

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 28, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tim Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 7:01 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: Brian Wermerskirchen, Kevin Kodada, Tim Rud, Cindy Furrer, and Scott Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, Public Works Director Joe Dornfeld, Assistant Fire Chief Danielson, and Community Development Planner Cory Hinz-Ibarra

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda. Erickson requested to add “Consider Approval to Reschedule the January 25, 2024 City Council Meeting to Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:00 pm”. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Kodada to approve the agenda with the requested addition. Vote for: Wermerskirchen, Kodada, Rud, Pelava, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Consider Approval of the Minutes from the December 14, 2023 Regular Meeting

Mayor Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the December 14, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the minutes as presented. Vote for: Wermerskirchen, Kodada, Pelava, Rud, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**7. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

None

## 8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Rud reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if anyone wanted any items pulled for discussion. Pelava requested to discuss Consent Agenda d. “Good Neighbor” Recycling Team responsibilities. The Council discussed the role of the City and the program expectations and responsibilities being communicated to the 2024 “Good Neighbor” Recycling Teams. The Council discussed the importance of having a respectful partnership with Mackenthun’s, enforcement options, and future outlook of the program. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Wermerskirchen to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote for: Wermerskirchen, Kodada, Pelava, Rud, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

None

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation of a West Central Sanitation “Good Neighbor” Recycling Program Check in the Amount of \$490.05  
Mike Rhodes from West Central Sanitation presented the third quarter “Good Neighbor” Recycling Team check in the amount of \$490.05 to the Friends of the Lonsdale Public Library. Library Director Moran accepted the check on behalf of the Friends of the Lonsdale Public Library. Moran thanked West Central Sanitation and said the \$490.05 will support the 2024 reading program.
- b. Consider Approval of a Quote Submitted by MES in the Amount of \$48,642.00 for Replacement of Fire Department Turnout Gear (12) Jackets, (14) Pants and (14) Boots  
Assistant Fire Chief Danielson said the State of Minnesota Fire Marshal advised the Lonsdale Fire Department to order replacement turnout gear to comply with OSHA standards. Danielson said that the Lonsdale Fire Department does not have this as a budgeted item in 2024 and the turnout gear is required to be replaced every 10 years. Danielson recommended purchasing: (12) jackets, (14) pants, (14) boots from MES in the amount of \$48,642.00. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve the MES Quote in the amount of \$48,642.00. Vote for: Rud, Pelava, Kodada, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.
- c. Consider Approval to Schedule a Public Hearing for January 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm or Shortly Thereafter on Proposed Ordinance 2024-324 (2024 Fee Schedule), an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2022-315 (2023 Fee Schedule)  
Erickson said the fees charged by the City of Lonsdale for services relating to Land Use Applications, Water/Sewer, Development, Building/Zoning, Licenses, Equipment, etc. are set by Ordinance. Erickson said a public hearing is required and recommended scheduling the Public Hearing for January 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter on proposed Ordinance 2024-324 (2024 Fee Schedule), an Ordinance Amending Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2022-315 (2023 Fee Schedule).

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to approve Public Hearing for January 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm or Shortly Thereafter on Proposed Ordinance 2024-324 (2024 Fee Schedule). Vote for: Rud, Pelava, Kodada, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to amend the previous motion by reschedule the Public Hearing for Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:00 pm or shortly thereafter on proposed Ordinance 2024-324 (2024 Fee Schedule). Vote for: Rud, Pelava, Kodada, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Consider Approval of the City's Earned and Safe Time Policy

Erickson said Governor Walz signed legislation that requires employers to provide Sick and Safe Time (ESST) based on one hour of ESST for every 30 hours worked. Erickson said the policy pertains to all City employees that work 80 hours, except for City Councilmembers. Erickson summarized the proposed policy which included Eligibility/Accruals, Use/Purpose, Advance Notice for Use of ESST, Carryover of ESST, Retaliation Prohibited, Benefits and Return to Work, Separation of Employment. Erickson said it is required for the City of Lonsdale to adopt an ESST Policy and begin implementation in 2024. A motion was made by Wermerskirchen and seconded by Pelava to approve the City's Earned and Safe Time Policy. Vote for: Rud, Pelava, Kodada, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

e. Consider Approval of Resolution 2023-45, a Resolution Entering Into a Prosecution Service Agreement Between the City of Lonsdale and Rice County

Erickson said that the City of Lonsdale has contracted with Rice County for prosecution services since 2019 and the Police Chief is satisfied with services provided by the Rice County Attorney's Office. Erickson said the main charges/changes are a fee increase from \$14,400 to \$18,000 (general) or \$20,000 (general/dangerous dogs). Erickson said by approving Resolution 2023-45, the City Council is approving the proposed agreement and authorizing the Mayor and/or City Administrator are authorized and directed to enter into the agreement. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2023-45 option \$20,000 annually (general/dangerous dogs). Vote for: Rud, Pelava, Kodada, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

f. Consider Approval of Resolution 2023-46, a Resolution Designating Official Appointments for

Erickson said this is an annual Resolution adopted by the City Council and Mayor Rud is responsible to recommend appointments to various departments/advisory boards. Erickson said the openings were advertised and interviews were conducted on December 14, 2023. Rud then summarized the Official Appointments for 2024. A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Kodada to approve Resolution 2023-46. Vote for: Rud, Pelava, Kodada, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

g. Consider Approval of Resolution 2023-47, a Resolution Approving the Acquisition of Real Property

Erickson said leading up to this meeting, the City Council has met several times in closed sessions to determine whether the City should purchase the property and to determine a purchase price. Erickson said based upon the meetings, he has been working with the City Attorney and Staff from the Northfield Hospital on negotiating the terms of the agreement. Erickson said the property in question is 103 15<sup>th</sup> Ave Southeast, the Lonsdale Clinic. Erickson said he has been updating the purchase agreement to a quick claim deed. Erickson said the Hospital Board and the City of Northfield need to approve the agreement as well. A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve Resolution 2023-47. Vote for: Rud, Pelava, Kodada, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

h. Consider Approval to Reschedule the January 25, 2024 City Council Meeting to Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Erickson said Staff was requested to reschedule the January 25, 2024 City Council Meeting to Monday, January 2029 at 6:00 pm. Erickson said the proposed rescheduled City Council works for Staff. A motion was made Pelava and seconded by Furrer to reschedule the January 25, 2024 City Council Meeting to Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Vote for: Rud, Pelava, Kodada, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Department & Council Reports

Public Works:

Dornfeld said he submitted the City's Chloride Variance to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, officially moved Public Works equipment into the new storage facility and is addressing drainage issues due to the heavy rain from last weekend.

City Administrator:

Erickson said he is reviewing the Fee Schedule for 2024, stated there is an upcoming Minnesota Department of Transportation Open House to discuss the proposed roundabout on January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center, and that he sent out the Annual Chamber' Dinner invite to the Council.

Community Development Planner:

Hinz-Ibarra said he was reviewing permit fees with Staff and closing out yearend escrow accounts.

Councilmember Wermerskirchen:

Wermerskirchen said that the EDA met last week and continued to make updates to the new marketing video, discussed 2024 goals and objectives, and will continue scheduling quarterly Lunch & Learn events. Wermerskirchen said he shared his feedback with Hinz-Ibarra in the development of the new City of Lonsdale website design.

Councilmember Kevin Kodada:

Kodada said the Parks & Recreation Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission met on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Kodada said the Park Board discussed future goals and that there are two Public Hearings at the upcoming January Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting.

Councilmember Furrer:

Furrer said the Liquor Board Meeting is coming up.

Councilmember Pelava:

Pelava said the Chamber's "Lonsdale First" program is wrapping up and the Annual Dinner is at the Horse & Hunt Club at the end of January.

Mayor Rud:

Rud thanked City Staff and Councilmembers and wished everyone Happy New Year's.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Vote for: Kodada, Pelava, Rud, Wermerskirchen, and Furrer. Vote against: None.

Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator