

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 14, 2020  
(ZOOM MEETING 81170544177)**

**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. He said the meeting was being held electronically due to the ongoing State of Emergency and health pandemic in accordance with Minnesota State Statute §13D.021.

**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, Public Works Director Russ Vlasak and City Engineer John Powell

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the Agenda, which was emailed out to the Council members.

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Kodada to approve the agenda. Roll Call 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 additions, additions or corrections to the Minutes.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Cherney to approve the Minutes from the April 30, 2020 Regular Meeting. Roll Call 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**

Mayor Rud asked if anyone wanted any item(s) on the Consent Agenda pulled for discussion. No one requested any items be pulled for discussion. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Cherney to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Consider Approval of a Requested Sewer Rate Adjustment for the Property Located at 614 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SE
- b. Consider Approval of a Requested Sewer Rate Adjustment for the Property Located at 1221 Singing Hills Dr. SE

Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Update on the 8th Ave NE Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Report– John Powell, City Engineer

Powell said that in anticipation for the upcoming TH 19 Mill & Overlay Project in 2023, the City has been working with MNDOT to propose improvements to the intersection at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and TH 19. He said that they reviewed lane extension and roundabout concepts. In order to advance planning for the intersection, Powell said that an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) study was completed. Powell said that MNDOT reviewed the ICE, and provided comments on a potential traffic signal or roundabout options and timing. Powell said that a traffic signal isn't warranted for 10+ years and that consideration of a roundabout is too far out into the future for MNDOT to consider at this time.

Rud stated that it is good to be proactive, and he questioned why similar roundabouts are being constructed in nearby New Prague and Elko New Market. Rud noted that the pedestrian crossing isn't very safe at that intersection, and he suggested pushing MNDOT to consider a roundabout in the near future and not wait for an accident to happen. Cherney agreed, and he said that the City should not just roll over to MNDOT's response. Kodada said that this situation is similar to the mid-2000s TH 19 & Main Street traffic signal. Furrer suggested being proactive and not reactive. Based on the Council's comments, Rud directed the City Engineer to continue to pursue a traffic signal or roundabout at the intersection.

b. Update on MnDoT's Highway 19 and CSAH 2 Intersection Review/Findings – John Powell, City Engineer

The Council reviewed MNDOT's memo and findings concerning the TH 19 & CSAH 2 intersection located on the northwest side of town. Powell said that they found that both the crash rate and volume of traffic have increased over the past 5 years at that intersection. He said that the intersection scored a 3.31 on the benefit-to-cost ratio, which is a strong number for HSIP funding of a recommended roundabout. He noted that the MNDOT memo recommended installing flashing LED Stop Signs and Pavement Stop Bars on CSAH 2 approaching TH 19 as a short-term improvement. Erickson said that the City will push for a roundabout to be incorporated at this intersection for the 2023 Mill & Overlay Project. Powell provided more detail on the different types of roundabouts that can be constructed. Rud suggested tailoring both the Co Rd 2 and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue roundabouts to fit along TH 19.

c. Update on the Rice County CSAH 4 Reconstruction Project – John Powell, City Engineer

The Council reviewed sketch concept drawings, including: 1) a potential realignment of Co Rd 4 following 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to TH 19, 2) a potential roundabout, and/or 3) a minor road adjustment that would curve Co Rd 4 into a 90 degree alignment with TH 19 near the dental office. Erickson and Powell said that the Planning Commission did review the concepts at their previous meeting in preparation for the upcoming Co Rd 4 Project, from TH 21 to TH 19, in 2021 & 2022. The Council agreed that due to the lack of accidents, 30 mph speed limits, grade differentials, and Fire Department access, that a rerouting option along 5<sup>th</sup> should not be pursued. They suggested keeping the alignment the same but curve Co Rd 4 into TH 19 to make a safer 90 degree angle intersection. Rud recommended focusing on the Co Rd 2 and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE intersections.

d. Consider Approval of the City of Lonsdale's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson said that per the Governor's Executive Order, all non-essential businesses are required to have a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan prior to opening. He said that although the focus of the Order is on non-critical sectors, it is a good practice for the City to have a Preparedness Plan in place. The Council reviewed the main sections and points of the Plan. Erickson explained that although the Library closed and City Hall closed to the public, the City was never mandated to close. He said that Lonsdale was the last City to close in the area. Cherney asked about safeguards. Erickson said that in preparation to reopening City Hall, Staff is the process of ordering sneeze guards, distancing markers for the floor, and adequate cleaning supplies. Erickson also provided insight on the measures that will be taken during elections this year. He suggested that residents vote by Absentee Ballot to avoid potential inconveniences caused by in-person voting.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Cherney to approve the City of Lonsdale's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- e. Consider Approval to Authorize Staff to Obtain Quotes to Clean the Ditch West of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW – Joel Erickson, city Administrator

Erickson said that the Staff was recently contacted by 2 property owners along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW, who have a ditch running through their property, asking if the City would clean the ditch because it was not functioning properly. Erickson said that the ditch was constructed by the City and last cleaned in January 1998. Since the ditch is approximately 700 ft. long, there are no recorded easements, and the project was not budgeted for, Erickson asked for direction from the Council on the matter. The Council reviewed the associated property and ditch location map, and they agreed that it doesn't hurt to get quotes for the project.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to obtain quotes to clean the ditch west of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- f. Consider Approval of Resolution 2020-24, a Resolution Accepting a Donation in the Amount of \$26,052.00 for Construction Equipment for Use for the Trcka Park Building Project – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson explained that in an effort to save money on the Trcka Park Project, the City decided to correct the soils for the park building using City staff and donated excavation and packing equipment. He said that Tim and Debbie Rud offered to deliver donated equipment to the job site for use to complete the soil corrections. Erickson said that since the equipment is being donated, it is recommended it be acknowledged/accepted by Resolution. Powell explained how the value of the donation was determined. Kodada thanked the Rud Family for their entire donation to the Trcka Park Project, including the soccer fields. Furrer thanked Rud, and she said that staff time from the Public Works Staff time should be included in any project expense calculations. Erickson said that there is also future grading work that will be donated as well by the Rud Family. The Council thanked Rud for his generous donation, and Kodada said that his community work doesn't go unnoticed.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Cherney to approve the Resolution 2020-24, a Resolution accepting a donation in the amount of \$26,052.00, for construction equipment for the Trcka Park Building Project. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: Rud. Vote: 4-0-1. Motion carried.

- g. Consider Approval of Resolution 2020-25, a Resolution Approving the Settlement Agreement and Release Between the City of Lonsdale/EDA and Taste of Lonsdale, LLC and Brian and Claudia Otto – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson explained that Staff and Brian/Claudia Otto recently negotiated an agreement for defaulted EDA Revolving Loan Fund loan for the Taste of Lonsdale restaurant. He said that Otto's have agreed to pay \$39,000.00 to settle any and all claims relating to the matter. Erickson said that the City Attorney drafted a Settlement Agreement and Release for the matter. At first Cherney stated that he was okay with waiving late fees but not the legal fees, then after gaining more insight on the matter, he agreed with the proposed settlement. Pelava said that the City is risking potential foreclosure or bankruptcy by not agreeing to the settlement amount. Furrer stated that she doesn't like to lose money, but the City should not be in the housing business. Rud said that the proposed settlement agreement is a good deal, and he said that the deal helps avoid the risk receiving a lower payment amount or nothing at all.

A motion was made by Cherney and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2020-25, a Resolution approving the Settlement Agreement and Release between the City of Lonsdale/EDA and Taste of Lonsdale, LLC and Brian and Claudia Otto. Roll Call 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 has been working on cleaning out storm sewers. He thanked Rud for the use of equipment at Trcka Park. Rud said that the Public Works guys did a great job operating the equipment.

*City Engineer*

Powell said there haven't been any unforeseen challenges or surprises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Project so far. He provided an update on the Trcka Park Concrete Slab Project and Deer Ridge Drive Project. Powell said that the favorable weather conditions have helped with getting projects underway quicker.

*City Administrator*

Erickson said that he submitted the annual TIF report. He noted that the City Treasurer and he have been working to invest the bond funds. Erickson said that he has been meeting with Department Heads regarding short and long range plans for each City department. He said that he has also been working on mosquito control, election training, and helping the Fire Chief with incorporating the remaining portion of Erin Township into Lonsdale's Fire District. Erickson explained why he is recommending that people vote absentee ballot this year.

*City Planner*

Baker said that he attended the Trcka Park Project pre-construction meeting. He provided an update on shed, deck, and fence permits.

b. City Council / Department Reports

*Council Member Cherney*

Cherney provided an update on happenings at Lonsdale Liquor.

*Council Member Kodada*

Kodada said that the Park Board recently met at the Trcka Park site while the soil correction work was being completed. He thanked Public Works Staff for their help with the project.

*Council Member Furrer*

None

*Council Member Pelava*

Pelava said that the EDA will meet next Thursday.

*Mayor Rud*

Mayor Rud reminded everyone that the first 2021 Budget Meeting will be on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Roll Call Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator