

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 12, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 6:00 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, and Furrer

Members Absent: Pelava

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 corrections, additions, or deletions to the agenda.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the agenda as proposed.

Vote for: Kodada, Daleiden, Rud, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Abstained: 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. Discuss the Potential Community Center Project

Erickson provided an overview on the Community Center Project planning process to date. He said that three architectural firms were interviewed on April 27th, and the Community Center Committee recommended selecting 292 Design Group at their May 4th meeting. He said that 292 Design Group did the best job and provided the most detailed approach on how the process will work to get residents/partners involved in the design process from the beginning. Erickson said that each architectural firm also strongly recommended hiring Ballard King & Associates, LTD to complete a feasibility study on the project, which will provide information on 1) needs assessment, 2) community input, 3) programming, 4) operations issues, and 5) funding analysis. Erickson estimated the cost for pre-referendum services and the election to be around \$50,000.00, which includes the architectural firm - \$27,000.00, feasibility study - \$12,000.00, election/bond counsel - \$7,500.00, and other miscellaneous expenses - \$3,500.00. Erickson provided funding options for the \$50,000.00. Erickson said that the Committee recommended conducting a special election as part of the Primary election on Tuesday, August 9th. The Council reviewed a summary sheet of the architectural service proposals and presentations given by each of the three firms.

Community Center Committee Spokesperson Ryan Phelps stated that 75% of Lonsdale's residents indicated on a recent community survey that they were in favor of constructing a local community center. He noted that a community center would draw people to town. He talked about the architectural firm interviews, and he said that 292 stood out in terms of their expertise and as a good fit for Lonsdale.

Rud thanked Phelps and the other members of the Community Center Committee for their volunteerism. Rud opened up the floor up to the audience, stating that the Council is welcoming an open discussion on the topic.

Gary Skluzacek, 601 Railway Street SW, referred back to the failed 2004 Community Center Referendum, asking what that cost was. He suggested that the private sector fund the project and leave government out of it. Phelps stated that 292 will be working to find potential partners that may want to lease/use space in the new center. Rud noted that \$660,000.00 in debt will be retired in 2017 & 2018, allowing the City the opportunity to construct a community center at little-to-no cost to the taxpayers.

Committee Volunteer Jim Meyer stated that based on his experience with the City of Apple Valley, a community center will bring people in to town. He talked about potential partnerships. Phelps referenced how the Andover, MN Community Center project brought great community pride to the Andover area. Phelps said that he hopes Lonsdale's community center will have a place for all ages and activities. He noted that Lonsdale's population is almost 4,000 people with an average age of 29 years old, compared to 10+ years ago when the stats showed Lonsdale average age at around 40 years old and 1,500 people.

Furrer wondered how smaller communities support a community center. She also asked if there was a rush to have the vote in August. She said that it would be nice to have the referendum during the General Election, so that more people would turn out to vote. She also suggested that amenities not be duplicated.

Committee Volunteer Devin Reyes and Phelps agreed that there is an urgency and passion surrounding the idea of a community center in town. They suggested that an August 9th Referendum timeline works nicely with the current summer energy. They said that the Committee feels that now is the right time to run with it. Reyes noted that there is a unique blend of volunteers on the Committee that will work with 292 to input everyone's ideas.

Erickson talked about the blackout date rules for running a referendum around the time of a Primary and General Election. Rud noted that a lot of momentum has been built up, and it wouldn't be ideal to have a vote too much later in the year.

Committee Volunteer Rene Thompson said that as a taxpayer she is in favor of getting the most bang-for-the-buck out of a new community center.

Furrer asked about maintenance costs for the potential facility. The Community Center Committee members stated that Ballard & King along with 292 will help better define what those costs might be.

Skruzacek asked why people move to Lonsdale away from bigger-city amenities. He suggested that people move to town for cheaper taxes and a small-town feel.

Reyes said that she loves living in Lonsdale and wouldn't move for anything, except that a community center would help alleviate some of the drive time it takes to get to local schools and youth sporting events that tend to be held outside of Lonsdale. She said that a community center will definitely help attract people to town and they will in turn spend money at local businesses.

Phelps said that the fact is that Lonsdale is positioned to grow, and he suggested that Lonsdale can't afford not to build a community center facility to facilitate the needs of growing community. He suggested that the Council take the next step tonight by taking official action to hire an architectural firm to help bring a community center to Lonsdale.

Daleiden commented that the community survey results show that people in town are wanting the City to consider building a community center in the near future.

Kodada suggested that you typically get what you pay for in regard to professional services. Furrer recommended trying to find a balance to keep taxes low.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Daleiden to approve a proposal from 292 Design Group for pre-referendum services. Vote for: Kodada, Daleiden, Rud, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the special meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, and Furrer Against: None Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator