

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 15, 2019**

**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: Kevin Kodada, Tim Rud, Cindy Furrer and Scott Pelava

Members Absent: Steve Cherney

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Planner Benjamin Baker, 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 additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda.

A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Kodada to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. 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**

a. None

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Discuss the City's 2020 Budget and Property Tax Levy

Erickson said the City Council has held two budget meetings so far. He said that parks and recreation will be the main topic for the evening but tax rate impacts will be also be discussed at the end of the meeting, if time allows. Rud welcomed and thanked everyone in the audience for attending the meeting, including the Lonsdale Park Board members and hockey association players/parents.

#### *Parks & Recreation*

Baker went through a list of park/park maintenance projects completed, in-progress, and planned for 2019, including: new wood chips, a new Kromer, the Main Street South Trail, the Trcka Park Parking Lot, two softball/little-league temporary outfield fences, remodeling of the Lions Park Pavilion and park grounds, the Girl Scout Dog Park Project, the DRS roof, and Trcka Park improvements. Rud stated that the new fences and field maintenance done at Jaycee Park made for beautiful and impressive ball fields. He also talked about the improvements underway at Lions Park, including the planting of the Czech 100 Linden Tree.

TCU Community Education Director Layne Wilbright provided an update on the Lonsdale Summer Recreation Program, including participation numbers, swimming opportunities, nature center field trips, themed programming, and drop-ins. Wilbright said that TCU sports and Community Education will definitely benefit from the proposed Trcka Park project. He provided insight on ice time and ice areas from his 12-years of experience running the LeSueur Ice Rink. He suggested partnering with the school district, if the City wants to pursue a large-scale ice arena bonding project. He also suggesting looking into the model that Redwood Falls went through to get an indoor ice arena. Wilbright and Jeanette Utecht, TCU Youth Soccer Board Member, provided an update on youth soccer, including participation numbers, fall leagues, and establishing a feeder system for the high school. Utecht said that the youth numbers were just under 200 district-wide for the spring-summer season, but she said that the sport of soccer is growing. Wilbright said that he was excited about the possibilities that the Trcka Park Project will bring to the community and school district.

Andrew Burns, TCU Youth Hockey Association Board Member, said that their organization is a small group of about 25 kids that feeds into the Bulldog high school hockey system. He said that their organization takes pride in keeping participation fees affordable, such as a registration fee of \$25/season per player for the youngest players. He said that the Trcka Park Project will be very beneficial to their association in terms of making better/longer-lasting ice and increasing participation numbers. Burns said that they currently pay \$200/hour for practice and game ice time at Shattuck in Faribault.

Sarah Heller, TCU Youth Hockey Association Board Member, said that their association is small, but they would try to do fundraisers and provided skilled volunteer labor towards the Trcka Park Project. She said that her kids are excited to have real bathrooms and not have boils/heaves on the ice surface. Heller said that the proposed project has great features, and she said the Association really appreciates all that the City has done.

Micki Ziskovsky said that she is a dreamer on the Park Board, and she suggested pursuing more than just an outdoor ice rink. She recommended that the City should erect an ice arena with locker rooms and spectator seating that would serve the surrounding community for years to come. Rud stated that the City should explore the potential for adding phased-in ice arena components in the future such as a roof, side walls, and locker rooms. Powell said that WSB can look into that potential. Kodada said that a location for the ice rink has been located north of the Water Treatment Plant, but he stated that an indoor ice facility carries a big number along with it, and he suggested a phased approach.

Julie Ryan said that she is very excited for the new park pavilion and ice rink to be constructed at Trcka Park. She noted that she has a son that plays youth hockey. Ryan said that a pavilion/warming house is at the top of her priority list. Ryan said that she has previous experience in constructing a large park pavilion when she volunteered on the Park Board in Elko New Market. Ryan noted that the City can rent the facility out over \$100 as a way to collect revenue for the project.

#### *Tax Impact*

Erickson presented the Council with different tax rate and impact scenarios to consider based on different valued properties around town. Erickson said that some residential home's values increased much more than others. He said that many commercial-industrial properties stayed the same or slightly increased in value. He noted that LGA is up to \$46,000 this year.

Rud said that Lonsdale Liquor is paid off and can be used to help fund projects. He said that the \$6.5 million Waste Water Treatment Plant will be a big payoff in 4 years. Rud said that the Council is considering not raising the tax rate for the 2020 Budget, but he said that the City does need to continue fixing its roads that are in poor shape and discuss potentially raising water rates. He said that City Staff and Department Heads have done a good job with the City's finances. Rud thanked everyone for attending the City Budget meeting.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

a. City Staff Reports  
None

b. City Council Reports  
None

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator