

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 11, 2020  
(ZOOM MEETING 88937716063)**

**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 Furrer and seconded by Kodada to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. 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 Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the Minutes from the May 28, 2020 Regular Meeting. Roll Call Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

Cherney joined the meeting at 7:04 pm.

**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. Cherney asked if Item (b) could be pulled for discussion. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Kodada to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Consider Approval of a Sewer Rate Adjustment for the Property Located at 638 Golden Oak St. NE
- b. Consider Approval to Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Municipal Tort Liability Established by MN Statute §466.04

This item was moved to the New Business portion of the Agenda.

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 2020 Minnesota Legislative Session, Potential Special Session and COVID-19 Response – State Representative Todd Lippert  
District 20B State Representative Todd Lippert provided the Council with an update on the 2020 Legislative Session and COVID-19 response. He explained how businesses can access state and federal funds through DEED or by means of a SBA lender. He explained the eco package and funding assistance bill that is being proposed, including help for hospitals, childcare centers, renters/landlords, hourly school workers, small businesses, and personal care assistants. He said that the State House of Representatives and the Senate were \$1 billion apart on funding priorities for a Bonding Bill. Lippert also talked about the peace time emergency, police reform, and farm foreclosures. Cherney stated that people want the economy to open back up. He asked about accountability for a rouge governor. Lippert explained the checks and balances of the legislative process. Cherney thanked Lippert, and he encouraged Lippert to continue to fight for us. Lippert and Erickson talked about the LED Flashing Stop Sign at Co Rd 2 & TH 19. The Council thanked Lippert for the update and joining the meeting.

- b. Consider Approval of the Following Liquor Licenses: Lonsdale American Legion – On-Sale Club and Sunday Liquor; Whistle Stop Tavern & Grill – On-Sale and Sunday Liquor; Lonsdale Lions – 3.2% On-Sale, Lonsdale Liquor – Off-Sale and Smoke, LLC On-Sale and Sunday Liquor – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson asked the Council to consider liquor license renewals for six current license holders except for the Lonsdale Baseball Association/Lonsdale Aces. He said that the Police Chief reviewed the applications and signed them for approval. The Council discussed ways to help the Lonsdale Lions and Aces due to the lack of a baseball season.

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Pelava to approve the Following Liquor Licenses: Lonsdale American Legion – On-Sale Club and Sunday Liquor; Whistle Stop Tavern & Grill – On-Sale and Sunday Liquor; Lonsdale Lions – 3.2% On-Sale, Lonsdale Liquor – Off-Sale and Smoke, LLC On-Sale and Sunday Liquor. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- c. Review Proposals Submitted in Response to the City of Lonsdale’s Police Facility and Master Planning Request for Proposals and Select Firms to Interview – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson stated that the City received 19 proposals in response to the City’s request for professional architectural/planning services for the proposed Police Facility. The Council reviewed the 19 RFPs along with a proposal review/comparison spreadsheet. Erickson said that Staff reviewed all of the proposals based on the six main criteria factors. Based on review by the Police Chief and himself, Erickson provided the Council with a list of 7 firms and 2 alternatives to potentially interview. Rud recommended narrowing the list further down to 4 firms, so that interviews could be held on one night. After further discussion, and insight from Staff, the Council decided on 4 firms to interview. Furrer stated that it was important to select a firm that can get the project completed within the allocated budget.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer directing Staff to set up interviews with the following architectural firms: 1) Wold, 2) 292 Design Group, 3) Oleson + Hobbie, and 4) BVK. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

- d. Consider Approval to Schedule a Special City Council Meeting to Interview Firms Selected for an Interview in Response to the Police Facility / Future Master Planning RFP – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson asked the Council to schedule a date/time to interview the 4 selected architectural firms. The Council members agreed on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, in-lieu-of their previously scheduled budget meeting.

A motion was made by Cherney and seconded by Furrer to schedule a Special City Council meeting to interview firms selected for an interview in response to the Police Facility / Future Master Planning RFP. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

e. Discuss Whether or Not to Conduct In-Person City Council and Advisory Board Meetings – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson stated that since March of 2020, the City Council has not met in person and have been utilizing Zoom to conduct meetings electronically. Erickson asked the Council for their thoughts on whether or not the Council should start holding in-person meetings again. He said that it has been determined that the City Council Chambers does have enough room to comply with social distancing requirements. Erickson said that the City of Faribault just started holding in-person meetings again. Rud said that it important that the meetings are open to the public. The Council talked about precautions and masks. After further discussion on the topic, the Council agreed and directed Staff to reopen the Council Chambers for in-person meetings.

f. Consider Approval of a Land Lease Agreement Between the City of Lonsdale and James Schmitz - Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson asked the Council to consider a land lease agreement with James Schmitz for cutting an alfalfa/grass cover crop on the vacant land owned by the City of Lonsdale within the Lonsdale Business Park and Willow Creek Commons. He explained that the lease amount is less because the alfalfa is mostly gone and is mainly grass now, therefore the high nutrient value is substantially less. The Council reviewed the associated parcel maps and terms of the lease.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Cherney to approve a land lease agreement between the City of Lonsdale and James Schmitz. Roll Call Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

g. Consider Approval to Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Municipal Tort Liability Established by MN Statute §466.04

Cherney asked for more clarity on tort claims and insurance claims in terms of liability exposure. Erickson provided 3 scenario examples of insurance claims from the I-35W Bridge collapse, the on-going Beyl drainage case, and damage from a potential natural disaster. Erickson said that in the past, the City has never waived the monetary limits on municipal tort liability.

A motion was made by Cherney and seconded by Pelava to approve not waiving the monetary limits on Municipal Tort Liability established by MN Statute §466.04. 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 recently repaired a watermain break.

#### *City Engineer*

Powell provided an update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW Street Recon Project. He provided an overview of the pre-con meeting for the water/sewer service at Trcka Park. Powell also provided an update on the Industrial Drive and Deer Ridge Projects. Pelava asked Powell to check into any traffic issues with the Industrial Drive Project.

#### *City Administrator*

Erickson said that he is working on the City's annual insurance renewal.

#### *City Planner*

Baker said that the Park Board will be joining the City Council at the July 16, 2021 Budget Meeting.

### b. City Council / Department Reports

#### *Council Member Cherney*

Cherney sent greetings from North Carolina.

#### *Council Member Kodada*

Kodada said that the Park Board will be meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

#### *Council Member Furrer*

Furrer said that Lonsdale Liquor's sales are up 38% compared to May 2019. She provided an update on the store's hours.

#### *Council Member Pelava*

Pelava said that the EDA will continue working on their BRE initiative.

#### *Mayor Rud*

Mayor Rud reminded everyone of next week's meeting on Thursday at 6:00 pm.

## 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 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator