

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 30, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a special 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: J. Daleiden, K. Kodada, T. Rud, C. Furrer, and S. Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Engineer John Powell, Public Works Director Russ Vlasak and City Treasurer Tami Brokl

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to approve the agenda as presented.
Vote for: Kodada, Daleiden, 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. Discuss the Proposed 2018 City Budget

Erickson said at the first two budget meeting, the City Council reviewed property taxes, City Council, Administration, Planning & Zoning, Police, Building Inspection Services, Public Works, Economic Development, Library, Fire department, Employee Wages/Benefits, Fund Balances and “Needs vs. Wants”.

Property Taxes

Erickson said that the City Council provided staff direction to reduce the property tax levy by 10%, resulting in the City’s Tax Rate reducing by approximately 18%. He said based on this decision, all properties should see a reduction in their City property taxes in 2018.

Administration

Erickson said he met with ISG to discuss the proposed expansion to City Hall and associated Architectural services. He said he was recommending the City hire an architect to draft plans and finishes, fixtures and equipment so when the project is bid, all contractors are bidding on the same project. The City Council agreed that an architect is necessary for the project.

Economic Development

Erickson said the EDA began discussing their 2018 budget and will be making a funding request. He said the main goals of the EDA are marketing and implementing the Façade Rehabilitation Grant program.

Sanitary Sewer Main (4th Ave NE):

Erickson said this topic has been discussed in the past but with an anticipated sale of a home with a broken sanitary sewer wye on 4th Ave NE, this issue will be coming to a head this summer. He said staff is looking to the City Council for direction on how to proceed with this matter. The City Council directed staff to research possible insurance coverage under the City’s insurance policy to make the repairs. In response to a similar the repair recently done on 11th Ave NE, staff was directed to obtain a legal opinion as to whether or not these repairs are the responsibility of the City or the property owner.

Lift Station No. 1 Decommissioning and Force Main: 2015 and decided at that time, a new well was a higher priority than this but it would be budgeted for in 2018. Erickson asked if this was still the position on the City Council. The City Council agreed it was still a priority and would be completed in 2018. Vlasak recommended the outdated SCADA system be included with this project so all components of the City water and sewer system can communicate with each other.

Employee Wages/Benefits

Erickson he would like to establish a Health Insurance Task Force similar to the one several years ago to review plan and funding options. Councilmembers Kodada and Furrer agreed to serve on the Task Force. Erickson said he would coordinate the several meetings necessary to bring a recommendation to the City Council for approval.

Other budget Items:

Mayor Rud said a staffing plan for City Hall should be created and another employee hired to accommodate the increased workload.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Staff Reports

None

b. Council Reports

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Daleiden to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator