Rice County Assessor's Office about property valuations. Rud said that the water/sewer funds are enterprise funds which are currently sustaining themselves based on current rates. He assured Skluzacek and the tax payers of Lonsdale that the Council only budgets for what the City needs. He said that the City tries to be efficient and cost conscious throughout the entire budgeting process.

Rud asked if there were any further questions. No one else responded to the invitation.

b. Consider Approval of Resolution 2015-63, a Resolution Setting the Fiscal Year 2016 Final City Budget and Property Tax Levy – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Daleiden stated that the City Council and Staff have put a lot of work into the budget. Rud thanked the other Council members and City Staff for their hard work on the 2016 Budget.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to approve Resolution 2015-63, a resolution setting the Fiscal Year 2016 Final City Budget and Property Tax Levy. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- c. Consider Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Lonsdale and Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. Local # 369, Patrol Officers – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson explained that City Staff has met several time with Law Enforcement Labor Services # 369, Police Officers, throughout the fall. The Council reviewed both a redlined and clean copy of the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement. Erickson went through the main points of the agreement, including term length, cell phone compensation, wage increases, performance evaluations, and scheduling. Kodada asked if the agreement was similar to non-union workers. Erickson said that the union workers are actually receiving a higher wage increase and guaranteed future wage increases in 2017 and 2018. Furrer asked where the bulk of the Police Officers fall on the pay scale. Erickson said that most of the officers fall into the \$22-\$24/hr. range.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Lonsdale and Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. Local # 369, Patrol Officers. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

Rud thanked Erickson and Police Chief Schmitz for their work on the agreement.

- d. Consider Approval of Resolution 2015-64, a Resolution to Contract With a Councilmember – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson said that the Public Works Director would like to use heavy earth moving equipment to remove the silt from the roadway that was subcut on the future Pondview Drive SE extension. He explained that the work needs to be done because in spring, the silt will overflow the bank of the pond, create more erosion and be going directly into the retention pond south of the future road. The Public Works Director obtained hourly equipment rates from Rud Construction, and the Council reviewed the fee schedule. Vlasak said that he would mainly be using an excavator. He explained that City Staff and trucks will be used to haul away the silt.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2015-64, 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.

- e. Consider Approval to Set the Rate the City Pays to Contractors for Snow Hauling at \$80.00/hr. With a Three Hour Minimum – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson explained that last year the City set the hourly rate for contractor snow hauling at \$77.00/hour, but rates in the area have since risen to \$79.00 - \$82.00/hr. and include a minimum number of hours. He recommended paying an hourly rate to contractors for hauling snow be set at \$80.00/hr. with a three hour minimum.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to set the rate the City pays to contractors for snow hauling at \$80.00/hr. with a three hour minimum. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- f. Update on the City's Comprehensive Plan Update – Ben Baker, City Planner
Baker invited everyone to attend next week's Visioning Session at the American Legion. He explained the proposed format for that meeting. He noted that the deadline for the community surveys are due on December 14th and that copies of final results would be available at the Visioning Session meeting. City Staff presented the Council with the preliminary results of the survey, which represented about 85-90% of the total surveys submitted. Erickson and Baker went through the majority of the question results and provided insight and comments regarding the outcomes. The Council members were fascinated with the results and public comments submitted so far.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Department Reports

Vlasak provided an update on Public Works Department projects.

Erickson provided an update on the Feed Mill Project. He also said that the EDA will be focusing more on marketing strategies in 2016, and mentioned that the City's website update and redesign will be the first step.

Baker provided the Council with a sign sketch of the future TCU Lonsdale Elementary design to review.

- b. Council Reports

Council Member Daleiden

Daleiden said that there will be a Holiday Tasting event on Saturday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm, and he invited everyone to attend.

Council Member Kodada

Kodada provided a recap of the December 8th Park Board meeting, including reviewing the 2005/2007 Parks, Trails, and Recreation Plans, splash pad planning, park furniture (trash receptacles, picnic tables, and benches), and a potential partnership with Elko New Market and Three Rivers Park District for more recreational and programming opportunities.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer stated that the Library Board and EDA will meet next week.

Council Member Pelava

Pelava said that the Comp Planning Committee will be meeting next Thursday at the American Legion.

Mayor Rud

Rud congratulated Lonsdale Family Medical Clinic on their 10th year anniversary in Lonsdale. He also congratulated Lonsdale Hardware on their 5th year anniversary. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodad, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator