

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

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: Steve Cherney, Tim Rud, Cindy Furrer and Scott Pelava

Members Absent: Kevin Kodada

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, Public Works Director Russ Vlasak, City Engineer John Powell and Police Chief Jason Schmitz

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Erickson said he was requesting 10C be removed from the agenda. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to approve the agenda with 10C removed from the agenda. Vote for: Cherney, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A motion was made by Cherney and seconded by Furrer to approve the Minutes from the October 29, 2020 Regular Meeting. Vote for: Cherney, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

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 and Provide Direction on the Rice County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4 Reconstruction Project

Dennis Luebbe, Rice County Engineer was present at the meeting to discuss the Rice CSAH 4 reconstruction project. He said the project is scheduled for construction in 2022 and said preliminary surveying has been completed. Luebbe said he has received comments from the City regarding proposed improvements. He said the main point of coming to the meeting was to discuss the TH 19 and Rice CSAH 4 intersection and the three alignment options. The three options include: (1) reconstruct as is; (2) turn 3rd Ave SW into a cul-de-sac to not connect to Rice CSAH 4/TH 19 and 90° the TH 19/Rice CSAH 4 intersection and (3) make 3rd Ave SW a dead-end and keep the TH 19/Rice CSAH 4 alignment as is. Luebbe said he has concerns with each option, mainly maintaining access to private properties. He said the problem trying to be solved is that the intersection is skewed.

Furrer said she is not aware of any accidents at the intersection because motorists know the intersection. Cherney said this intersection is the most dangerous intersection he knows of and it needs to be figured out. Rud recommended the alignment remain the same due to a lack of crashes and not close 3rd Ave SW. Luebbe said he was not recommending 3rd Ave SW be closed, rather the City might want to install temporary jersey barriers to see what the reaction to the road closure is. He said given the low traffic counts during peak am/pm times, the response might be surprising and if permanently closed, the City would have the data to respond to questions, concerns and complaints. He said if closed, he would recommend maintaining access to the car lot and if Rice CSAH 4 is reconstructed to intersect with TH 19 at a 90° angle and that turn lanes on TH 19 may be required. Rud said with limited funds available, the City should focus on the TH 19/Rice CSAH 2 and the TH 19/8th Ave NE intersections. Erickson reviewed the Planning Commission meeting and the May 14, 2020 City Council meeting, where these items were last discussed. Pelava said the 60 MPH speed limit is too close to town. The City Council held general discussion on whether or not to close 3rd Ave SW for a trail period. Cherney asked Luebbe what he would do with the intersection if money was not a concern. Luebbe said he would recommend a trail closure of 3rd Ave SW for feedback from residents, motorists and pedestrians. Furrer asked if the priority was 5th Ave NW or 3rd Ave SW. Luebbe said he was under the impression that realigning 5th Ave NW was not on the table. Rud asked if the project consisted of full reconstruction or a mill and overlay. Luebbe said it is proposed as a complete reconstruct and includes City infrastructure repairs. Rud said there have been numerous water main breaks in this area. Powell reviewed City staff's proposed infrastructure priorities. Cherney asked staff if the priority was Rice CSAH 2 or Rice CSAH 4. Staff said based on past City Council discussion, Rice CSAH 2 is the priority and that Rice County will be the lead agency on the Rice CSAH 4 project. The City Council held general discussion on still being interested in purchasing the County Maintenance Shop on 5th Ave NW, removal of the excess dirt piles at the shop and general development in northern Rice County. Luebbe asked if the City Council had any questions and/or concerns with long term transportation planning in Rice County, specifically, near Lonsdale. Rud said the roads coming into Lonsdale are in good shape or will be with the Rice CSAH 4 reconstruction project and a proposed mill and overlay

project of Rice CSAH 4 south of Lonsdale in 2024. Cherney said he wanted to make sure the City's response to Rice County on the Rice CSAH 4 project, purchasing the County shop and a potential partnership on a larger shared maintenance facility is positive. Luebbe summarized other improvements proposed to be included in the Rice CSAH 4 reconstruction project including, pedestrian safety, sidewalk/trail connections, rural section vs. urban section, etc.

b. Update on the Rice County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 / TH 19 Intersection Safety Improvements

This item was discussed with other agenda items. The summary was that MnDoT is submitting a grant application to fund the single lane roundabout at this intersection due to the Benefit-to-Cost ratio. Timing is anticipated to in 2024 with the mill and overlay project already proposed.

c. Update and Presentation on the Lonsdale Public Safety Facility and Future Master Planning Project

This item was pulled from the agenda and not discussed.

d. Consider Approval of Resolution 2020-50, a Resolution Designating 116 Alabama St. SE (IC Church Civic Center) as the Polling Place for the 2021 General Election Held in Lonsdale

Erickson said this a resolution that the City Council approves on an annual basis and designates the IC Church Civic Center as the Polling Place for elections held in Lonsdale in 2021. He said with the recent 2020 General Election, the site works well, there is a good relationship between the City and the Church and the site complies with MN State 2014B. Cherney asked if the Civic Center could be set as the Polling Place for five years instead of approving it every year. Erickson said statute contradicts itself but Rice County Elections is requiring the resolution or ordinance be approved annually. The City Council held general discussion on transitioning to even year elections and directed staff to research the option and present the information at an upcoming meeting. A motion was made by Cherney and seconded by Pelava to approve Resolution 2020-50. Vote for: Cherney, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval of Application for Payment No. 6 in the Amount of \$133,430.28 to A-1 Excavating, Inc. for 2nd Ave SW Area Street and Utility Improvement Project

Powell said this is Payment No. 6 and if approved, 85% of the project will be paid. He said the payment is essentially for the pavement wedge and concrete restoration, does not include the required 5% retainage and recommended approval of it. A motion was made by Cherney and seconded by Furrer to approve Application for Payment No. 6 in the amount of \$133,430.28 to A-1 Excavating, Inc. Vote for: Cherney, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

- f. Consider Approval of Change Order No. 1 in the Deduct Amount of \$1,464.25 and Application for Payment No. 2 (Final) in the Amount of \$2,580.79 to Nielson Blacktopping and Concrete, Inc. for the Deer Ridge Area Mill and Overlay Project

Powell said the punch list has been completed. He said Change Order No. 1 is in the deduct amount of \$1,464.25, which is based on actual quantities used compared to what was bid.

Powell said the contractor has provided the City will the required project close out documents and recommended approval of the Change Order and Payment. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to approve Change Order No. 1 and Payment No. 2 to Nielson Blacktopping and Concrete, Inc. Vote for: Cherney, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. City Staff Reports

Public Work Director

Vlasak said staff has finished up removing and replace the woodchips at the Trendera Memorial Park playground. He said they will be do patching, weather permitting.

City Engineer

Powell said staff met to review the 2021 Street Project design, which is progressing.

City Administrator

Erickson said 1,742 residents voted in person on November 3rd and the Election Judges did a great job. He said next week, he will be attending a Rice County Administrators meeting, participate in the EDA's BR&E Leadership meeting to review the interview results and provided an update on the Public Safety facility.

City Planner

None

b. City Council / Department Reports

Council Member Cherney

Cherney said he was still in favor of constructing two additional garage stalls to bring it back to seven. Furrer questioned if the two stalls could be bid as an alternate. Pelava said the plan in the packet shows the building further to the west than discussed. Erickson provided a summary of the planning to date.

Council Member Kodada

None

Council Member Furrer

Furrer said the EDA will be meeting next week.

Council Member Pelava

Pelava said the EDA will be meeting next week.

Mayor Rud

Rud said he would like staff to draft a letter to Rice County requesting the excess material piles at the County Shop be removed and that the City is interested in partnering on a facilities project for Rice County and Lonsdale Public Works.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Cherney, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator