

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 12, 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, Project Engineer Josh Pope, 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

8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation of a CenterPoint Energy Community Partnership Grant in the Amount of \$1,350.00 for Two Plus Automated External Defibrillators for the Police Department – Barry Hager, CenterPoint Energy

Barry Hager of CenterPoint Energy presented Police Officer Wade Murray, on behalf of the Lonsdale Police Department, a check in the amount of \$1,350.00 for the purchase of a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Murray stated that the Police Department is very grateful for the grant money. He stated that Police Chief Jason Schmitz applied for the grant in hope of replacing the Department's aging Medtronic LifePak AEDs currently installed in the squad cars. He explained that the AEDs are a very important tool for first responders and have been credited for saving many lives.

The Council thanked CenterPoint Energy and the Police Department.

- b. Consider Approval of the Water Tower Logo/Color – Joel Erickson, City Administrator
Erickson explained that at the last meeting, City staff presented options for the logo and colors for the City water tower. He said that reactions were mixed on the options presented. Erickson stated that a decision needs to be made by the Council because I & S Group/KLM need to include the water tower logo and colors into the plans and specifications for the Water Tower Reconditioning Project. The Council reviewed and discussed the "drop-S" logo option and the "EDA logo". Kodada stated that he doesn't like the EDA logo because it seems to portray a lack of power and strength. Daleiden stated that the drop-S logo definitely relays a symbol of strength/power. Furrer stated that it is time to freshen up the City's look by officially changing the logo to the EDA logo. She noted that change is always difficult, and she mentioned that the drop-S logo is not that terrific. She said that the EDA logo is associated with marketing, promotion, and progress of the City. Kodada stated that the Lonsdale lettering in the EDA logo is okay by itself. He suggested enlarging the lettering to be more visible from Highway 19. The Council members agreed to compromise and use the Lonsdale lettering from the EDA logo, without the rolling hills/sky portion of the logo.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve:

1. the EDA Logo with the "LONSDALE" lettering only (no logo or slogan) painted on top of an off-white/cream color on the top portion of the bowl, and
2. a darker-blue-teal color, as depicted on the third color scheme, painted on the bottom part of the bowl and tower.

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

- c. Consider Approval of the Water Tower Reconditioning Project Plans and Specification and Authorize Staff to Advertise the Project for Bid – Josh Pope, I & S Group
Pope provided a quick synopsis of the Water Tower Reconditioning Project. The Council reviewed the construction documents for the project. Rud stated that if the project was completed in the Spring of 2015, that could potentially save the City money.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the Water Tower Reconditioning Project Plans and Specifications and authorize Staff to advertise the project for bid. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

Pope also provided the Council with an update on the Lonsdale Business Park road construction project, including details on a delay with the Hwy 19 turn lanes.

- d. Consider Approval of a Request for Reduced Building Permit Fees for Two Homes from Rice County Habitat for Humanity – Joel Erickson, City Administrator
Erickson stated that Rice County Habitat for Humanity recently requested that the City of Lonsdale consider reducing its building permit fees for a proposed Habitat for Humanity twin home in the WELCO subdivision. He noted that the City Council has reduced the building permit fee by \$1,500.00 in the past for Habitat for Humanity homes. Dayna Norvold of Rice County Habitat for Humanity presented facts that contradict myths about the Habitat for Humanity organization and the families that live in their homes. She said that their affordable homes are a hand-up and not a hand-out which lead to stabilizing neighborhoods and families. She said that the families are required to put in at least 350 hours of work on the home, and she handed out an informational booklet out to the Council and City Staff regarding the Rice County Habitat for Humanity organization. Rud thanked Norvold and Rice County Habitat for Humanity for helping families and doing such remarkable work in the community. The Council agreed to help the proposed twin home project in WELCO by reducing the fees by \$1,500.00 per unit.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to approve a reduction of \$1,500.00 for the 662 4th Circle Drive SE building permit and a reduction of \$1,500.00 for the 668 4th Circle Drive SE building permit (twin home). Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- e. Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-23, a Resolution Approving Workers' Compensation for Elected Officials – Joel Erickson, City Administrator
Erickson stated that this is an annual resolution that is approved by the City Council for elected officials to be covered un the City's Worker's Compensation policy.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2014-23, a Resolution approving workers' compensation for elected officails. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

f. Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-24, a Resolution Designating an Official Appointment – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson explained that Karla Krammer resigned from the Library Board back in February due to a busy work schedule. He noted that the Board has been soliciting applications since the vacancy, and two applications were received. He mentioned that Mayor Rud, Library Director Moran, and himself conducted interviews, and both interviewees interviewed very well. Mayor Rud recommend appointing Mary Ray Jirik to the Lonsdale Library Board.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2014-24. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

