A Regular Meeting of the

Lamberton City Council

April 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lamberton was held on April 9, 2018, in the City Office.

Members present for all or part of the meeting were Councilmembers Terry Neperman, Lydell Sik, Dave Irlbeck, Darrell Knutson, Leah Bittner and Clerk Peterson.

Mayor Neperman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

On a motion by Sik, seconded by Bittner, the council voted unanimously to approve the March 12, 2018 city council minutes. On a motion by Irlbeck, seconded by Sik, the council voted unanimously to approve the March 12, 2018 EDA Board minutes.

On motion by Knutson, seconded by Irlbeck, the council voted unanimously to approve claims #15490 through #15523 in the amount of $11,797.30.

Redwood County Commissioner, Jim Salfer, was present to discuss certain parking restrictions on county roads within Lamberton city limits. After being contacted, Jim discussed the involvement of the county with both the county attorney and engineer. As far as policing authority, county roads located in city limits fall under local police jurisdiction enforcement. As far as parking, it is the local jurisdiction that adopts ordinances. If a county road is within the jurisdiction, all ordinances apply to the county roads. On a motion by Irlbeck, seconded by Sik, the council voted unanimously to request Redwood County to provide no parking signage for the county roads within Lamberton city limits.

Jim presented and reviewed the annual Redwood County Summary Report which included the 2017 activity and statistics from the county departments. Mayor Neperman asked about “True County Assessing”. Jim stated the last he has heard, “true county” has been pushed back many years into the future at this time. A few questions were asked regarding county involvement in hazardous buildings and the Kuhar Park Project to which Commissioner Salfer said these topics for Lamberton to decide on. Jim ended with stating he appreciates the continued support from the residents of Lamberton.

On a motion by Sik, seconded by Knutson, the council unanimously approved the police department report presented by Police Chief Nick Hacker. There has been an inquiry about purchasing an old duty revolver left in the evidence room. Clerk Peterson reminded the council a resolution would need to be passed to declare a surplus and advertise it as such so that everyone interested in the surplus has an equal opportunity to purchase the surplus before it can be sold. Because this is a handgun, this could be a potential issue as well with handgun laws. Chief Hacker will verify the law concerns and report back. Chief Hacker asked the council to consider a raise for part-time officers. It will be taken under consideration. Nick also reported issuing some snow removal tickets. When asked about the semi parking, Nick gave an overview of how he has been interacting with these individuals. The ordinance states parking on private property parking is not allowed unless in a commercial zone. At this time, the council instructed Nick to concentrate on those parking on the street only. The council will review the ordinance at a future date.

On a motion by Knutson, seconded by Irlbeck, the council voted unanimously to accept the EDA report as given by Debbie Goblirsch, EDA Coordinator. She said she continues to work on the city’s website. Currently she is seeking quotes to redesign it. In coordination with Clerk Peterson, she has updated the revolving loan fund activity and personalized how she controls the activity. Debbie stated she has been working with a group seeking to offer daycare services in town. As the group continues to work on this need, they have now requested letters of support from the community. Debbie said the EDA letter of support will include verbiage regarding how a daycare could impact the community and its’ businesses. The council agreed to a letter of support from the City of Lamberton. The group is in planning stages and curious of possible vacant space at Valley View Manor. Bittner suggested the group reach out the Springfield Nursing Home as they have had a daycare setting in their nursing home which has provided financial stability for years. Debbie reached out to the new owners of the Valley View Apartments to offer EDA assistance to help gain some occupancy. She will continue to seek any leads the EDA could be of assistance with housing on as it would likely revitalize the community.

On a motion by Irlbeck, seconded by Bittner, the council voted unanimously to accept the maintenance report presented by Maintenance Supervisor, Justin Thram. Justin said snow removal and record retention have kept he and Nick busy the last month. Mindi Hesse will be returning as pool manager this year and has requesting the pool opening for June 1, 2018. The pool should be painted this year as it was pushed back from last year as scheduled. Last year the pool heater was acting up, but he said we are going to try another year and keep borrowing time until we no longer can. He presented a quote for dust control. On a motion by Sik, seconded by Irlbeck, the council voted unanimously to have Justin arrange for the dust control at Kuhar Park and the road in front of the motel at a cost of $84 per 100 feet; same as before. Justin stated the Bolton & Menke surveyor has been struggling obtaining the information for the upcoming street project because of the snow and ice. Justin said he has removing boulevard snow and ice on two occasions now.

On a motion by Knutson, seconded by Sik, the council unanimously agreed to submit Part One of the Wellhead Projection Plan as written by the Minnesota Department of Health. The MN Dept of Health has funding available right now for parties having issues with contaminated source waters and open wells. Regardless if we move forward with sealing the wells or not, this submittal is required to seek assistance. Justin informed the council he applied for a grant with the MN Department of Health for connecting our water source to Kuhar Park. The well water at Kuhar Park is not in compliance for bacteria. There have been several attempts to correct it; however, none of those attempts have been successful. The Department of Health suggested applying for a matching 50/50 grant up to $10,000 to bring city water to Kuhar Park. He stated the possible interest of those like the C-Store hooking into the Lamberton water supply too. Clerk Peterson cautioned having a policy ready, so residents are not paying the same water rates as those who could be connected and do not pay Lamberton property tax. Justin will continue to seek options before the well cannot be used.

Fire Chief Neperman reported the garage doors panels are getting in poor shape. He obtained a quote from Gramstad to replace the three doors. Without labor included, to get the same doors, it would cost $6,555. The council would like to have this expense budgeted for; however, agreed to review the amount of money spent in the department before year end. Certifications and physicals are being renewed soon. Tom stated he is in the process of updating the SOG (Standard Operating Guide) and Emergency Plan. On a motion by Sik, seconded by Knutson, the council voted unanimously to approve the fire department report as presented. There is one opening on the fire department. On a motion by Irlbeck, seconded by Bittner, the council voted unanimously to offer the fire position to Matthew Leonard as recommended by Chief Neperman contingent upon acceptance and completion of physical and other requirements.

Clerk Peterson said she has sent direct deposit forms to all employees for implementation. She stated she has been working on the setup of the new software. Fund accounting is nearing completion and almost fully functional. Payroll will not take as much time to setup. She has also been working on the record retention as well and is preparing the necessary paperwork for the pool season. The pool employees, positions, wages, policies, etc., will be presented for approval at the next council meeting. Madonna reminded the council she will be out of the office on April 11 for a LMC Loss Control Workshop, April 12 for a Kuhar Dam meeting and April 18 for the Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting in Redwood Falls. Madonna hopes to bring Debbie, EDA Coordinator, to the Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting to learn about property taxation.

Clerk Peterson asked for preference on who to contact for bonding assistance for the 2018-2019 3rd & 4th Avenue Project. There being no preference given, she will be contacting Ehlers & Associates for assistance with the bonding. On a motion by Irlbeck, seconded by Bittner, the council voted unanimously to accept the Administration report.

Clerk Peterson was not able to secure spring clean-up day and appliance pick-up day on the same date. Cost for spring clean-up day will remain at $25. Residents wishing to participate in either spring clean-up or appliance and electronic pick-up need to register at the city office and pay the required fee. On a motion by Sik, seconded by Irlbeck, the council voted unanimously to approve May 5, 2018 for appliance and electronic pickup day and May 19, 2018 for spring cleanup day.

A letter was received from Scott Hammerschmidt regarding Lamberton assessing services. Scott’s concern was regarding the possibility of losing his services with Lamberton. Mr. Hammerschmidt misunderstood Councilman Sik’s questioning on approving payment to Scott in January. Sik only asked why the city was paying for assessing services if the county provided the services for free; however, the county providing assessing services for free was a misconception. Clerk Peterson was asked to contact Scott to find out what period the January check paid for. On a motion by Knutson, seconded by Irlbeck, the council voted to continue assessing service with Scott Hammerschmidt for the tax year 2018 (payable in 2019). All voted in favor of the motion except Sik. Motion carries. Councilman Sik stated he only voted against because he would like clarification of the period the bill presented was for.

On a motion by Knutson, seconded by Sik, the council voted unanimously to approve the April 2018 financial report approving donations in the amount of $2,555.55, transfers and payment of between meeting bills in the amount of $62,208.30.

Applications for the open maintenance position were reviewed. There was only one applicant who has the required EMT certification as advertised. Potential wages were discussed. Clerk Peterson was to contact the applicant to set up an interview.

On a motion by Sik, seconded by Irlbeck, the council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2018-06, A Resolution Requiring Automatic Direct Deposit. On a motion by Irlbeck, seconded by Sik, the council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2018-07, A Resolution Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans for the 2018-2019 Infrastructure Improvements – 3rd and 4th Avenues. On a motion by Sik, seconded by Bittner, the council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2018-08, A Resolution Ordering Advertisement for Bids for the 2018-2019 Infrastructure Improvements – 3rd and 4th Avenues contingent on receipt and approval of plans and specifications.

An anonymous citizen complaint was noted. The other citizen complaint was regarding a snow removal parking ticket that has already been taken care of.

There being no additional business, on a motion by Irlbeck, seconded by Bittner, the council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

Madonna Peterson, Clerk Terry Neperman, Mayor

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