

**LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2023 • 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM April 10, 2023.
 - Present: Mayor L. Sik, D. Knutson, D. Irlbeck, T. Beermann, L Bittner
 - Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, J. Thram, T. Neperman
 - Others in Attendance: Scott Kuhlman, Bollig; Mindy Bittner, Marchelle Walz, Nick Anderson
- A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
- Add Resolution 2023-15 – Resolution to Accept Resignation and Declare Vacancy
 - For Council Information #5 – Maynard's Email
 - For Council Information #6 – Water Sewer Request

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve the agenda as amended.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. 3-13-2023 – Regular City Council Meeting

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to approve the 3-13-2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Bollig Engineering

Scott Kuhlman will be present to discuss the Industrial Park & Grove Street Updates. Archeologist will be doing some limited field exploration. Waiting for bonding decisions from the state. Industrial Park – they will be looking for a name for the street(s). Utility design is in progress and there are points to go over with Justin. Geo-technical proposals presented. American Engineer Testing (AET) were the lowest bidder.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to accept the geo-technical proposal from American Engineering Testing for design and construction.

B. Petitions, Request, Communications

1. Citizen Complaints & Concerns

- a. Nick Anderson was present to ask if the council has a plan for not only this year but long-term for the swimming pool. Anderson stated that the pool has cost the tax-payers for quite a few years and we keep put more money into than its worth. The fixes are band aids on band aids. Anderson requested the city look into it. Sik stated the City does not have a plan at this time. Anderson stated the pool costs the taxpayers \$60,000-\$100,000 each year.
- b. House Complaint – The house in the complaint is Mayor Sik's house. Sik stated there are no ordinance violations on the house and if there are, they are taken care of.
- c. Main Street Sidewalks not being shoveled. Chief Walker has talked to homeowners.
- d. Trailer on Street – Trailer has been moved.

2. Zoning Permits/Variance Requests –

- a. 2023-03 – Phillip Davis – 315 S Main Street – Garage Addition
 - Variance was granted in 2021 – supporting documents attached

Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve building application 2023-03 for Phillip Davis garage addition.

3. Request for Council Action

- a. RCA – Plum Creek Soccer Practice 3rd & Fir Lot – The soccer teams are looking for places to practice since the fields are off limits due to school construction. Southside Addition isn't an option because of the type of grass used. The council did not see an issue with it.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve Plum Creek Soccer League to use City property for practices.

- b. RCA – Clean Up Day May 13, 2023 – Hours will be 8:00-11:00AM with the same prices as last year. The City will provide one garbage truck and Ron's Recycling will be there.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson /unanimous 5/0) to approve City Wide Clean Up Day on May 13 2023 using the same pricing as last year.

- c. RCA – Bill Schaffran and Racoons – Mayor Sik explained Bill called telling him he had racoons that he wanted to be paid for trapping on his property in town. Discussion was held on hiring someone to catch wildlife and if they catch cats or dogs – let them go. Discussion was held that if we pay him, we would have to pay others. The Ordinance needs to change to include cats, but the city would have to have a plan in place for cats and dogs that would be caught. No action taken – tabled for work session.

- d. RCA – Approve Nathan Knutson to Lamberton Fire Department

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve Nathan Knutson to the Fire Department.

- e. RCA – Accept Employee Resignation & Advertise for Position

Lea Wigley has resigned her position as a Library Aid. Halter would like to advertise the job to include custodial help for Rosie. Discussion was held on the pay difference between the two positions.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 4/0) to accept Ilea Wigley's resignation and advertise for the Library Aid/Custodial position.

- f. RCA – Assistant Clerk Position - Halter explained that there were 5 applicants with 3 being interviewed. The position was offered to one candidate with her having to turning it down. Halter expressed she would like to give it a month or so and see what the real workload is and what is needed, then open it up back.

- g. RCA – Ambulance Director – Interviews were held with Tim Birkemeyer and Colby Davis. Knutson expressed his concern about at both interviews the candidates talked about the division among the group. Bittner asked if we should give the group a say in who is hired. Bittner would like feedback from the group. Knutson concerned about making a decision that will affect the squad. Halter brought up using a financial incentive to try and retain members.

Motion/Second/Pass (Knutson/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to call a Special Council Meeting at 6:30PM on Monday, April 24, 2023 for the purpose of talking to the Ambulance members and appointing an Ambulance Director with the meeting being held at the Ambulance building.

- h. RCA – Accept Employee Resignation & Advertise for Position

Debbie Vollmer has submitted her resignation as Assistant Ambulance Director.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Beermann/unanimous 5/0) to accept Debbie Vollmer's resignation as Assistant Ambulance Director and advertise for the position.

- i. RCA – Maintenance Worker – There were four applicants, all were interviewed. The HR Committee Justin is recommending we hire Tyler Beermann at Grade 4 Step 5 at \$20.75/hour.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/Beermann abstaining 4/0) to approve hiring Tyler Beermann as Maintenance Worker at Grade 4 Step 5.

C. Department Reports

1. Library – No report submitted.
2. Ambulance Department – No report submitted.
3. Fire Department – The South Siren did not work during the last drill. The roster is full now. Chief Neperman is looking for grants for turnout gear.

Motion/Second/ Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to approve the fire report as given.

4. Police Department – written report submitted. There have been 84 calls for service so far in 2023. Chief Walker is having some recall and other work done to the squad. Chief Walker has met with administration of RRC.

Motion/Second/ Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve the police report as given.

5. Maintenance Department – Thram explained he has all the trees down. Thram is working with Redwood Nursery on developing a plan for replacement trees and laying it all out. Thram will share the plan with the public so they understand and see what will be

happening. 119 trees in Kuhar Park have been removed. Removals are done for this year. Trees will be planted with watering bags as part of the grant requirement. This will help the trees get established. The County Engineer was not going to allow the school contractors on the county roads to bring in the heavy equipment needed to start the school project. Thram explained that he allowed the two heaviest loads to come down Main Street and over on 5th. If we did not allow this, the contractor would have pulled out and not began the project for a month or more. There was no damage. M&R is beginning to install the new storm sewer line for the new school campus. Thram will start sweeping streets and start flushing hydrants. Sik questioned the stump removal. Thram will be pulling them out with the backhoe to avoid settling issues in the years to come. Compost Site will open the week of April 24th. Same hours as previous years. A service line was discovered when they took down the bus barn. The service at the Valentin house was capped off. Bittner asked about the pool repairs. Thram explained he is looking at a CIPP solution for the broken pipes. He is having trouble finding a company that can repair pipe that small in that manner. Thram explained they discovered the broken pipes because they had an extremely difficult time getting the pump to prime last season. By the end of the season they were barely using the skimmers because the pump would not keep prime.

Motion/Second/ Pass (Irlbeck/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to accept the maintenance report as given.

6. Administration/EDA Department – Halter said the last month has been keeping up with the daily work and interview work. The EDA has a meeting with an assisted living company Monday the 17th. Halter took a potential business through a building on Main Street.

Motion/Second/ Pass (Knutson/Beermann/unanimous 5/0) to accept the Administration/EDA report as given.

D. Ordinances and Resolutions (can all be done in one motion)

1. 2023-14 – Resolution Accepting Donations to the City of Lamberton

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Beermann/unanimous 5/0) to accept Resolutions 2023-14.

2. 2023-15 – Resolution Accepting Resignation from Council and Declaring a Vacancy

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/Beermann abstaining 4/0) to accept Resolutions 2023-15.

Halter explained the applications for the Council position will be due by Noon May 4th so she can have them included in the council pack for the May 8th regular council meeting.

E. Financial Report & Approval of Claims

1. March 2023 Financial Report

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Knutson/unanimous 5/0) to accept the Financial Report as given.

2. Approval of claims.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to accept the Approval of Claims as given.

Halter mentioned she will remove the Schaffran check and void it.

4. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A. Information for Council

1. Ash Street Project Repairs Update – Engineer emailed with an update. The contractor was here and looked things over and will now wait for the snow to melt and conditions to be better.
2. UCAP Summary list giving with account statuses.
3. Dollar General Contact – A Dollar Developer has contacted the City about putting a store next to the old lumber yard. Halter answered their questions and it sounds like they will be attending the May 8, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. No building permit has been submitted. Thram and Halter did have questions and have sent them to Bollig.
4. Age-Friendly Grant – This is the planning grant for the current school site. Halter requested \$96,000 and was awarded \$30,000. Halter explained she has the study from the company that did the site evaluation in 2017-18 and will be contacting that company to see if that are able to help us with conducting community meetings and planning out the site to be what we would like to see.
5. Maynard Email – Halter emailed Maynard's to make them aware of the contact with Dollar General.
6. Water/Sewer Request – Renville Coop asked what it would take to get water and sewer to their location on Hwy 14. Halter told them they would have to be annexed into city limits. Halter did send the request to Bollig to have them give us an estimate on what it will take to get facilities over there. Halter did also suggest that they build new on the corner of CORD 14 & Hwy 14 because it's in the City limits already. They will be making changes to their existing building and possibly adding a car wash. Thram and Kuhlman (Bollig) discussed the ROW being congested at the corner and the possibility of needing a grinder or lift station.

Bittner asked if Mindi Hesse is not going to reapply for the pool manager position, do we need to post it or what needs to be done. Hesse stated she's not being told what's going on and being accused of doing things. Halter explained she did not accuse Hesse, she just told Hesse what she had been told by a parent. Hesse has requested dates and has been told we do not have dates. Hesse said she has to inform people. Thram stated he has always giving it his best effort to get the pool open. Hesse texted Thram asking for a date and stating she had a company coming for training. Thram explained he didn't have anything to answer with because it was February. Hesse has told the guards to

reapply. She has received 3 applications with 2 being new. Halter then asked is this the time to pull the plug now on the pool if we are not going to have employees – saving the time and effort on repairing the pool. Mayor Sik stated we still need to work on getting the pool fixed even if it doesn't open this season. Halter asked if that is the fiscally responsible thing to do. Mayor Sik stated its like the park, it is an amenity that people want. Hesse asked why Kuhar Park would take priority over the pool. Halter explained that Kuhar Park is a revenue source for the City. What the city makes off the camping covers the expenses for all the parks. Thram stated he still has no idea of what the status of the pool is. Mayor Sik stated we should not advertise for a manager until we know if it will open or not. Bittner asked if we should still peruse lifeguards and training. Halter has told the parents that have called that the City will pay for training and certification. Irlbeck thanked Hesse for her years of service. Thram stated that he has done everything he can to keep the pool going and when people come to him about the pool, he tells them to contact the council or attend a meeting. Bittner asked about community involvement for funding and looking at a new pool. Thram urged to get the financials together along with information about new pool or splash pad and have a community meeting.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. Special meeting to be held April 24, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Lamberton Ambulance building. May 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM is the next regular council meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie Halter
Clerk


Lydell Sik
Mayor