

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 24, 2022**

**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: David Webb, Kevin Kodada, Tim Rud, Cindy Furrer and Scott Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Engineer Nick Guilliams, Interim Public Works Director Joe Dornfeld, Lead Water/Wastewater Operator Jordan Plotz and Library Director Marguerite Moran

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Rud said the agenda when through 10G and asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the Minutes. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Webb to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2022 Regular Meeting. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

a. Delinquent Accounts Assessment Hearing

Mayor Rud called the public hearing to order at 7:03 pm. Erickson said this is an annual public hearing held to assess delinquent accounts. He said the total amount proposed to be assessed is \$892.05, which consists of a fire call, tall weeds/grass abatement and a water/sewer bill. Erickson said as of the hearing, no written or verbal comments were received. He said since the required notices were sent out, no payment had been made. He said by adopting the proposed resolution during New Business, the City Council is approving the proposed assessments, stating the assessments will be paid with the 2023 property taxes and an interest rate of 4.90% if not paid within the next 30 days and directing the City Administrator to certify a copy of the resolution to Rice County. Mayor Rud asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak. There were none. Mayor Rud asked if there were any written or verbal comments received. Erickson replied no.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to close the public hearing. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

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

None

**8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Monthly Bills
- b. Treasurers Report
- c. Board and Commission Minutes
- d. Consider Approval of Ordinance 2022-313, an Ordinance Adopting a Supplement to the City Code (S-11)

Mayor Rud said there were a few items on the Consent Agenda and asked if anyone wanted any items pulled for discussion. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. None

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Consider Approval of Resolution 2022-50, a Resolution Adopting Assessments  
Erickson said the public hearing was held earlier in the meeting and no written or verbal comments were received prior to or at the hearing. He reviewed Resolution 2022-50 and recommended approval of it. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Webb to approve Resolution 2022-50. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.
- b. Consider Approval of Resolution 2022-51, a Resolution Accepting a Donation From Frandsen Bank & Trust  
Moran said she received a call from Frandsen Bank & Trust that they wanted to do something from the community and asked if the Library needed anything. She said the library needed a cricut machine, a badge machine and items for the Halloween event coming up. She said the items were purchased and Frandsen Bank & Trust sent a check for the entire amount. Mayor Rud thanked Moran for taking the initiative to seek donations. Mayor Rud thanked Frandsen Bank & Trust for the donation. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Webb to approve Resolution 2022-51. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

c. Discuss Chloride Effluent Limit Notification Received From the MPCA for the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility

Guilliams said the City of Lonsdale received a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding chloride discharge limits at the City's wastewater treatment plant. He said the MPCA has been setting lower chloride discharge limits for multiple communities due to subregional studies and environmental impacts to receiving waters. Guilliams said as the permitting agency, the MPCA collects data from the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant and downstream receiving waters and based on the data, the MPCA has determined that City needs a limit for Chloride. He said over the past 9 months, the wastewater plant is averaging a monthly discharge rate of 469 mg/L of chloride. The discharge limit in the City's permit with the MPCA is 229 mg/L of chloride. Guilliams said City staff and WSB met with representatives of the MPCA to discuss the letter and options. He said the MPCA is requiring the City to develop a compliance schedule which outlines specific actions and a timeline that the City could take to reduce chloride limits discharging from the City's wastewater treatment plant in order to be in compliance with the permit. Guilliams said WSB is familiar with this issue and has developed a compliance schedule that is reasonable to implement and provides sufficient time to study this issue in more detail. He reviewed the proposed timeline to achieve compliance. He said in the first year, the City would survey the community to determine the number of old water softeners that are not "on-demand". Mayor Rud asked if there would be assistance to homeowners because telling a resident they need to purchase a water softener will not go over well. Guilliams said in years 1-4, there would be a rebate program established to assist residents purchase new softeners, with funding from the MPCA. He said the fiscal impact to the City over the first couple of years is minimal staff time and the cost of the rebate program, which is unknown. Guilliams said if that does not work, the large fiscal impact to the City is a new lime treatment water plant that could cost upwards of \$15,000,000 and he wanted to make sure the City Council is aware of this. He said the City is required to submit a response within 30 days and what is proposed seems to be realistic to the MPCA. He said if not addressed by the City, the MPCA might not renew the City's Permit. Kodada asked if the MPCA reduced the City's limits during the permit period. Guilliams said the MPCA did not but does monitor areas as sub-regional watersheds to determine chloride limits. Kodada asked if chloride results have been increasing since the permit was issued. Plotz said he reviewed lab results back to the early 2000's and the results have been consistent. He said since the chloride is not a solid, it needs to be removed during the treatment process. Mayor Rud said it looks like the timeline goes out to 2037. Guilliams said they tried to give the City as much as possible to achieve compliance so the City can start small and see where it goes from there. Pelava asked what other sources are contributing to this issue. Guilliams said road salts. Mayor Rud said that source does not go through the plant so it is not all the City's responsibility. Dornfeld said staff is going to take samples in various locations in town to determine sources of chloride. Plotz said he learned that schools are a large consumer of salt and the school in town has multiple large softeners. Furrer suggested thinking about this when selling land in the Business Park. Plotz said some cities have pre-treatment agreements with industrial users to reduce pollutants entering the treatment plant. Mayor Rud said he likes the idea of sampling to determine the sources of chloride. There was discussion on the Rice County stockpiles. He asked if a

motion was needed. Guilliams said staff is looking for Council approve prior to sending the letter. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Webb to approve the City's response and proposed timeline to deal with chloride. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Application for Payment No. 1 (Final) in the Amount of \$21,368.83 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW Drain Tile Improvement Project

Guilliams said staff is recommending approval of the pay request and it was part of the 2021 street project but was expanded on to include drain tile and several inlets. He said the cost is higher than the quote by \$1,400 because poor soils were encountered.

Guilliams said funding for the improvement is proposed from the project fund because the project came in under budget. He said the alternative would be to not approve the pay request. Kodada said the project needed to be done. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Application for Payment No. 1 to Timm's Trucking. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval of Revisions to the City's Snow Plowing Policy

Dornfeld reviewed the eight proposed changes to the City's Snow Plowing Policy.

Kodada asked if storage of snow in cul-de-sacs would be long term. Dornfeld said he did not anticipate it. Mayor Rud said purchasing new equipment is an easier sell if everything is plowed and removed. Dornfeld said the intent of the proposed changes are for staff to be more efficient. Pelava said he could see not removing snow from cul-de-sacs if multiple snow falls of several inches are expected over a couple of days. Mayor Rud asked if a lot of residents use the DRS parking lot for snow emergency parking. Dornfeld said he has seen maybe five vehicles parked there over the last 16 years. Mayor Rud asked if the Gator has been received. Dornfeld said not yet but it is all set. He said the fiscal impact and the main priority of the proposed changes is less overtime.

Dornfeld said that Main St. would be removed the following day. Mayor Rud said he was impressed with the proposed policy, liked the idea of less overtime and he was okay with hauling the next day. Mayor Rud asked if there was anything else. Pelava asked if the proposed policy or no parking were being considered. Dornfeld said the policy.

Furrer said enforcement is hit or miss. Dornfeld said the public would appreciate a shorter length of no parking but staff would recommend November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> but that can be revisited. Pelava said with two weeks before the season, it does not provide time for residents to construct parking pads. Mayor Rud said establishing no parking would be tough. Kodada agreed. Pelava reiterated the lack of time for residents to prepare.

Furrer said no parking is common in many other communities and it works. There was general discussion on enforcement of parking during snow emergencies and timing/phasing in of no parking. Pelava said the process should begin with ticketing.

Furrer agreed that snow emergencies need to be enforced. Kodada asked how many tickets are issued during a snow emergency. Dornfeld said the first couple snow emergencies are when the most are issued and it seems to be the same people all season. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the proposed revisions to the City's Snow Plowing Policy. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- f. Consider Approval to Accept Molly Clark's Letter of Resignation as Part Time Liquor Store Clerk  
Erickson said Clark has submitted her letter of resignation effective October 29, 2022. He said she was a good worker and will be missed. Erickson said the Liquor Store Manager has discuss this with her staff and are willing to work more hours so there is not a need to advertize to fill the position. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Webb to accept Molly Clark's letter of resignation. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.
- g. Consider Approval to Schedule the 2023 Annual Meeting for December 29, 2022 and Cancel the following City Council meetings: January 12, 2023 Regular Meeting, the February 9, 2023 Regular Meeting and the March 9, 2023 Regular Meeting  
Erickson said since 2018, the City Council has cancelled the first meetings of the month in January, February and March. He said in addition, it was requested to see if the 2023 Annual Meeting could be rescheduled to December 29, 2022. Erickson said as proposed, the January 12, 2023, the February 9, 2023 and the March 9, 2023 meetings would be canceled. A motion was made Kodada and seconded by Webb to reschedule the 2023 Annual Meeting to December 29, 2022 and cancel the January 12, 2023 meeting, the February 9, 2023 meeting and the March 9, 2023 meeting. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS

### a. Staff Reports

#### *Interim Public Works Director*

Dornfeld said that hauling bio-solids went smooth and staff used the SCADA system to be more efficient. He said staff has been working on repairs at the WWTP and has created the punch list for the 2022 street project. Dornfeld said staff is working on getting the plows ready and are flushing hydrants. Mayor Rud asked if there was a need for a seasonal snow plow driver. Dornfeld said staff has reviewed this and determined one was not needed. Mayor Rud said with current staffing levels, the position should be advertised. There was general discussion on whether or not there is a need for a seasonal snow plow driver, start date, pay, etc.

#### *City Engineer*

Guilliams said the Gibbon driveway culvert project is out for bid.

#### *City Administrator*

Erickson said he participated in interviews for Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief and has finalized required OSHA training completion. He said he met with and received a Land Use application for a car wash in the Rolling Ridge MarketPlace. The City Council discussed the Land Use application. He said he attended the unemployment hearing for the former Public Works Director, that the bids for the 3,000 gallon tanker are due tomorrow, the he is getting ready for the General Election.

*City Planner*

None

b. Council Reports

*Council Member Webb*

None

*Council Member Kodada*

Kodada said the Planning Commission held a public hearing on Ordinance 2022-313 and also reviewed the zoning regulations for the B-1 and B-3 zoning districts.

*Council Member Furrer*

Furrer said the EDA will be hosting a seminar on best management practices regarding employee retention and attraction, etc. on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

*Council Member Pelava*

None

*Mayor Rud*

Mayor Rud said the election is coming up on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Webb, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator