

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 16, 2020**

**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: 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, 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 Kodada and seconded by Cherney to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, 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 City's 2021 Annual Budget – Short/Long Term Needs

Erickson provided a brief overview of the upcoming meeting, while the Council reviewed the associated Staff Report and presentation documents.

### **Parks, Trails, Parkland, and Recreation**

#### *Parks*

Baker went through a 20-slide presentation detailing completed, on-going, and future projects/ideas for parks, trails, parkland, and recreation. He talked about the progress of the Trcka Park Project, including Phase I (soccer fields), Phase II (ice rink and park building), and Phase III (playground equipment). He said that the Park Board recommended that the majority of park funds for 2021 to go towards finishing the Trcka Park Project including: landscaping/restoration work, parking lot pavement, and walkways. Baker noted that items such as: ice skate floor mats, indoor benches, picnic tables still need to be purchased/installed. He also said that accessory items like: basketball hoops, pickle ball nets, and portable skate park obstacles should be accounted for. Baker said that sometime in the future, funds should be designated to construct the new play equipment area at Trcka Park as part of Phase III. Baker said that in the future, the City should also consider adding a water amenity, such as: a splash/spray pad, an indoor swimming pool/water park, an outdoor swimming pool/water park, or create a natural-like swimming beach. Baker went through a list of currently paved and unpaved park parking lots. He said that the City should definitely lead by example and pave any future park parking lots, and he strongly encouraged the Council to think about paving its existing gravel lots. Baker went through a list of other park items that the Park Board would like to see in Lonsdale in the near future, including: disc golf, outdoor fitness equipment, historical markers, a designated sledding hill, upgraded DRS Field lights, and various Dog Park amenities.

#### *Land*

Baker and Erickson noted that the City is still interested in the Rice County Highway Department Shop land/building, located next to Jaycee Park. He said that consideration should also be given to a future sports complex and community center. Baker mentioned that a portion of the new Police Department land in Willow Creek Commons could be designated as future community center land as part of the Master Planning process.

#### *Trail System*

The Council reviewed trail maps showing Lonsdale's extensive trail system and the pavement conditions of the trails. Baker and Powell explained that \$75,000 should be budgeted for over the next 5 years to replace the "poor" sections of trail. Baker noted that the Willow Creek Heights sections are shown as "poor", due to rodent and wetland issues and are currently the largest trail problem area that should be addressed soon. They also talked about suggested improvements to go along with the upcoming 2022 Co Rd 4 Project. Powell provided details on pedestrian crossing warning systems, including Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons and Hybrid Beacon Hawk, that could help promote safe crossings at specific intersections along Co Rd 4 and TH 19.

### *Recreation*

Baker reviewed Lonsdale's current investment into recreation opportunities over the last few years. He said that Lonsdale has partnered with TCU Community Education for help with a Summer Recreation Program and special events through Three Rivers Park District, Ney Nature Center, and River Bend Nature Center. He said that as the City grows, funding should be considered for: 1) expanding the Summer Rec Program, 2) purchasing equipment, 3) adding new programming, 4) creating a Lonsdale focused Recreation Director position, 5) promoting both adult and youth sport leagues/tournaments, and 6) looking into a future community/senior center.

### *Summary*

Baker summarized the presentation and highlighted the major funding priorities for 2021, including: 1) finishing Trcka Park - \$150k-\$175k, 2) trees - \$3k, 3) basketball hoops and skate park obstacles - \$5k, 4) reconstructing the Willow Creek Heights Trail - \$180k, and 5) Summer Rec & outdoor recreation programming - \$12k.

Rud introduced and thanked the Park Board Members Ziskovsky, Carpentier, Ryan, and Utecht for their volunteerism, vision, and service to the community. The group discussed mosquito spraying and possible geese deterrents.

### **Streets:**

Public Works Director Vlasak went through a 20-slide Street Department presentation focused on street maintenance. Vlasak said that prior to 1976, many of Lonsdale's roads were gravel. He reviewed a proposed Dogwood Street NE Skim Patch Project, which showed existing pavement conditions and potential funding sources. He went through crack filling and seal coating proposals for next year, which showed proposed maintenance locations and quantity/cost details. Vlasak talked about three other proposed projects, including: 1) Willow Creek Dr SE – Boulevard Drain Tile Project, 2) Industrial Park Dr SE – Edge Mill & Overlay Project, and 3) Industrial Dr SE – Edge Mill & Overlay Project. Powell explained that there is a middle option between a reconstruction project and mill/overlay, called a full-depth mill/overlay. He explained how long road surfaces should last, effectiveness of maintenance, and how certain conditions can limit pavement duration. The Council discussed the best approach to current and long-term road/utility maintenance. They talked about sealing coating techniques.

Vlasak broke down the cost of the 6 proposed projects totaling \$344,100, including: 1) Dogwood St Project - \$8,000, 2) Crack Filling - \$8,500, 3) Seal Coating - \$78,000, 4) Drain Tile - \$18,600, 5) Industrial Dr SE Mill & Overlay Project - \$157,000, and 6) Industrial Park Drive SE Mill & Overlay Project - \$74,000. Vlasak suggested breaking the proposed projects into a 2-year approach, with Year-1 Projects totaling \$187,000 and Year-2 Projects totaling \$157,000. In addition to the stated projects, Vlasak suggested that regular yearly maintenance be budgeted for items such as catch basins/curb repair, crosswalk/curb painting, sidewalk repair, patching, and signs. Vlasak provided a project rank for priorities in 2021.

Cherney asked why all the projects couldn't be done in one year, and he promoted the idea of an infrastructure trust fund. He said that along with Public Safety, infrastructure should be a top priority. The Council and Staff explained balancing priorities, typical allocation amounts for street maintenance, and funding sources. Based on experience with previous cities, Powell provided further insight on how Lonsdale can balance future maintenance projects and properly fund them. The Council recapped past reconstruction and improvement project accomplishments, and Kodada said that the City is in a good position going into the future with the majority of town having new utilities and roads now in place. Cherney wondered if there should be a specific Public Works Board. Powell and Erickson explained why cities typically don't have an advisory board for streets/utilities.

In the interest of time, the Council decided to talk about Public Works Equipment needs at one of their next meetings.

#### **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Cherney, Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator