

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a special meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 6:04 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

Present: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Treasurer Tami Brokl and
Public Works Director Russ Vlasak

Others Present: None

4. AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Kodada seconded by Pelava 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. Discuss the City's 2016 Annual Budget

Erickson said this was the fourth meeting on the preliminary property tax levy and budget for 2016. He said staff is proposing to increase the tax levy by 3.80%, which will generate an additional \$71,000.00. He said enclosed with the budget information is a spreadsheet that shows the impact on varying valued homes. Pelava asked if the majority of homes in Lonsdale were valued around

\$200,000.00. Erickson replied yes. Erickson said staff was proposing to hire a sixth full time police officer to reduce the turnover of part time officers and the cost of training spent on them. He said staff was also proposing to hire a sixth full time public works employee. Erickson said a 3.50% wage increase and a 1.50% increase in health insurance have been budgeted for.

Erickson said that general fund revenues are project to decrease slightly because expenses are project to decrease as well. He said building permit revenue is projected to be up, which lessened the need for the tax levy. Furrer asked how many new home permits were budgeted for. Erickson replied 10. Mayor Rud asked what the value of the new home permits have been. Erickson replied around \$180,000.00. Erickson said some of the larger expenses are for weekly mosquito control and reallocation of the property insurance premium. Erickson said staff has been working on drafting a plan for an expansion to City Hall and will present it to the City Council prior to soliciting bids.

Erickson said Planning and Zoning was nearly the same as 2015 with the exception of funding for an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan in the amount of \$20,000.00 and codification of City ordinances in the amount of \$2,500.00. He said land use liability insurance has also increased.

Erickson said the EDA is working on completion of their budget for 2016. He said the board has discussed funding requests and is currently working on revising their missions, goals and strategies. Daleiden and Furrer said the EDA has been discussing in great detail their proposed budget for 2016 and the mission, goals and strategies.

Erickson said it is budgeted to hire a sixth full time police officer. He also said municipal liability specific to the police department has also increased. He reviewed how the funding for the purchase of a new squad was determined.

Erickson reviewed the revenues and expenditures in the library proposed for 2016. Library Director, Marguerite Moran was present to provide the City Council an update on the Library. She said the summer reading program had over 300 kids participate in it and staff is gearing up for the winter reading program. She said for the 2016 budget, staff is proposing to replace some of the public computers and staff computers through a lease by SELCO. Moran said she plans to reinvigorate the Friends of Library in 2016 as well. Mayor Rud asked if Rice County distributes funding equally between the three libraries. Moran said it is hard with two large libraries and one small one.

Pelava left the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Erickson reviewed all the debt service funds and said that Funds: 306, 307 and 308 will be paid off in three years and free up approx. 32% of the current property tax levy.

Erickson said the Park and Recreation budget included funds for repairs to the hockey rink, removal and replacement of the playground woodchips at the Jaycee Park, 25% of a new truck, soccer amenities, trail maintenance, a new lawn mower

and funding to be set aside for future park improvements. Furrer asked what was planned for the trail between the wastewater treatment plant and Willow Creek Dr. SE. Staff said at this point just filling in the holes and sections of the trail with gravel. Kodada asked if the gravel could be sealed to last longer and match the pavement. Mayor Rud said it was good that funding for future park projects was included in the budget.

Staff was requested to research the condition of the sealcoating on 8th Ave NW, specifically why it was coming loose per residents' concerns. Vlasak said he would call the contractor to come and look at it.

Erickson said water sales are down for 2015 and if the weather in 2016 is the same, sales will be down then as well. Erickson reviewed the proposed capital outlay for 2016.

Erickson said sewer sales in 2015 are strong and exceeding projections. He said 2016 is expected to have strong sales as well. Furrer questioned the cost per 1,000 gallons to operate the wastewater treatment plant. Staff said they would get the cost. Erickson reviewed the proposed capital outlay and said based on rates, the funding for these projects is not there. Vlasak said the plant is getting ten years old and maintenance is becoming more expensive. He also said the City should be looking at setting aside funding for bio-solids, whether it be drying beds or the purchase of land.

Erickson said for street maintenance in 2016, staff is proposing to mill and overlay the old northeast section of town to last ten years so the southern section of town can be reconstructed over that time period.

Erickson said that he and Vlasak met with representatives from the Flying J Truck Stop regarding providing sewer collection services to the site. The City Council directed to research the idea and work with the Flying J to see if there was a benefit to the City.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Department Reports:

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud and Furrer. Against: None Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator