

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 24, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tim Rud called a 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, Cindy Furrer and Scott Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, Public Works Director Joe Dornfeld, City Treasurer Tami Brokl, 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. Erickson said due to a lack of agenda items for the July 27, 2023, he requested the items for that meeting: (1) Approval of the Minutes from the July 13, 2023 Special Meeting; (2) Monthly Bills, Treasurer's Report and Board and Commission Minutes and (3) Presentation of a CenterPoint Energy Grant be added to this meeting's agenda and the July 27, 2023 meeting be cancelled. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the agenda with the requested additions and the July 27, 2023 meeting be cancelled. 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. Presentation of a CenterPoint Energy Grant in the Amount of \$2,500.00

Erickson said this is a grant that the City applies for on a regular basis and rotates applying for it between the Police and Fire Departments. Chief Schmitz said he applied for the grant in April and was awarded \$2,500.00 for the purchase of new radios. He said CenterPoint Energy has been generous in the past and in total, they have awarded \$10,000.00 in grants to the City.

b. Discuss the City's 2024 Budget

Property Tax Levy/Tax Rate/Debt Service:

Erickson said this was the third meeting pertaining to the City's 2024 property tax levy and budget. He said items to be reviewed included: the proposed levy, EDA, Library, Parks and Streets. Erickson said based on discussion at previous budget meetings, enclosed in the packet is an option for the levy, which is in the middle between keeping the levy the same as 2023 and increasing it so the tax rate remains the same as 2023.

Erickson said the EDA is requesting \$50,000 in funding. Mayor Rud asked how much funding had been received in the past. Furrer said the EDA will receive \$40,000 in 2023. Kodada asked if all the funds will be spent. Furrer said it is anticipated over \$37,000 will be spent. Erickson reviewed the EDA's priorities for 2024, which are networking, marketing, BR&E strategy implementation and participation in SMIF's REV program. He said the EDA is currently working on updating the marketing videos to be used in 2024.

Library Director Moran provided an overview of the Library's budget request. She said there has been an increase in e-books and a total of 29,000 items were checked out in 2022. Moran said the collection has over 20,000 physical items and the library provides a place for residents to "get away". She said she has heard comments like "it is great you are here". Moran said there were 271 kids that participated in the summer reading program, the library organized over 100 events during 2022 and there were 163 people that attended the Halloween party. She said wages are her biggest concern due to hiring a new employee at the same pay as employees that have been at the library for over five years. Moran said she was recommending the current employees get a larger wage increase to create separation between new and employees that have been with the library for a while. Mayor Rud asked if she had a proposal. Moran said she has a proposal. Furrer asked if the new employee started. Moran said yes, last Friday and she has a different skill set than current employees, which will be beneficial to the library. Erickson reviewed the library's proposed revenues and expenses for 2024. Library Board member Shirley Larsen said she has been on the Board for five years and she was at the meeting to give a "what's up" on the library. She said the library is always clean, there is great staff and it is an exciting place to be. Furrer asked Moran if she presented her budget request to Rice County and if it is done in conjunction with the other libraries. Moran said she submitted her budget request but will give the presentation in August with the other libraries. Furrer asked how much funding Moran was going to request from Rice County. Moran replied \$29,500. There was general discussion on grants and fundraising.

Erickson said the day to day operational costs of the Park Department was discussed at a previous budget meeting and the focus tonight is capital outlay. He said the Park Board is present to review the request. A presentation was given that included Board members, recently completed projects, water amenities, parking lots, landscaping, amenity updates, the skate park, disc golf, Lions/Boy Scout bench donations, land, the trail system, the summer recreation program partnership and the 2024 budget request. Kodada said because pickleball has taken off, a new and permanent location is needed. The Council agreed and said it should be a priority. Mayor Rud said funding for disc golf should be included in the budget.

Public Works Director Dornfeld reviewed pavement rejuvenation options and a maintenance compliance schedule. He recommended streets with a rating of less than 70 be candidates for pavement rejuvenation. Dornfeld said he is looking at working with a contractor to conduct a test strip on Willow Creek Dr SE south of Industrial Dr SE because of the pavement conditions and there are no homes on that section. He said in speaking with the contractor, the streets proposed for maintenance are good candidates from micro sealing. Erickson said a long term funding solution needs to be determined because all of the streets in new developments were constructed at essentially the same time. Kodada said he like the idea of micro sealing and agreed with a test strip in 2023. Dornfeld said that is his goal. Furrer asked what the life span of micro sealing is. Dornfeld replied 7-10 years.

c. Consider Approval of the Minutes From the July 13, 2023 Special Meeting

Mayor Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve the minutes as presented. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda For the July 27, 2023 Meeting

Mayor Rud asked if anyone wanted any of the items pulled for discussion. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Pelava to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 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