

**LAMBERTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2025 • 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPT AGENDA/CEREMONIAL DUTIES

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM May 12, 2025.
- Present: Mayor L. Sik, L. Bittner, D. Irlbeck, A. Cairns, L. Pfarr
- Staff in Attendance: V. Halter, J. Thram, T. Neperman
- Others in Attendance: Mike Vollmer, Kim Robinson, Perry Schneider

A. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

1. Add Additional Complaints Received
2. Library Report Submitted

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes (can all be done in one motion)

1. 4-14-2025 – City Council Regular Minutes

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairnes/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve the minutes as listed.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Petitions, Request, Communications

1. Citizen Complaints & Concerns

- a. Cassidy Miller – Follow-Up Letter to last month's meeting. The council had no further discussion or questions.
- b. 402 Ash Street Complaint – Mayor Sik questioned and commented on it.
- c. Additional Complaints Received – Council questioned street sweeping. Discussion held on the locker building. Discussion was held on additional complaints and nuisances.

2. Building/Zoning Permit Requests - None

3. Request for Council Action

- a. RCA – Discussion Tree & Parking Ordinances – Mayor Sik allowed those present to speak on their concerns. P. Schneider expressed his concern of the City being able to come onto private property for hazardous tree removal. Schneider also questioned Ash tree removal. Schneider questioned parking his trailers on his property. Mayor Sik explained that these ordinances are for worse case scenarios. The City needs to have an avenue to take care of problems if the property owners are not taking care of things. Mayor Sik also noted we have always had these ordinances; the city is just working on updating them. Kim Robinson expressed her concern about the requirement to have her wood pile off the ground by 6 inches. She questioned if she would have to move the existing pile. Mike Vollmer questioned the three-day parking limit.

Discussion was held on parking time limit.

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairnes/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve changing the proposed parking ordinance from 72 hours to 7 days or 168 hours.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to adopt the Parking Ordinance with the time change.

Discussion was held on wood piles and second opinions on diseased trees.

Motion/Second/Pass (Pfarr/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to remove the requirement to store wood off the ground (5A3).

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairnes/Bittner/unanimous 5/0) to approve changing the proposed tree ordinance to allow a property owner to obtain a second opinion from a certified arborist within 45

days at the property owners expense.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Cairnes/unanimous 5/0) to adopt the Tree Wood Storage Ordinance with the changes voted upon.

b. RCA – Ambulance Pay Rates – Halter explained that we have policy in place now for how ambulance volunteers will be paid. The council had not adopted actual dollar amounts for each category. Discussion was held on them being paid for a flat 2 hours per call or actual call time. The rates will be included in the fee schedule, so the policy does not change every year.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Ambulance Pay Rates.

c. RCA – Ambulance Retention Bonus – When the city offered a sign-on bonus for those who signed to be on the service – the council talked about offering a retention bonus to those on the service. The bonus would be \$1200 for EMTs and \$750 for EMRs. It would be paid out over three years. Fire Chief Neperman questioned if this would be offered to the Fire Dept. Mayor Sik replied if they want to be on the ambulance schedule, they would qualify for the bonus.

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairnes/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve the retention bonuses for the Ambulance service.

d. RCA – Ambulance Billing – Halter explained there have been changes with the ambulance billing company and they are asking for a new contract. Currently we pay a flat rate per call of \$25. They are switching to 7% on funds they collect. Halter also requested a change in payment terms and remove language and fee requiring a set-up fee. Discussion was held.

Motion/Second/Pass (Cairnes/Irlbeck/unanimous 5/0) to approve the revised contract with Hometown Billing.

e. RCA – Stavnes Rental Property – Halter explained complaints have been received on the storage container Chad Stavnes placed on his rental property. Halter explained that Stavnes had been in before placing the container and she at the time didn't think it needed a building permit because it was a moveable structure. (Halter has since learned that all structures need building permits.) Halter contacted city attorney Matt Novak for guidance. Novak said to send a letter asking for a permit to be filled out. Halter did so, but has not received any contact about it. Halter stated that there are two possible issues with the placement on the unit. One is we are unsure of the actual platted alley lines are and two impervious surface area of the lot. Halter did contact Bollig to survey the alley to find the actual lot lines, but it has not been done yet. Mayor Sik asked Halter contact Stavnes.

f. RCA – Old School Parcels – Halter was contacted by Bolton & Menk. They are working with RRC to break up the old school parcel. RRC will be keeping the shop area making it its own parcel. Halter reached out to both the engineers and Novak for guidance. Halter questioned if new owners purchase the rest of the building, how will they access the courtyard area between the gym and the one-story portion of the old school. Novak recommended the city does nothing and let it move forward. Discussion was held. Mayor Sik wanted to make it clear the city is letting them do what they want in breaking up the parcel, but it is up to RRC to make sure the other property owners have access to their property. It will not be up to the council to fix any problems created by the split and access to other properties.

g. RCA – Ordinance for Lead Service Line Replacement – Halter explained part of the application for grant funding for Lead Service Line Replacement is to have an ordinance in place to allow work to be done on private property. Halter needs permission to post the proposed ordinance so it can be voted on at the June meeting.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve posting the proposed Lead Service Line Replacement Ordinance no. 162.

B. Department Reports

1. Library – Report submitted.

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

2. Ambulance Department – Birkemeyer asked Halter report there were 14 calls last month with 3 no-loads and 2 fire standbys covered by Wabasso because the ambulance was out on other calls. The new stretcher has been installed. There were problems, but Stryker came out the next day and fixed what was needed. The state inspection was passed with no issues. One person signed up for the EMT course.

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

3. Fire Department – Chief Neperman was present. Officers were elected. Tankers/Pumps were inspected. They will change to biannual inspections. Currently 17 on the roster.

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

4. Police Department – Halter reported Officer Fenger is doing the background check on the Police Chief hire. Discussion held.
5. Maintenance Department – Thram present. They have been working on the pool and opening parks. Patching holes. Council questioned Hwy 14 through town and if someone can be called. Thram will call DOT. Pfarr question the dock down at Kuhar. Thram will call DNR.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve Maintenance report as given.

6. Administration/EDA Department – Halter submitted report. Discussion held.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Cairnes /unanimous 5/0) to approve the Administration/EDA report as submitted.

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

1. 2025-05 Resolution Accepting Donations
2. 2025-06 Resolution for Lead Service Line Application
 - a. RCA – Lead Service Lines Application Resolution – Halter explained a resolution is needed for the application stating the council is in favor of the application.

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to approve resolutions 2025-05 and 2025-06.

D. Financial Report & Approval of Claims

1. May 2025 Financial Report
 2. Approval of Claims
- Questions on Cell Phone bill answered.

Motion/Second/Pass (Irlbeck/Cairnes/unanimous 5/0) to approve the Financial Report and Approval of Claims.

4. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A. Information for Council

1. Pool Grant Rejection Letter – The City did not get the Taylor Family Foundation grant. Discussion held.

5. NEXT MEETING DATES

- A. Regular Council Meeting June 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second/Pass (Bittner/Pfarr/unanimous 5/0) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie Halter
Clerk



Lydell Sik
Mayor