g. Consider Approval of the First Amendment to the Agreement to Mow Between the City of Lonsdale and Jonathon Thielen – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson mentioned that the Public Works Director has found more areas that could be hayed/mowed by Johnathon Thielen to save on staff time and wear on mowing equipment. The Council reviewed the attached maps showing areas that are currently mowed by the City that would be turned over to Thielen, including 1) the "future dog park" area of Sticha Park, 2) some of the flat play areas in Kalina Park, and 3) the remaining vacant lot located next to the City's wastewater treatment plant. Erickson noted that the current agreement with Thielen will still be valid.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Pelava to approve the first amendment to the agreement to mow between the City of Lonsdale and Jonathon Thielen. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

h. Consider Approval of an Application and Permit for a 1-Day to 4-Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License Requested by the Church of the Immaculate Conception – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson presented the Council with an application from the Church of the Immaculate Conception for a 1-to-4 day temporary on-sale liquor license for their annual church festival being held on Sunday, August 3, 2014.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Furrer to approve an application and permit for a 1-Day to 4-Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License requested by the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

i. Consider Approval to Schedule Special Meetings on the City's 2015 Annual Budget – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson asked the City Council to consider scheduling four meeting for the 2015 Budget throughout the summer on Tuesday evenings.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to schedule the following Special Meetings on the 2015 budget:

- Tuesday, July 15th
- Tuesday, July 29th
- Tuesday, August 5th
- Tuesday, August 19th

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

j. Discuss a Policy on Deferring the Water and Sewer Access Charges (WAC/SAC) on New Home Construction– Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson said that the City held a Builders Forum meeting back in February to discuss how to increase new home construction in 2014. He said that one of the main ideas that stemmed from the Forum was the idea that the City should consider deferring WAC/SAC fees until a new home is occupied by permanent residents. He explained that a fee deferral would save home builders \$9,250.00 in up-front costs and work to promote a larger inventory of new spec/model homes and ultimately spur new home construction in Lonsdale. Erickson cautioned the Council that such a deferral program could potentially cause issues if a transfer in ownership is made from the home builder to another party without the City being paid the remaining WAC/SAC fees.

Home builders Ted Kowalski and Garry Tupy of JB Woodfitter voiced their support for a WAC/SAC deferral program. They stated that they own 65 vacant lots in town and they plan to build five homes starting in September 2014. They said that a fee deferral program would be a big help to their company, especially when they are building multiple homes at one time. They explained that it takes about four months to build a home and an additional 5-6 months to market and sell a new home. They suggested making the fees due upon a certificate of occupancy, which is issued by the Building Inspector. They stated that the deferral program would be a great help to small builders too. They said that now is the time to start building because there is not a lot of homes for sale in the area. Baker noted that ACCM Construction had also expressed interest in the WAC/SAC deferral program.

The Council directed City Staff to research the topic further and bring the agenda item back to a future Council meeting.

k. Consider Approval of Resolution 2014-25, a Resolution to Contract with Councilmember

Erickson explained that something needs to be done soon with the closed portion of Industrial Drive SE. He said that the one lane traffic on that road is creating some unsafe driving situations. Vlasak stated that he received a few quotes from contractors for around \$80,000 to repair/repave that section of roadway. Vlasak and Erickson agreed that the most cost-efficient way to repair the issue is to borrow the necessary equipment from Rud Construction and fix the road in-house. They estimated a savings of at least

\$20,000.00 if the Public Works Department completed the work. Kodada stated that it definitely needs to be fixed.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve Resolution 2014-25, 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.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Department Reports

- Vlasak said that seal coating work will begin next week.
- Erickson reminded the Council of their Special Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 6:00 pm to discuss the CIP Area No. 5 Project. He also went through a preliminary timeline for the Linking Lonsdale Project.

b. Council Reports

Council Member Daleiden

Daleiden stated that sales at Lonsdale Liquor are considerably higher compared to a year ago. He said the store is sitting in pretty good shape and lost revenue could easily be made up in June.

Council Member Kodada

Kodada stated that the Park Board hosted the Main Street Plaza Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting event on June 10th.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer said that the EDA met earlier in day, and they discussed coming up with an smartphone app for Lonsdale. She said that Rice County EDA Director Deanna Kuennen was at the meeting to talk about marking Lonsdale as a "south metro city". Furrer also announced that Lonsdale's Business Park will be the first certified shovel-ready site in Rice County.

Council Member Pelava

Pelava stated that the Planning Commission will be meeting next Thursday.

Mayor Rud

Mayor Rud thanked Baker and Erickson for presenting an update on the Veterans Memorial Project to the American Legion and Auxiliary Members at a joint meeting held on June 5th. He said that the Auxiliary agreed to sponsor a plaza bench, \$2,500.00, that very night. He thanked the Veterans Memorial Task Force for doing a terrific job.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator