

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2018**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 6:00 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, Kevin Kodada, Tim Rud, Cindy Furrer, Scott Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Planner Benjamin Baker

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the agenda. Vote for: Cherney, 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. Interview and Select City Attorney to Provide Civil Legal Services – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson stated that out of the eight proposals received for civil legal services, three firms were selected to be interviewed. The Council provided each firm with 15-20 minutes to explain why they should be the City Attorney in Lonsdale. Time was also allotted for Councilmembers to ask each of the attorneys specific questions. The following three firms were interviewed in the order stated:

#### 1. Dougherty Molenda, Solfest, Hills & Bauer P.A.

Proposed Lead Attorney Brian J. Wisdorf and Primary Assistant Annette Margarit, current City Attorney, explained why the Council should remain with DMSH&B. Margarit explained that she has been mentoring Wisdorf as part of a succession plan. She said that she would still be involved with the City as more of a backup or assistant to Wisdorf depending on the specialty subject matter. Wisdorf and Margarit explained their firm's: 1) history of helping the City, 2) prompt service, 3) fair billing practices, and 4) excellent staff and experience. Margarit stated that they have not charged the City for the recent Legacy Meadows Development malpractice case involving a lawsuit between the developer and developer's attorney. They highlighted that their combined specialty areas and experience with other Minnesota cities. Margarit stated that she expects that there will be more issues and work related to the subject of data practices in the future. She said that they are always available when the City needs them.

#### 2. Kennedy & Graven

Proposed Lead Attorney David Anderson was not present due to a prior commitment. Proposed Assistant City Attorney Andrew Biggerstaff and New Prague City Attorney Scott Riggs explained why the Council should consider Kennedy & Graven. They stated that they work with the nearby cities of New Prague, Faribault, and Kenyon. They stated that their firm is the largest firm serving municipalities in Minnesota. They explained that they can advise EDAs and HRAs as well. They answered questions from Cherney, Rud, and Kodada concerning the comprehensive plan, development, and national builders. They talked about their firms experience, deep bench, and effort to build relationships. Biggerstaff and Riggs stated that Kennedy & Graven would be a good fit with the City of Lonsdale, and they stated that they were excited about the opportunity.

3. Campbell Knutson

Proposed Lead Attorney Matt Brokl explained why the Council should consider Campbell Knutson. He noted that proposed Assistant Attorney Andrea McDowell Poehler was unable to attend due another meeting at the City of Elko New Market that same evening. Brokl stated that his firm provides advisement on HRA and EDA matters, but he noted that Campbell Knutson does not provide counsel on municipal bonds. He explained a scenario in which the City of Chanhassen was charged a higher hourly rate by Campbell Knutson compared to their prior attorney's firm, but the City ended up paying less in the long run because of Campbell Knutson's extensive experience with civic matters. Brokl said that his firm is experienced and provides quality service for a good value. He also explained how paralegals are used to provide basic and initial services to provide cost savings to the City. Brokl talked about establishing relationships, his land use experience, and comprehensive plans. He answered a question from Pelava, Rud, and Furrer, including experience in working with large builders/developers. Cherney disclosed that he has had previous experience working together with Brokl when he was with the City of Burnsville. Cherney said that he appreciates Brokl's enthusiasm, and he provided an endorsement for Brokl as City Attorney. Brokl thanked the Council for the opportunity.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

a. Staff Reports

None

b. Council Reports

None

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Cherney to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator