

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tim Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 6:03 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: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, Public Works Director Joe Dornfeld, City Treasurer Tami Brokl, Liquor Store Manager Lynette Moe, Chief of Police Jason Schmitz and Library Director Marguerite Moran

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava 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

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss the City's 2024 Budget

Erickson said this was the first meeting pertaining to the City's 2024 property tax levy and budget. He said items to be reviewed included: the proposed levy, tax rate, CIP, facility needs, short/long term goals and wages and insurance. Erickson said this will be used as the framework for future budget meetings. He said there are two options of the property tax levy to review and explained the tax impacts. Erickson said there is funding for trail improvements in 2023 budget that could be used for trail improvements in 2024 or other expenses. He reviewed the debt service portion of the levy and the water/wastewater debt services. Erickson provide a summary of legislation that will increase the City's LGA by over \$100,000, one time Public Safety Aid in the amount of \$209,125 and street maintenance funding in the amount of \$78,803. Erickson recommended the City's CIP be updated to account for the remaining reconstruction projects, maintenance (crack fill, sealcoat, etc.) so budgeting can be level instead of up and down. He reviewed the recommended improvements outlined in the recently updated Comprehensive Water Plan. Erickson said there will not be a \$400,000 debt service payment for the wastewater treatment. Kodada asked when sewer rates were last increased. Erickson said at least two years ago. Mayor Rud asked if money will be needed for maintenance in the near future. Dornfeld said the lift station project is starting tomorrow. Mayor Rud said the revenue should be collected so it can be spent on maintenance over the next ten years. Furrer asked if the sewer plant needed to be expanded. Erickson said the plant is running at about 50% capacity. There was general discussion on bio-solids and that the revenues collected for the sewer fund, should stay in the sewer fund.

Erickson review previous discussion on wages and the rate of inflation over the last year. He said based on the labor agreement with Police Officers, he was recommending a wage increase of 5.50% for non-union employees. Kodada asked what union dues are. Brokl said \$67.00 per officer per pay period. Erickson said he and staff met with an insurance broker regarding health insurance options and other possible benefits to reduce the cost of health insurance.

Erickson reviewed the short/long term goals of the library. Mayor Rud said the library board has done a good. Moran said she is working through replacing Smisek due to her retiring and wages are a concern of hers because the new employee will be paid just less than the current employees, that have experience. Kodada asked if the starting wage should be lowed. Moran said no, it should be increased for the current employees. Erickson reviewed the goals for the Lonsdale Liquor. Moe said she would be losing storage in the backroom if the beer cave is enlarged. Erickson said the goals of the street department are maintenance, street reconstruction projects, equipment and facilities. Kodada asked if there are other options besides sealcoating. Dornfeld replied that there are several options, which hopefully result in less failures. Erickson said with the new PD, the Police Department is stilling pretty well with the facility and office equipment. He said the PD budgets annually for squad replacement. He said the main items in parks are trail maintenance and the DRS ballfield lights. Erickson said for Planning and Zoning, the main items are technology, Building Official replacement timeline and

enforcement. He said the Fire Department has done a good job of prioritizing equipment replacement with the Townships. Erickson said for Administration, the main items are staffing levels, technology and building maintenance. There was general discussion on the needed staffing levels at City Hall. He said the parking lots were replaced last month and the windows for City Hall have been bid.

Mayor Rud asked if anyone had any other budget items to discuss. There were none. He said based on discussion, the levy should be somewhere between the two options presented. There was discussion on whether or not to assess for mill and overlay projects. The consensus of the City Council was to not assess a portion of the cost, rather include it in the tax levy.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator