

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 28, 2020
(ZOOM MEETING 85644474105)**

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, City Engineer John Powell, Police Chief Jason Schmitz

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 Kodada and seconded by Furrer 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, deletions or corrections to the Minutes.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Cherney to approve the Minutes from the May 14, 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 Furrer to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Monthly Bills
- b. Treasurers Report
- c. Board and Commission Minutes
- d. Consider Approval of a Requested Sewer Rate Adjustment for the Property Located at 1019 Deer Ridge Ct. NW

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. Consider Approval of Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 2020-01 – Ben Baker, City Planner
Baker went through the detailed Staff Report, which included project location, property size, owner/applicant, engineer/architect, land use request, site/building details, existing conditions, the Rolling Ridge Market Place, zoning, utilities, and Ordinance 2018-291. Baker said that First National Bank of Le Center has requested a Conditional Use Permit for a new 7,500 sf building, to be constructed just west of the current Snap Fitness building, which would house both a bank with drive-thru and coffee shop with drive-thru. The Council members reviewed the associated maps/plans. Baker noted that it is a private issue and the responsibility of the applicant and the Rolling Ridge Market Place Owners Association to communicate with each other and come to agreement on any access, easement, and maintenance items that may be needed.

Applicant Greg Traxler, President of the First National Bank of Le Center (FNBLC), provided a brief history on himself and the bank. Traxler said that his son will be the family's 4th generation bank president and leader of the new Lonsdale branch. He provided further information about the coffee shop. He said that the Lonsdale branch will have five employees to start off with. Traxler said that they hope to start construction in August and be open by May of 2021 dependent upon pending soil issues. Cherney asked if the CUP runs with the land and not the business. Baker said yes. Furrer asked why the building façade was facing opposite of Lonsdale Liquor, Subway, and Snap Fitness. Traxler and Thomas Moorse, HTG Architects, provided reasoning for the proposed south facing entry. Pelava said that he appreciated the overall style of the building. Rud thanked Traxler and welcomed him to Lonsdale.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve CUP No. 2020-01. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- b. Presentation of the 2019 Police Department Annual Report – Jason Schmitz, Chief of Police
Police Chief Schmitz presented the 18-page 2019 Police Department Annual Report. He read through the entire narrative of the report while the Council viewed the associated pictures, graphs, and statistics. The report provided information on total incidents, staffing, changes, training/education, community policing, community events, crimes against person/property, traffic incidents, other incidents, responses by hour/day, and event counts by type. Rud thanked Schmitz for the very detailed report. Pelava asked how the stay-at-home order has affected the Police Department. Schmitz said that there was a spike in calls following a few weeks after the stay-at-home order was issued, including increased calls for welfare checks and mental health. Kodada said that he hears nothing but good things about the Police Department. Schmitz thanked the Council for their continued support.
- c. Consider Approval of an Amendment to the Contract for Fire Service Between the City of Lonsdale and Erin Township – Joel Erickson, City Administrator
Erickson explained that earlier in the year, Erin Township officials approached the Fire Chief requesting the City assume the territory currently covered by the Montgomery Fire Department. He said that at the March 26, 2020 meeting, the Council authorized Staff to finalize an agreement that would include the sections in Erin Township currently covered by Montgomery. Erickson said that the proposed amendment would include 11 Sections of the Township. The Council reviewed the proposed amendment and associated map. Kodada agreed that it makes sense to include the remaining portion of Erin Township into Lonsdale's territory. Furrer said that it will be less confusing for fire/medical calls, since Lonsdale Rescue and Montgomery Fire currently respond to the same 11 Sections. The Council agreed that the proposed amendment makes the district boundary clean, neat, and easy.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Kodada to approve an Amendment to the Contract for Fire Service between the City of Lonsdale and Erin Township. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- d. Consider Approval of a Commercial-Industrial Exclusive Listing Agreement Between the City of Lonsdale and Cerron Properties – Joel Erickson, City Administrator
Erickson said that the City previously held an exclusive listing agreement with Cushman Wakefield from 5/16-5/17 and then with Cerron Properties since 6/18. Erickson said that Staff has been working with Cerron on business leads and marketing. The Council reviewed the Activity Update provided by Cerron Properties. Erickson went through the key terms of the agreement, which were the same as the current agreement. Erickson stated that the EDA reviewed the contract, met with Bruce Rydeen, of Cerron Properties at their last meeting and he said that the EDA recommended extending the contract with Cerron. Pelava said that the EDA was informed that distance away from Interstate-35 does make a difference.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to approve a Commercial-Industrial Exclusive Listing Agreement between the City of Lonsdale and Cerron Properties. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

e. Discuss Providing Financial Assistance/Grants to Businesses Due to COVID-19 – Councilmember Steve Cherney

Cherney stated that cities, such as St. Louis Park, Montgomery, and New Ulm, are providing financial assistance/grants for local businesses due to the COVID-19 crisis. He thanked Erickson for placing the topic on the agenda, and he asked for input on the idea. He said that the Teal Magonlia closed in downtown Lonsdale, and he wondered if other businesses may find possible relief if a grant was given to them from the City's enterprise fund. Rud said that he met with Shanna at the Lonsdale Chamber of Commerce and contacted Todd Lippert to see what the Chamber and State are doing to help businesses get help quicker. Rud said that banks have a simple process to apply for the federal loan programs. Rud questioned the criteria that would be used and who picks winners/losers. Cherney said that there are different ways the grant program could be structured, and he said that he just wanted to bring this issue to the table and noodle it for discussion. Pelava said that he appreciated the idea, but he questioned whether \$1,000 would make an impact. He provided details on Lonsdale's past grant programs. He said that a task force would probably have to be created, which could take 90 days, and Pelava questioned if the idea was an efficient use of time. Kodada said that he doesn't think that it is the City's role to pursue this idea. He suggested that a big picture solution could entail joint advertising or relaying what businesses have to offer. Kodada suggested not forgetting about the many residents of Lonsdale who have been affected by the pandemic as well. Erickson said that the Chamber is doing a great job of relaying helpful information to businesses. The Council discussed what roll the EDA should play with the idea. Furrer said that she wasn't opposed to the \$1,000 idea because it can be a lot of money to some businesses. Rud suggested that Council members should not directly benefit from such a grant program, if enacted. Pelava recalled that the grant idea was previously discussed and brought up at a meeting where the consensus was not to proceed. The Council further discussed the topic. Rud suggested that residents patronize Lonsdale's local businesses and promote joint advertising opportunities. He said that further research and information is needed by Staff, prior to any taking any action on the subject. Cherney appreciated everyone's comments.

f. Consider Approval of Bid from KA Witt Construction for Water/Sewer Utility Service and Ice Rink Pad Base Pad Preparation

Powell stated that Staff received prices for 1) pad preparation under the ice rink, 2) water service connection, and 3) sewer service connections for the Trcka Park Project. He provided details on the scope of work for each item. He said that KA Witt Construction was the low bidder for all three services. He explained that prevailing wages were factored into the cost. Pelava wondered about the original scope of the project. Erickson said that the only thing that wasn't accounted for was the soil correction work. He suggested that Public Works not help this time with the soil correction work, so that they can focus on getting their other projects completed. The Council reviewed the bids, and Kodada agreed that the soil correction work is needed.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve a bid from KA Witt Construction for Water/Sewer Utility Service and Ice Rink Pad Base Pad Preparation. 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 is trying to keep up on mowing around town.

City Engineer

Powell talked about access to the 2nd Avenue Street Project. He also provided an update on the Deer Ridge and Industrial Park Drive Projects.

City Administrator

Erickson said that he has been focusing on long-term goals during the 2021 Budget discussions with Department Heads so far. He provided an update on TCU Summer Recreation, the Beyl Mediation, and Police Department Facility RFPs.

City Planner

Baker provided an update on the Trcka Park Project. He informed the Council that annual enforcement of tall grass/weeds has now started.

b. City Council / Department Reports

Council Member Cherney

Cherney thanked Erickson and the Council for putting the COVID-19 Financial Assistance/Grants to Businesses topic on the Agenda. He said that he was recently approached by a Boy Scout looking to get a merit badge for doing research on urban chickens.

Council Member Kodada

Kodada provided a recap of the May 18th Planning Commission meeting. He said that the Commission was excited to see a new business erected in the Rolling Ridge Market Place.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer provided an update on the BR&E initiative by the EDA. She said that the EDA recommended continuing with Cerron Properties for the vacant Business Park land.

Council Member Pelava

None.

Mayor Rud

Mayor Rud thanked the Council for the good dialog on ways to make Lonsdale's businesses more successful. He gave Shanna at the Chamber of Commerce a lot of credit for relaying information out to the local businesses. Rud announced that Something Tasteful, located on Main Street South, will be opening on Monday. Rud said that people from other communities have been coming to Lonsdale to walk/bike on the trail system. He said that the park/trail system in Lonsdale is a big asset for the community and surrounding area.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Kodada 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 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator