

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 1, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rud called a special meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 6:04 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 and Scott Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson and Public Works Director Russ Vlasak

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. Cherney said he wanted to correct the Alternatives stated in the staff report because there are more Alternatives than just not proceeding with the project. Councilmembers said it was the staff report and not the Agenda that contains Alternatives. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava 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**

None

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

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

Gary Skluzacek, 600 Railway St. SW stated he is not sure if he is for or against the project at this time. He did say he knew the facility proposed in the 2016 was not supported by the voters. He reviewed the number of new home permits issued in 2004 compared to 2018 and the number of staff employed at City Hall at each of those times. Skluzacek reviewed the outstanding debt owed by the City compared to available cash.

John Duban, 800 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW said he did not think it was a good idea to combine senior housing with a City facility and if constructed, the City facility should be built on the

remaining land owned by the City at 1000 Main St. S. that was dedicated to the City by developed and the proposed location of a City facility twice in the past.

Mike Anderson, 534 Delaware St. SW said he did not understand why the City would purchase land at the proposed location when the City owns land in the business Park. He also said the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and Highway 19 is already congested and will not support the increased traffic generated by the development.

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

None

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Discuss the City Hall / Police Department Facility**

Erickson reviewed information on the project's recent history and information on each of the parcels discussed as the location of the City facility. Mayor Rud said there are land options and discussion to this point has been very preliminary and this meeting is a work session to allow the City Council to discuss the project. He said people should not forget that the request/demand for senior housing is what initiated this project. Cherney asked Erickson to explain what a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is. Erickson explained what a CIP is and that the City's 2006 CIP was used as the framework for reconstruction projects between 2006 and 2019.

Cherney said a Police Department is needed now but a City Hall is not, due to the remodel completed earlier this year. He reviewed other components of the Comp. Plan and project history. Mayor Rud asked Cherney his position on the project. Cherney replied no for City Hall and yes to a Police Department but not at 900 Ash St. NE. Mayor Rud said he was shocked with Cherney's change in position because Cherney was ready to motion to approve spending \$5,000,000.00 at the time and not hold a referendum. Mayor Rud said at the last meeting when he brought up the fact the City Council needs to be aware of the cost of street repairs needed in addition to this project, Cherney was concerned of losing momentum and not constructing a City Hall / Police Department facility.

Kodada said that was a big change in a week. He said he thought it would be good if the City budgeted for a City Hall / Police Department for several year before constructing it and in the meantime address the failing streets that need to be repaired as streets should be the City's first priority. Pelava asked Cherney if he had fiscal concerns for the project. Cherney said at the last meeting, the City Auditor said the project can be done based on the 2018 Financial Statements. Pelava said the current City Hall is not a campus and there is little interaction between City Hall and the Fire Department and the current City Hall was not purchase because it is next to the Fire Hall. He said he does not believe the City Council wages should be increased like Cherney does. Pelava said he got on the City Council for the greater good and he is frustrated he keeps bringing up increasing City Council wages.

Furrer said she believes a new Police Department is needed even after the repairs made by Public Works. She said she questioned the 900 Ash St. NE site from the beginning and the Business Park should be looked at for expansion opportunities. Furrer said money should not be spent on land for the project. Mayor Rud said the Business Park was awarded a grant to increase economic development and staff should check the grant agreement to determine if the City can even build on the site. He said nothing else is going to get accomplished at this meeting and recommended the topic be discussed at an upcoming budget meeting.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

a. City Staff Reports

None

b. City Council Reports

None

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Kodada 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 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator