

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 31, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a special meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 6:01 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: Joe Daleiden, Kevin Kodada, Tim Rud, Cindy Furrer, and Scott Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, 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 Daleiden 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

Rud thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said that instead of limiting public comments to the beginning of the meeting, he welcomed the residents in attendance to make comments during the appropriate times throughout the meeting.

Property Taxes

The Council reviewed the Preliminary 2018 Budget spreadsheets and Property Tax Levy and Impact spreadsheet. Erickson explained the numbers on the spreadsheet, and he stated that the Council's goal is to reduce the property tax levy by 10% or about \$210,000.00. The spreadsheet showed that everyone in Lonsdale, regardless of property value, should see a significant reduction in their City property taxes.

Administration

Erickson stated that the Council had discussed using computer tablets instead of paper copies/folders for meeting packet delivery. He said that overall, the majority of expenses should remain consistent with prior years. He said that Staff will be meeting with a health insurance broker on August 7th. He said that RFPs will go out for auditing services. Erickson noted that \$350,000.00 has been budgeted for an expansion to City Hall.

Planning & Zoning

Erickson said that the Council had discussed establishing a Community Development Director position and hiring a new City Planner, with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2018.

EDA

Erickson said that the EDA will approve their budget for 2018 at their August 31st meeting.

Library

Erickson stated that the Library Director and Board are currently reviewing anticipated costs associated with increased the hours the library is open to the public.

Debt Service Funds

Erickson said that the Idaho Street and 8th Avenue NW Projects will be paid off in 2017. He said that the 7th Avenue NW Project will be paid off in 2018. He stated that new debt service funds have been set up for the Area No. 5 – Phase III & IV Projects.

Park & Recreation

Erickson stated that \$66,500 in revenue is collected from leasing land to Verizon and T-Mobile. He said that \$25,000 was budgeted for a new cabbed mower/snow blower, and Erickson stated that a new tractor is being proposed to be budgeted for in 2019. He noted that \$12,500 was budgeted for community recreation programming through TCU and Three Rivers Park District.

The Council and audience reviewed the proposed Draft 2018 Parks & Recreation Budget sheet and maps created by the Lonsdale Park Board. Baker went through and explained each of the budget recommendations from the Park Board, including: 1) a new play equipment amenity such as a zip line or web climber for Jaycee Park, 2) a Main Street South trail/sidewalk connection, linking Downtown to Idaho Street, and 3) continued savings for large-scale projects such as an enclosed pavilion, full-sized hockey rink, and/or a splash pad/outdoor water amenity. Baker noted that the large-scale projects could cost anywhere from \$150,000 - \$350,000. He said that the Council did start saving \$50,000 per year starting in 2016, but \$30,000 was used up with the Community Center design work and referendum. Baker also went through a list of other wish list items that the Park Board would like to see completed over the upcoming years, including parking lot improvements, new park amenities/recreational opportunities, new trailways, and future land purchases.

The Council reviewed a proposed site plan for the Main Street South & Idaho Street site. Baker stated that since the community center referendum has failed twice in the last 15 years, that the Park Board has come up with a new plan to best utilize the vacant land for recreational purposes but only at a fraction of the price of a new community center. Baker described the site plan, which showed soccer fields, a full-size hockey rink, and two off-street parking lots. Ryan Phelps (TCU Soccer and Hockey), Sarah Heller (TCU Hockey), Jim & Sherri Meyer (TCU Hockey), and Micki Ziskovsky (Park Board Member) were all in attendance at the meeting and provided comments and showed their support for the proposed site plan.

Phelps stated that TCU Youth Soccer participation in Lonsdale has been growing quickly over its first two years of existence, and he expects that the growth trend will continue over the next few years. Phelps said that there is an immediate need for U10 fields for next year and U12 fields in the near future. He said that as TCU Soccer gets more organized, that their organization will be able to start initiating more fundraising efforts.

TCU Hockey representatives agreed that a full-size concrete outdoor hockey rink would help create better ice, extend the life of the ice, and ultimately help expand their association numbers. Jim Meyer suggested installing the cooling system piping in the concrete, in case an ice-cooling system was ever purchased in the future. Sherri Meyer stated that over 40 kids participate in TCU hockey, and Jim Meyer said that 80-100 kids show up to the current ice rink for open skating, after being advertised. Heller stated that the Hockey Association is excited that baby steps are being considered, that may ultimately lead to an eventual indoor rink at some point in the future. Phelps said that even getting a metal building indoor ice facility similar to New Prague would be wonderful for Lonsdale.

Kodada and Ziskovsky stated that the Park Board is in favor of the proposed site layout for the Main Street South site. The Council talked about grants and partnership options with the School District. Daleiden wondered if the City could come up with special funding means or bond for park/recreation projects, since \$50,000/year doesn't go very far when trying to save up for larger-scale projects.

Powell provided some insight on grading and construction costs. He also provided information on the Dundas Sports Dome and the Savage Sports Dome. Powell stated that WSB is working on a grading plan for the South Main Street site that will try to balance the site for optimum cost savings.

Rud stated that the proposed layout for the South Main Street site is excellent. He said that the land is just sitting vacant, and that it should at least be graded for field use. He said that if the site plan could be accomplished in a couple of years that would be great. Rud noted that there is also land for sale along Co Rd 96 that the City should keep its eye on. He explained that much of the park system was developed thanks to the vision of the Park Board and from parkland dedication funds through development over the past 15 years. The Council members thanked all the residents for attending the meeting.

Road & Bridge

Erickson said that \$164,000 is being budgeted for street maintenance, including: 1) 8th Avenue NE-Hwy 19 mill & overlay, 2) 8th Avenue NE patching, 3) isolated subgrade drainage and patching along five roadways, 4) general patching, 5) potential crack filling, 6) associated engineering, and 7) Capital Outlay equipment. Erickson said that the Public Works Department is looking to purchase a new street sweeper, replace a plow truck, and erect a new maintenance garage building in the near future. Erickson explained different funding options available for equipment. The Council reviewed a pavement core forensic report and map created by WSB, which provided recommendation based on the soil borings completed. Vlasak stated that the forensic report helps Staff come up with a street maintenance and repair plan. Rud stated that reclaim material is typically a good product, and he suggested using it on projects, when available.

Powell provided the Council with a quote just received from Dirt Merchants in the amount of \$7,150.00 for drainage improvement and paving of the trail down to fishing pier from the archery range. Rud asked if the trail will be ADA compatible. Powell said that a costly switch-back design would be required for the pathway to be completely accessible. Erickson stated that there is an accessible access to the fishing pier, if someone wanted to park along Pond View Drive and follow the paved trail to the fishing pier. He also reported that the check dams along Garfield Avenue will run around \$2,250 to construct. Powell said that unit prices were honored. He noted that the changes will not exceed 25% of the total project cost. He said that a change order will come before the Council for their next meeting.

Rud reminded WSB and the contractor on the Area No. 5 – Phase III Project that the I.C. Church Bazaar will be taking place on August 6th. He suggested getting things presentable and safe before the event takes place.

NLC Service Line Warranty Program

In regard to a few recently failing deep sewer lines along 11th Avenue NE and 4th Avenue NE, the Council reviewed an 18-page information packet on the NLC Service Line Warranty Program. Erickson stated that the program probably would not cover the cost of the noted problem sewers in town as originally hoped for. The Council thanked Staff for looking into the option.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Staff Reports

None

b. Council Reports

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava 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 7:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator