

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order in the Lonsdale City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

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, and Scott Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Planner Benjamin Baker, City Engineer John Powell, Public Works Director Russ Vlasak, Police Chief Jason Schmitz, Police Officer John Pesta

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 Furrer to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Cherney, 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 corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to approve the Minutes from the March 25, 2021 Regular Meeting. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. 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. Presentation of “Solar for the City of Lonsdale”

Rich Ragatz, of Ideal Energies, provided a brief overview of his solar solutions company. He said that Ideal is a Minnesota-based solar energy development company that has 425 commercial solar arrays and half of those are with public entities. Ragatz said that Ideal provides its customers with a turn key solution. He went through a 12-slide presentation, which included information on: Ideal’s customers, sample projects, how on-site solar works, the proposed project in Lonsdale, Lonsdale’s Waste Water Treatment Plants energy consumption, capital lease agreements, project cashflow, and next steps. Ragatz answered the Council’s questions about cashflow price escalation, poly construction method, panel slope, array/panel size, weather patterns, and security around the site. Ragatz explained how Xcel Energy’s review process works, and he stated that a project could possibly get going in the fall of 2021. Rud stated that the City is not ready to make a decision at this time. He questioned the proposed location near a residential neighborhood, potential issues with glare/reflection, and loss of tax base from constructing the array on a buildable industrial lot.

b. Introduction of Part Time Police Officer John Pesta

Police Chief Schmitz introduced Part-Time Police Officer John Pesta to the City Council. Pesta said that he worked for police departments in LeSueur, Montgomery, Faribault, and Rice County. The Council welcomed Pesta, and Rud said that the City is glad to have him back working of the City of Lonsdale.

c. Consider Approval of Resolution 2021-26, a Resolution Approving Deferral of a Special Assessment in the Amount of \$14,000.00 for 421 3rd Ave SW Pertaining to the 2021 Street and Utility Improvement Project

Erickson said that this is the second request for a special assessment deferral for the 2021 Street Project. The Council reviewed a deferral application from the property owner at 421 3rd Avenue SW. Erickson went through the qualifications that the property met to be eligible for the deferral. Rud explained to Cherney that the frequency of street project deferral requests is minimal. Furrer asked how long residents have to submit a deferral application. Erickson said 60 days from the assessment hearing.

A motion was made by Cherney and seconded by Pelava to approve Resolution 2021-26, a Resolution Approving Deferral of a Special Assessment in the Amount of \$14,000.00 for 421 3rd Ave SW Pertaining to the 2021 Street and Utility Improvement Project. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Approval of Resolution 2021-27 a Resolution Waiving the 2021-2022 Liquor License Fees

Erickson explained that with a loss of business due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, that local bar/restaurant owners requested that the City refund all or a portion of the on-sale liquor license fees for the time period between July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021, which was approved at the January meeting. He said liquor license renewals for the next license period need to be sent out and he wanted direction from the City Council as to whether or not licenses will be charged. The Council reviewed the proposed fee charges for Smoke, Whistle Stop, and the American Legion along with a memo from the City Attorney regarding the America Rescue Plan Act.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Cherney to approve Resolution 2021-27 a Resolution waiving the 2021-2022 Liquor License Fees. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval to Schedule Special Meetings to Discuss the City's 2022 Annual Budget

Erickson said that the 2022 budget season is fast approaching. The Council reviewed 7 potential meeting dates from May 20th – September 20th. Erickson said that the May 20th meeting would be a kick-off meeting and set the stage for future meetings.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to schedule Special Meetings to discuss the City's 2022 Annual Budget. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

f. Consider Approval to Make a Conditional Job Offer to Tom Steiner as Seasonal Public Works Employee at Grade 1 / Step 6 (\$14.92/hr.)

Erickson said that five applications were submitted for three seasonal positions in the Public Works Department. Erickson explained that due to recent changes in labor law, employees sixteen years of age and older are now able to operate power equipment. The Council reviewed applications and the ranking sheets for Tom Steiner.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Kodada to make a Conditional Job Offer to Tom Steiner as Seasonal Public Works Employee at Grade 1 / Step 6 (\$14.92/hr.). Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

g. Consider Approval to Make a Conditional Job Offer to Jerry Kroyer as Seasonal Public Works Employee at Grade 1 / Step 6 (\$14.92/hr.)

The Council reviewed the application and the ranking sheet for Jerry Kroyer. Kodada asked about potential penalties for seasonal workers working more than 185 consecutive days. Erickson explained that the City could get fined and would be responsible to contribute towards PERA retroactively from the employee's start date.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to make a Conditional Job Offer to Jerry Kroyer as Seasonal Public Works Employee at Grade 1 / Step 6 (\$14.92/hr.)Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- h. Consider Approval of Resolution 2021-28 a Resolution Granting Approval of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Wetland Replacement Plan Application for LGI Homes Willow Creek Heights 3rd Addition Five (5) Residential Lots

Powell explained that the City of Lonsdale is the Local Unit of Government (LGU) responsible for administering the regulatory provisions of Minnesota's Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). He said that LGI Homes acquired five lots in Willow Creek Heights that contain wetlands and would be impacted by any new home grading work. Powell said that the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) met on March 8, 2021 to review the replacement plan, and the TEP was in agreement with the plan submitted by Westwood Engineering, on behalf of LGI Homes. The Council reviewed the wetland application report and associated maps. Erickson said that Westwood submitted all the required information.

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Pelava to approve Resolution 2021-28 a Resolution granting approval of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Wetland Replacement Plan Application for LGI Homes Willow Creek Heights 3rd Addition Five (5) Residential Lots. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- i. Consider Approval of an Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License Requested by the Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce for the Lonsdale Chamber Street Fair/Business Expo, May 20, 2021 to be Located at the Rolling Ridge Market Place

Erickson asked the Council to consider an application submitted by the Lonsdale Area Chamber for a 1 to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License in connection with their Street Fair/Business Expo, being held on Thursday, May 20, 2021. The Council reviewed the Staff Report and application.

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Pelava to approve an Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License Requested by the Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce for the Lonsdale Chamber Street Fair/Business Expo, May 20, 2021 to be located at the Rolling Ridge Market Place. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- j. Consider Approval to Make a Conditional Job Offer to Richard Bell as Seasonal Public Works Employee at Grade 1 / Step 6 (\$14.92/hr.)

The Council reviewed an application and the ranking sheet for Richard Bell. Erickson said that Richard Bell interviewed well and has relevant experience.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to make a Conditional Job Offer to Richard Bell as Seasonal Public Works Employee at Grade 1 / Step 6 (\$14.92/hr.). Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- k. Consider Approval to Make a Conditional Job Offer to Jacob Oberg as Full Time Public Works Employee at Grade 8 / Step 5 (24.41/hr.)

The Council reviewed an application and the ranking sheet for Jacob Oberg. Erickson said that 14 applications were received for the full-time position, and 4 were selected for interviews. Vlasak said that he was on-board with the hiring of Oberg.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Cherney to make a Conditional Job Offer to Jacob Oberg as Full Time Public Works Employee at Grade 8 / Step 5 (24.41/hr.). Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- l. Consider Approval to Schedule a Public Hearing at 7:00 pm or Shortly Thereafter on April 29, 2021 for a Conditional Use Permit Requested for “Outside Seating/Patio” at 115 Railway St. SW (Smoke)

Erickson said that Staff has been working with Andrew Rasmussen, of Smoke bar/restaurant, on a request for a patio on the east side of the building. Erickson asked the Council to consider scheduling a public hearing for April 29th at 7:00 pm to consider a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Outside Seating. Erickson said that the B-2 Zoning District lists Outside Seating as a CUP, and he noted that the Planning Commission will be reviewing the request at their next meeting.

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Pelava to schedule a Public Hearing at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter on April 29, 2021 for a Conditional Use Permit requested for “Outside Seating/Patio” at 115 Railway St. SW. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. City Staff Reports

Public Work Director

Vlasak said that the Public Works Department is working to get the parks ready for baseball and soccer.

City Engineer

Powell provided an update on the 2021 Street Project. He said that the contractor will be dividing the project into two phases: 1) 4th Avenue SW as Phase I, and 2) 3rd Avenue SW as Phase II.

City Administrator

Erickson said that he has been working with the Chamber of Commerce to compile a comprehensive contact list of businesses for Chamber and EDA events. He said that the City Treasurer and himself went to Absentee Ballot training at Rice County. Erickson said that was also involved with Public Works interviews and the 2021 Street Project pre-construction meeting.

City Planner

Baker said that he has been working with iWorQ to get the new permit software up-and-running. He said that he has also been reviewing the City's Sign Ordinance for potential updates/changes. Baker provided an update on first quarter new home construction.

b. City Council / Department Reports

Council Member Cherney

Cherney stated that the Liquor Store Manager has been doing a good job organizing, updating, and stocking Lonsdale Liquor.

Council Member Kodada

None.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer provided an update on Lonsdale Liquor's profits compared to the two previous years.

Council Member Pelava

Pelava said that the EDA will be meeting next week.

Mayor Rud

Rud announced that the Lonsdale Lions will be running the concession stand down at Jaycee Park this year.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava 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 8:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator