

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
November 12, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Daleiden, Kodad, Rud, Smith, and Furrer

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Planner Benjamin Baker, City Engineer Kevin Kawlewski, Public Works Director Vlasak, and Library Director Dianna Tallent

**4. AGENDA**

Mayor Rud asked if anyone had any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda. Rud asked if the Library Director could speak under New Business (a).

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Daleiden to approve the agenda with the noted addition. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Consider approval of the minutes from the September 24, 2009 Regular Meeting and the October 8, 2009 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2009 regular meeting and the October 8, 2009 regular meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. Special Assessment for Delinquent Accounts Totaling \$67,982.67 for Abatement of Violations Relating to City Code §91.04 (K) – Nuisances, Water and Sewer Accounts and Fire Call Accounts

Rud read the notice and opened the public hearing. Erickson said that the Council scheduled the public hearing to listen to all objections to the proposed assessment on delinquent accounts. He provided the Council with an exhibit showing all the properties in town with outstanding balances for abatement of nuisance violations, water and sewer accounts, and fire call accounts. Erickson explained that some property owners recently paid off the remaining balances on their accounts and some people are on payment plans.

He also explained that the proposed assessments will be paid in full with an interest rate of 5.5% and due at the same time first half property taxes are paid. Erickson explained the objection process and read through a comment letter sent from Donnay Homes. The letter from Donnay Homes asked the City to consider more leniency on its enforcement on vacant lot grass/weed cutting. Erickson explained the grass mowing process, including notice letters, calendar, and contractor payment. Rud stated that the City has received a fair number of complaints about tall grass and that is why the City enforces it so thoroughly. Except for the Donnay Homes comment, no written or verbal objections were submitted or heard.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to close the public hearing. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 2009-233, an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 70: Traffic  
Rud read the notice and opened the public hearing. Erickson stated that Police Chief Schmitz is requesting that detailed language be added to the City Code to prevent motor vehicles from driving on the pedestrian paths. He mentioned that “Mo Motorized Vehicles” signs are currently posted along the trails, but there is no language in the Code that actually makes it illegal. He read through the proposed ordinance language revision, including the addition of a specific definition for “motor vehicles”. No written or verbal comments were received.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Smith to close the public hearing. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

None

## **8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Board and Commission Minutes

Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. None

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Library Director Report  
Erickson introduced Library Director Diana Tallent to the City Council. He said that she was selected out of the 6 applicants that interviewed for the position. Tallent provided a

brief progress report on the library setup process. She mentioned that she has been working on weeding out the donated books, contracts with SELCO, setting up a meeting with a technician, establishing telephone service, getting ready for shelving and furniture, and checking into cataloging options. She stated that she wants to hear from the Council and public on what they want their library to become. Rud asked where donations should be dropped off. Erickson said that residents should drop donations off at City Hall. Tallent said that the donated books are a great asset, and she said the goal is to be shelf ready by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2010. Rud said that the Library Board has done a great job, and he stated that Tallent was an excellent selection for the Library Director position.

b. Consider Approval of Resolution 2009-40, a Resolution Adopting Assessment for Delinquent Accounts for Abatement of Violations Relating to City Code § 91.04 (K) – Nuisances, Water and Sewer Accounts and Fire Call Accounts

Erickson presented the Council with Resolution 2009-40. He said that the public hearing was held earlier in the meeting. The Council briefly discussed the idea of sending a copy of the monthly utility bill to both the renter and the property owner. Rud said that the Council can discuss the issue further during its review of the fee schedule in January.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Daleiden to approve Resolution 2009-40, a resolution adopting assessment for delinquent accounts for abatement of violations relating to City Code § 91.04 (K) – Nuisances, water and sewer accounts and fire call accounts. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

c. Consider Approval of Ordinance 2009-233, an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 70: Traffic

Erickson said that the public hearing for the proposed ordinance was held earlier in the meeting. He read through the amended portion of Section 70.02 and 70.04. Vlasak mentioned that the exempt portion should be expanded to include City owned and emergency vehicles. The Council decided to approve the ordinance as presented.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Smith to approve Ordinance 2009-233, an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 70: Traffic. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Approval of Resolution 2009-41, a Resolution Accepting General Election Results (Canvass Election)

Erickson said that the City is required by State Statute to canvass the results of any city election. He went through the election results and provided the Council with the print out from the M100 ballot counter with the results and Election Judge's signatures. He mentioned that 202 people voted out of 1,894 registered voters.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Smith to approve Resolution 2009-41, a resolution accepting general election results (canvass election). Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval of a Geographic Information and Data License Agreement Between the City of Lonsdale and Rice County

Baker provided the Council with an overview of the Rice County Geographic Information System, a copy of the proposed information and data license agreement, an email from Rice County GIS Coordinator Michelle Trager, and the updated zoning map created by Rice County GIS. He said that the Rice County Commissioners are asking Lonsdale to join along with Northfield, Faribault, and Dundas to help fund the County's GIS System. He said the purpose of the proposed agreement is to provide the City and its consultants with rights to utilize Rice County's geographic information/data. He provided many examples of services that Rice County GIS provides. He said that the proposed agreement would run for two years starting on January 1, 2010. He mentioned that the agreement fees are based on \$2/parcel, and he said that Lonsdale has 1,943 parcels (\$3,886 per year). He stated that the City has \$45,000 available for geographic information and data that was budgeted for in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Daleiden said that Baker recently provided a GIS presentation at the Planning Commission meeting, and he stated his amazement by the system's capabilities. Baker described the attributes available through the Rice County GIS website hosted by Beacon, and he provided some examples of how the City departments use GIS every day.

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Daleiden to approve a Geographic Information and Data License Agreement between the City of Lonsdale and Rice County. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

f. Consider Approval to Schedule a Public Hearing on Ordinance 2009-234, an Ordinance Amending City Ordinance 2009-227 (2009 Fee Schedule – Dog Registration License)

Erickson mentioned that the Council briefly discussed reducing the dog license fee at the previous Council meeting. Erikson informed the Council that a public hearing would be required to reduce the fee for a dog license. He asked the Council to provide direction to City staff. Furrer stated that Montgomery only charges an annual \$5 fee for dog licenses, and she recommended that the Council consider a reduced fee to encourage residents to get their dogs licensed. Smith stated that dog owners should be obtaining a license for their own benefit of having contact information available for lost dogs. The Council discussed providing an annual license versus a 2-year license. Kodada and Rud suggested discussing the issue further at the 2010 fee schedule meeting.

g. Consider Approval to Schedule a Special meeting to Finalize the City's 2010 Budget and to Discuss Water and Sewer Rates

Erickson reminded the Council that on September 10, 2009, the City adopted the 2010 preliminary property tax levy and 2010 budget. He asked the Council to consider scheduling one more meeting to finalize the 2010 budget and to discuss water and sewer rates. He mentioned that the main focus of the meeting will be water and sewer rates.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Daleiden to schedule a special meeting on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 6:00 pm to finalize the City's 2010 Budget and to

discuss water and sewer rates. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

### *Council Member Daleiden*

Daleiden suggested that Lonsdale consider starting up a welcoming committee for new businesses. He also reported that the Liquor Store is ahead of sales compared to the same time last year, but he mentioned that the customer count is down a little for the month of October.

### *Council Member Kodada*

Kodada reported on the last Park Board meeting. He said that the Park Board discussed tree plantings, DRS Field dugout issues, a park and recreation online survey, and a potential archery range.

Rud stated that the Lonsdale Lions are prepared to give some money to the Jaycee Park Skate Park project. He directed the Park Board to obtain quotes for concrete work at their next meeting. He mentioned that local youth have shown interest in a skate park, and he would like to move the project along.

### *Council Member Smith*

None

### *Council Member Furrer*

Furrer said that the EDA's Lonsdale First program will start on Monday. She mentioned that the program is intended to promote buying in Lonsdale.

### *Council Member Rud*

In honor of Veterans Day, Rud thanked the veterans for their service to the country. He said that the American Legion Auxiliary club will be preparing care packages for military service men and women and their families. He mentioned that the City will be accepting advisory board position applications for the terms ending in 2009. He said that the Lions club recently donated \$200 towards the Jaycee Park Ball Fields Outfield Leveling project. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Smith, and Furrer. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator