

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 14, 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 and Chief of Police Jason Schmitz

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 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

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 the items to be reviewed included the tax levy and impact, wages/insurance, Administration, Planning & Zoning and Police. He said currently, the property tax levy is proposed at \$2,976,475, which is an increase of 3.53% but decreases the City's tax rate by 3.29%. He reviewed the impact on several homes and businesses. He said he is comfortable with the proposed levy because the City will be receiving one time public safety aid and an increase in LGA for 2024. Erickson said wages are proposed to increase 5.50% with several employees receiving larger increases as part of a plan to get their wage competitive with the market. He said the Library Director has requested an increase for current staff due to their experience, job duties and to create wage separation between them and new staff hired at the same wage. Erickson said the simplest option is to move existing library clerks two steps. He said the cost for this option is \$2,800, which is incorporated into the budget. Erickson reviewed health insurance premium increases and changes in plan benefits. He said the City's broker is currently pricing out a self-funded insurance plan with a supplemental plan similar to NICE.

Erickson said Administration was reviewed at a prior budget meeting but since then, he was recommending \$70,000 in funding to reside and paint the 3R Landmark School and \$20,000 for website upgrades. He said he and staff are discussing adding additional staff at City Hall. Erickson said staff is reviewing a job description and discussing how it will work logistically with scheduling and offices.

Erickson said the Planning & Zoning budget will probably be reviewed when the Planner starts but said there is currently no funding from the property tax levy and the potential new office staff would have some of their wage funded in this department. He said building permit revenue is expected to be down and reviewed other revenues. Erickson reviewed professional services, engineering, inspection fees and dues/subscriptions.

Erickson reviewed the revenues for the Police Department. He reviewed wages and said that the Police Chief was recommended adding a full time officer and eliminating the part time positions. Kodada asked if promoting a part time officer is an option to save time and money. Chief Schmitz replied yes. Furrer asked how many part time officers there are. Schmitz replied two and one does not work due to his full time job. There was general discussion on this and the consensus of the City Council was to hopefully promote from within. Erickson said the Chief was recommending a wage increase above what is in the labor agreement due to other agencies offering bonuses, sign on bonus, etc. to retain and attract officers. He said the cost of the proposal is \$13,000 and it costs around \$7,000 to get a new officer onboard. Erickson reviewed professional services, telephone, additional security cameras, purchase of a new squad in 2024 to replace the 2018 and encrypted radios. He said the fund will run a deficit due to prior year savings for the new squad and use of one time public safety funding.

Erickson asked if the City Council wanted any specific information or items discussed at the next budget meeting on August 28th. Kodada asked Dornfeld if he looked into a

utility box for the 2004 F250. Dornfeld said he researched pricing and it would be around \$5,000 for a utility box. Mayor Rud said they are handy to have and asked if the F250 was rusty? Dornfeld said the box and front bumper and rusty. The consensus was for staff to continue researching a utility box for the F250.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 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