

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 22, 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 and Cindy Furrer

Members Absent: Steve Cherney and Scott Pelava

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Engineer John Powell, Public Works Director Russ Vlasak, Chief of Police Jason Schmitz 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 and Furrer. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 3-0. 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

City Council:

Erickson said this is the fourth meeting pertaining to the City's 2020 budget and property tax levy and that the meeting will focus on City Council, Police and Streets. He said the City Council portion of the budget contains salaries, training and education and supplies necessary for the Council Chambers. Erickson said the only time elected officials can increase their salary is before an election, which takes effect after the next election. He said Councilmember Cherney provided research on the topic, which is included in the packet. He said the last time Council wages were increased was in 2005 and he provided salary information for surrounding communities. Mayor Rud said he liked the structure of getting paid for meeting attendance. Furrer asked what the current wages were. Erickson said \$125 for Mayor, \$95 for Councilmembers and \$50 for special meetings. The consensus of the Council was to not increase wages. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to not increase elected official compensation. Vote for: Kodada, Rud and Furrer. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 3-0. Motion carried. Erickson asked if the Council had questions on any other line items pertaining to the City Council. Mayor Rud said it is good to budget funds for training and education. He also said recording of meetings needs to be figured out so the recorder is not on the table. Erickson said he would look into options for recording meetings.

Police:

Chief Schmitz said the proposed Police budget is similar to prior years and is recommending riot gear/ballistic shield be purchased. He said cities are being asked to participate more with the S.W.A.T. team for protests, etc. and he is proposing to have three officers trained in 2020 and three officers trained in 2021. He also said the ballistic shield is important for officer safety. The Council discussed riot training and that all officers should be trained in 2020 but would go with the recommendation of the Chief. Schmitz said he would budget for all officers to be trained in 2020. He said the department budgets annually for vehicle/equipment replacement and it is proposed to replace the 2012 squad with a new one in 2020 at a cost of approximately \$45,000. Furrer asked if a make/model has been decided on for the new squad. Schmitz said no and that he is working on obtaining pricing from Ford and Dodge. Erickson reviewed the remaining line items. Schmitz said a new in squad camera system will be needed for the new squad, which will cost approximately \$4,700. Kodada asked if the new system would be able to support body cameras, should the City implement them. Schmitz replied yes. Furrer asked if the \$350,000 budgeted over the last several years will still be allocated for a new police facility and not used for other needs. Erickson said the funds are allocated for the new facility and other funds would be used for items such as the 1:1 match for the recently awarded DNR grant.

Streets:

Erickson reviewed the line items in the street department fund. Vlasak said staff is having difficulties hiring and retaining seasonal employees. He said he has contacted surrounding communities and they are having the same problem. Discussion was held on the use of volunteers and it was decided that for regular tasks such as mowing, plowing,

maintenance, etc. volunteers should not be used but if there is a small/special project that volunteers want to do, that would be fine. There was discussion on whether or not to contact a temp agency for seasonal employees. Vlasak said he anticipates the City taking over regular maintenance at the DRS field within the next several years. He said with more fields to maintain and anticipating taking over the DRS field, more staff will be needed to accomplish all the tasks that need to get done. Mayor Rud said it would be nice if the school(s) cost shared in field maintenance/prep for their events. He asked if any additional equipment was needed. Vlasak said he is researching adding a larger tractor with plow equipment to the fleet because the current tractor is underpowered and used 40 hours per week during the summer and another piece of equipment is needed for main line plowing. There was discussion on how to finance equipment needed in the future due to the cost of public works equipment being so expensive. Staff and the Council discussed budgeting annually for future purchases and equipment bonds. Kodada asked if the Federal program that Montgomery used to obtain free equipment was still an option. Vlasak said the equipment was to be used for law enforcement and they are looking to get out of the program due to conditions put on the equipment. Vlasak said it is proposed to do street maintenance to Industrial Dr. SE, Industrial Park Dr. SE and Deer Ridge Dr./Ct. NW in 2020. He said the City Engineer is working on providing cost estimates for budgeting purposes. Mayor Rud said street maintenance should be focused in residential areas. Vlasak said he was recommending \$5,000 be allocated for street sign replacement due to fading and increased size of the signs. There was general discussion held on whether the City should install new signs in street project areas or if it should be a bid item for street projects. Vlasak said storm pond maintenance is an item that should be budgeted for or at least a plan created to be implemented. Kodada asked if there have been any backups. Vlasak said not but there are several that have blown out berms and are no longer functioning as intended.

Erickson said the next meetings are scheduled for August 5th and 26th and the next departments to be reviewed will be Administration and Planning & Zoning.

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 3-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator