

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 8, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tim Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 7:02 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 and City Engineer Shibani Bisson

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. Erickson requested the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Lonsdale and LELS, Local #369 – Patrol Officers be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Pelava to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the MOA. 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**

Steve Vosejpka – 3R Landmark School:

Vosejpka said he was presented on behalf of the 3R Landmark School because they are running out of funds and requested the City take over responsibility for payment of the utility bills. He reviewed the average monthly cost for gas and electricity. Mayor Rud asked if the organization was still active. Vosejpka said the group has six members and are getting older. He said the building will need paint soon and that last time it was painted, the City paid the cost. Mayor Rud said a long term plan needs to be established for the building. Vosejpka said since it is on the Nation Register of Historical Places, grants are available for rehabilitation, etc. The City Council thanked Vosejpka and the 3R Landmark group for their work over the years.

**8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Update on the MnDoT Highway 19 & CSAH 2 Roundabout Project

Erickson said staff has participated in several project meetings with MnDoT and their consultant regarding design options for the roundabout project proposed at the intersection of Highway 19 and CSAH 2. He said, of the two options proposed, staff recommended the unrestricted option and said the project should be designed properly to replace the existing poor design. Erickson said MnDoT's consultant is working on a hybrid option that contains elements of both options presented. The City Council discussed the options and agreed the project should be designed with no restrictions, so it does not need to be redesigned after it is operational. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the unrestricted option. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

b. Consider Approval of the Following Liquor Licenses: Lonsdale American Legion – On-Sale and Sunday Liquor; Whistle Stop Tavern & Grill – On-Sale and Sunday Liquor, Lonsdale Liquor – Off-Sale, Lonsdale Baseball Association – 3.2% On-Sale

Erickson said the applicants were sent the renewal information and have submitted or will have to submit the necessary information prior to the license(s) being issued. Furrer questioned what products could be purchased with a 3.2% liquor license because it is becoming more difficult to purchase 3.2% products. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the liquor licenses requested by the Lonsdale American Legion, Whistle Stop, Lonsdale Liquor and Lonsdale Baseball Association. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

Andrew Rasmussen, owner of Smoke said he was requesting a reduction in the cost of Smoke's liquor license due to the lower sales, resulting from road construction in 2022 and the County Road 4 project this year. He said he is looking for options to reduce operating costs or to increase revenue. Mayor Rud said the City reduced or refunded license fees for the last two years. Rasmussen said it was one year. Mayor Rud said this year's project is a County project and they should be asked for financial options. Rasmussen said New Prague provided businesses on Highway 19 financial incentives during their reconstruction project. Mayor Rud asked if the Legion or Whistle Stop received incentives during their reconstruction projects. Erickson said no. Pelava said during COVID, the City did not have control on closures, etc. and there were other items also not in the City's control. Mayor Rud asked if this was the role of the EDA. Pelava said the EDA might play a roll. Kodada said he understood Rasmussen's concerns and dealing with street projects is a pain and inconvenience but this year, it is a County project. Furrer said situations like this are unfortunate but if the fees were reduced, it would set a precedence going forward. Pelava asked if other projects lasted for two

years. Mayor Rud said the last businesses to be affected by a street project were Main St. businesses. Rasmussen reviewed his sales. Mayor Rud said the request should be discussed with Rice County, since it is a County project. There was general discussion held, the fact the City tried to coordinate the 2022 project with the CSAH 4 project but that did not work out as planned and Rasmussen should contact Rice County for financial assistance. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to not waive the 2023/24 liquor license fees for Smoke. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

c. Consider Approval to Schedule a Public Hearing on June 29, 2023 at 7:00 pm or Shortly Thereafter on Proposed Ordinance 2023-316, an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter §30.02 – Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

Erickson said with the Fire Department getting ready to advertise for more fire fighters, City Code Chapter §30.02 needs to be updated to reflect current hiring practices and to increase the roster to 30. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to schedule a public hearing on Ordinance 2023-316 on June 29, 2023 at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Approval of Resolution 2023-22, a Resolution Accepting Councilmember David Webb’s Resignation and Declaring a Vacancy

Erickson said with the resignation of Councilmember Webb, the City Council needs to adopt a Resolution accepting the resignation and declaring a vacancy. Mayor Rud asked if a timeline has been established. Erickson said the timeline will follow the November election timeline with filing between August 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Rud said there is no advantage to the City to fill the vacancy until the November election. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2023-22. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval to Schedule a Public Hearing on June 29, 2023 at 7:00 or Shortly Thereafter on Proposed Ordinance 2023-317, an Ordinance Providing for a Special Election to Fill a Vacancy Due to Councilmember David Webb’s Resignation at a Time Other Than the Regular City General Election

Erickson said with the resignation of Councilmember Webb and the City Council approving Resolution 2023-22, the City needs to adopt an Ordinance that states when and why special elections will be held. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to schedule a public hearing on June 29, 2023 at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter on proposed Ordinance 2023-317. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

- f. Consider Approval of Resolution 2023-23, a Resolution Accepting a Donation From Mary Whitmer  
 Erickson said Mary Whitmer has made a donation to the City, specifically for the Fire Department. He said for the City to accept the donation, the City needs to adopt a resolution accepting it and stating what it will be used for. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Kodada to approve Resolution 2023-23. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.
- g. Consider Approval of Application for Payment No. 1 in the Amount of \$131,452.21 to McNamara Contracting, Inc. for the 2023 Mill & Overlay Project  
 Erickson said the pay request was for the mill and overlay project and the City Hall parking lots. He said the preconstruction meeting was held and reviewed the project timelines. He said the contractor did a good job and the projects turned out well. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the pay request. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.
- h. Consider Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Lonsdale and LELS, Local #369 – Patrol Officers  
 Erickson said with the State Legislature approving Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>) as a state holiday, effective in 2023. He said the City’s Personnel Policy accounts for changes to State Statute but the Labor Agreement with Police Officers does not. Erickson said the MOA adds June 19<sup>th</sup> as a holiday in the Labor Agreement. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the MOA between the City of Lonsdale and LELS, Local #369 – Patrol Officers. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

a. Department & Council Reports

Public Works

Dornfeld said the lift station by-pass was finished yesterday, it went well and took less time than expected. He said BCM is working on completing the punch list for the 2023 street project and the wear course is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>. He said there is a water main break that will be repaired tomorrow. Dornfeld said the stake park project is underway. He said Tenda Park improvements are scheduled to start next week. Dornfeld said the seasonal employees have started and are working out well.

Engineering

None

City Administration

Erickson said the Fire Department parking lot project will begin next week and will be phased to allow access to/from the fire hall. He said he and the City Treasurer met with the City Auditor to review the 2022 financials and audit process. Erickson said next week, the Planning Commission, Park Board and EDA meeting.

Council Member Kodada

Kodada said P&Z and the Park Board have not met since the last meeting.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer said the EDA is meeting next week.

Council Member Pelava

None

Mayor Rud

Mayor Rud said he has received several complaints on mosquitos. Erickson said there have been several treatments. Pelava said compared to other locations, Lonsdale is great. Mayor Rud said the soccer fields are getting used a lot.

b. Upcoming Meetings

- a. Monday, June 26, 2023 at 6:00 pm
- b. Thursday, June 29, 2023 at 7:00 pm

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator