

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tim Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 7:00 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 and City Engineer Shibani Bisson

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

a. Consider Approval of the Minutes From the July 24, 2023 Special Meeting

Mayor Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes. A motion was made by Pelava 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.

**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. Consider Approval of Resolution 2023-25, a Resolution Accepting a Donation From the Lonsdale Sno-Wizards

Erickson said the Lonsdale SnoWizards made a donation to the City to be used for the purchase of equipment for the Fire Department. He said for the donation to be accepted, a resolution needs to be approved per State Statute. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Kodada to approve Resolution 2023-25. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried. The City Council thanked the SnoWizard's for their donation.

b. Consider Approval to Schedule a Public Hearing on August 31, 2023 at 7:00 pm or Shortly Thereafter on Proposed Ordinance 2023-318, an Ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Use Within Public Property and Public Places

Erickson said with the State Legislature approving and the Governor signing into law a bill that allows the use of cannabis, the City Council needs to discuss and determine if the City will impose regulations on the use of cannabis in public places. He reviewed the new law, what the City can do to prevent the use of cannabis in public places, concerns on enforcement, fairness and questioned if additional regulations are necessary, since the legislature approved the use of cannabis. Furrer questioned if someone could use cannabis at the Legion since the public is welcome. Erickson said it would be up to the Legion since it is private property but technically, yes. Kodada said his main concern is the smell of cannabis when smoked. Furrer questioned if the Police Department has more important things to do than regulate cannabis. The City Council held general discussion on cannabis. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to schedule a public hearing on Ordinance 2023-318 for August 31, 2023 at 7:0 pm or shortly thereafter. 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 August 31, 2023 at 7:00 pm or Shortly Thereafter on Proposed Ordinance 2023-319, an Ordinance Authorizing Background Checks for Applicants for City Employment

Erickson reviewed the proposed Ordinance and said it is required to be approved so the Lonsdale Police Department is authorized by the City Council to access the MN BCA's computerized system for non-criminal purposes such as employment background checks. He said going forward, it is important for the City to conduct a more thorough background investigation prior to hiring new employments. Pelava said a more in-depth background is good. Furrer said checking driving status is good because there are no remote positions in the City. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Kodada to schedule a public hearing on August 31, 2023 at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter on Ordinance 2023-319. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Approval to Make a Conditional Job Offer to Cory Hinz as Community Development Planner at Grade 15 / Step 5 (\$43.73/hr.) and Three Weeks Accrued Vacation

Erickson said with the resignation of Jamie Scheffer, staff was authorized to advertise the position. He said the position was advertised on the LMC's and City's websites and also in a regional paper and hiring websites. He said eight people showed interest in the position, with four submitting all the required information. Erickson said two applicants were interviewed by the HR Committee on July 31<sup>st</sup>. He said based on the interviews, experience and reference checks, Hinz is being recommended for the position. Mayor Rud said Hinz interviewed very well and has experience. Pelava said he was impressed with Hinz and he will be a good fit. Furrer asked if driving was going to be an issue since it is not a remote position. Pelava said the commute will be shorter and Hinz prefers to work in person. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Kodada to make a conditional job offer to Cory Hinz as Community Development Planner at Grade 15 / Step 5 (\$43.73/hr.) with three weeks of accrued vacation. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval of Application for Payment No. 6 in the Amount of \$73,463.73 to BCM Construction for the 2022 Street Improvement Project

Bisson said the pay request was for the wear course of pavement and that the final punch list items were completed as well. She recommended approval of the pay request. Bisson said the City is still hold the required 5% retainage and the work completed to date is under the budgeted amount. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve Application for Payment No. 6 in the amount of \$73,463.73. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

f. Consider Approval of a Proposal Form for the Public Works Department Storage Building Concrete Floor and Apron and Authorize Staff to Solicit Bids

Dornfeld said the next step in the project is to solicit bids for the concrete work. He said Timm's Trucking was on site working on site prep. Kodada asked if the rebar should be metal and not fiberglass. Dornfeld said he would make the change to clarify metal rebar. Kodada asked if the rebar would be epoxy coated because non-epoxy coated rebar would save several thousand dollars. Dornfeld said the rebar would be non-epoxy coated. A motion was made by Kodada seconded by Pelava to approve the proposal form for concrete work stating the rebar will be metal and non-epoxy coated. Vote for: Kodada, Rud, Furrer and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Department and City Council Reports  
Public Works:

Dornfeld said staff has been busy finishing the skate park, getting ready for Community Days and sewer jetting is continuing. He said he will be attending an AEB grant meeting next week. Dornfeld said the watermain crossing associated with the CSAH 4 project will be happening next Tuesday. Pelava asked if a resident has an ash tree with AEB,

would they be required to do something with it. Dornfeld explained the process the City uses for notifying residents about diseased/dying trees. There was general discussion on removal of trees.

Engineering:

Bisson provided an update on construction projects and what needs to be done to finalize them. She said she is working on the 2024 project feasibility study.

Administration:

Erickson said he has been working on staff interviews, the EDA's SMIF REV application, building permits, Fire Board items, elections, the 2024 budget and Planning Commission items.

Councilmember Kodada:

Kodada said the skate park ribbon cutting was held and it is being used and turned out great. He said the next Planning Commission will be on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Furrer:

Furrer said the EDA will be meeting next week.

Councilmember Pelava:

Pelava said Community Day is this weekend and volunteers are still needed.

Mayor Rud:

Mayor Rud said the number of parks in the City is remarkable and thanked the City Council for moving the City forward. He thanked the LACC and volunteers for all their work on Community Day.

b. Upcoming Meetings

- a. Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm
- b. Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 7:00 pm

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 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