

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a special meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 415 Central St. W.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Rud, Daleiden, Furrer and Pelava

Absent: Kodada

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

4. AGENDA

Mayor Rud said the agenda went through 10A and asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Furrer to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Rud, Daleiden, Furrer and Pelava. Against: 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

a. Discuss the City's 2014 Annual Budget

The City Council continued its discussion on the City's 2014 budget. The City Council discussed:

1. 2014 Priorities:

Erickson stated that throughout the budget process, the City Council's focus has been: (1) maintaining a 0% levy increase, which would be the third consecutive year; (2) continuing with the City's CIP, specifically Area 5; (3) park projects; (4) interior/exterior cleaning/painting of the water tower; (5) replacement of the lift station 1 control panel and addition to the SCADA system; (6) street maintenance.

2. Proposed Wage Increase and Health Insurance:
Erickson said as proposed, staff will receive a 3.5% wage increase in 2014. He said the city did receive its health insurance renewal rates from Preferred One and the proposed increase is 6%. He said he directed the City's broker to go to market for the possibility of better rates. Erickson said at the first budget meeting, the City Council requested he review the pay scale and determine a course of action to increase the years of service, given the fact that several employees are nearing the end of the ten step pay scale. Erickson said his recommendation was to extend the steps from ten to fifteen.

3. Sewer Fund:
Erickson said for several years, staff has been proposing completion of the DRS sanitary sewer project. He said with the heavy rain received in July, several basements in this area did have water back up in to them. He said by completion of this project, it should substantially reduce the chances of this happening in the future and recommended it be completed. Erickson said the estimated cost is between \$110,000.00 and \$140,000.00. Vlasak provided specifics on the proposed project.

Erickson said the City needs to begin planning for the future of hauling and spreading bio-solids. He said the options include: (1) continue with the current process; (2) purchase land; (3) construct reed beds or (4) construct drying beds. Vlasak said the current landowner has informed the City they no longer want to receive the bio-solids. Because of that, the City will need to haul and apply on different property. There was general discussion on the cleaning of the aeration basins.

4. Water Fund:
Erickson said it is proposed to clean and paint the interior and exterior of the water tower in 2014. He said to finance the project, the City has been setting aside funds each of the last several years.

5. EDA:
Erickson said based on discussion at prior budget meetings and EDA meetings, a percentage of his salary has been allocated to the EDA, similar to the other departments.

6. Proposed Property Tax Levy:
Erickson said as proposed, the property tax levy is \$1,649,135.00, which is allocated as: \$1,013,763.00 to the General Fund and \$635,372.00 to Debt Services. He said the City Council has accomplished its goal of a 0% levy increase.

7. Splash Pad/Community Center:
Erickson said he has been approached by a group of residents that are interested in fund raising for the construction of a splash pad and also revisiting the construction of a community center. Erickson said no other residents have approached him and he has not heard anything regarding this since the referendum in 2004. He asked the Council their thoughts on revisiting the community center. The consensus of the Council was to first

gage interest by a survey to see if residents even want a community center. Erickson said he would inform the residents of the Council's thoughts.

8. Staff Wages:

Mayor Rud asked if City Planner Ben Baker can work more hours in Lonsdale and phase out of working in Elko New Market. Rud said with the projects the City will be starting next year and the tasks associated with them, it is more important that Baker be working in Lonsdale than off-setting his salary by working in Elko New Market. He also requested that staff research area wages for City Planners and City Administrators.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Rud, Daleiden, Furrer and Pelava. Against: None Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator