Minutes for a Regular Meeting of the

Lamberton City Council

December 10, 2018 – 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

 Present: Mayor T. Neperman, L. Sik, D. Knutson, L. Bittner, D. Irlbeck

 Others in Attendance: Clerk M. Peterson, J. Thram, C. Davis, A. Rue, D. Vollmer, J. Senst, several community members.

II. ADOPT AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Sik moved, Bittner seconded for unanimous approval of the November 13, 2018 City Council Minutes.

B) Bittner moved, Knutson seconded for unanimous approval of the November 8, 2018 Special Council Meeting Minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

A) Sik moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval of checks #43510 - #43559, #146E - #159E, #500246 - #500255, and #500272 - #500331 in the amount of $107,460.66.

V. REPORTS

A) Irlbeck moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of the Maintenance Department report as discussed by Thram. Activities include:

-Thram informed the council that several mailboxes were hit by the plow during the last snow. He believes many of the mailboxes are not at the correct height. Thram has instructed the plow drivers to swing out around the mailboxes from now on. This will leave snow behind and the residents will have to clean out around the mailboxes to avoid interruption of mail services.

-Five new light standards are up and running. Two light poles will be taken out of service on 1st Avenue; however, REC installed lights at the intersections of Ash & Birch on 1st Avenue to alleviate that area being too dark.

-Thram stated he is still having difficulty getting estimates for the pool. He is waiting for a company to respond next week.

B) Knutson moved, Bittner seconded for unanimous approval of the Ambulance Department report as presented by Rue. Activities include:

-Call log volume information was reported.

-Rue stated she has been working with Anderson for the transition and it has been going well.

-Still working on locating different documentation for potential reimbursements from past training.

C) Knutson moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of the Administration Department report as discussed by Peterson. Activities include:

-Updating of personnel files.

-Employees were sent benefit letters informing them of “hidden” amount they receive in benefits. The letters included notification of vacation hours that need to be used.

-Peterson attended a CEC conference in Mankato for upcoming GASB Standards, Long Term Planning, Arbitrage Compliance, Audit & Budget Best Practices, Consulting Practices and FLSA Wage and OT Compliance.

-Reminded council members of upcoming LMC Leadership Conference for Elected Officials.

D) Sik moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval of the Police Department report as presented by Officer Davis. Activities include:

-The activity report and out-of-town mileage log for the month of November was presented.

-Officer Davis stated he and Chief Hacker have talked about the Redwood County Attorney contract for criminal prosecution services that was received. He pointed out that the County Attorney’s office does a lot of work behind the scenes that we don’t realize and believes it to be our best option if it can be worked into the budget.

-Officer Davis reviewed the month’s activity as written on the November 2018 Police Department Report by Chief Hacker.

-Three (3) winter parking tickets were issued after the first snowfall in November. There were no winter parking tickets after the second snowfall in November.

E) Sik moved, Bittner seconded for unanimous approval of the EDA report as presented by Vollmer. Activities include:

-Farm land agreements have been signed for the 2019 crop year.

-Vollmer reviewed the meeting she has attended. Networking, meetings and conferences are an important part of EDA.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

A) Mayor Neperman opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. Clerk Peterson offered handouts representing the figures used to calculate the 2019 budget and final 2018 Final Tax Levy. In September 2018, the council adopted a preliminary levy of $518,442 for a 7.59% increase. Peterson initially felt comfortable if the council were to pass a levy of $495,925 (or a 2.91% increase); however late last week, she received notification from the Redwood County Attorney notifying the city they will be charging for criminal prosecution services in 2019. The contract proposal was for $18,000. Peterson then presented increasing the levy for $10,000 of the $18,000 at $505,925 (a 4.99% increase). She felt she could reasonably cut expenditures for the remaining $8,000 for should the council decide to enter into the agreement with Redwood County Attorney. One cut that would be made was in Motor Fuel & Lubricants for every department budgeting for fuel. Upon research, the City of Lamberton is paying sales tax on fuel purchases that we are exempt from. Bill Schaffran suggested adopting the higher levy amount, so the city doesn’t have to cut from somewhere else that it may be needed. There being no other comment, Mayor Neperman closed the public hearing.

VII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A) Peterson informed the council an out of state resident has purchased the lot at 503 Main Street with the intent to build a house; however, the size of the house will require a variance due to its’ size. The interested party is from Oregon. After discussion, the council showed an interest in allowing a variance within reason and directed Peterson to notify the party of the variance process and proceed with the legal channel to move this opportunity forward.

B) Irlbeck moved, Bittner seconded for unanimous approval to table the request for a contract with Redwood County Attorney for Criminal Prosecution Services until further information is acquired.

C) Sik moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability coverage established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04 with our insurance company.

D) Bittner moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval of the 2019 City Council Meeting Schedule. The full schedule is available upon request.

E) Sik moved, Bittner seconded for unanimous approval to offer the dental and vision insurance option to the medical/health insurance policy for employees as long as it is not funded by the city.

VIII. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

A) Sik moved, Bittner seconded for unanimous approval of Resolution 2018-21 A Resolution Establishing the Precinct Polling Location for the City of Lamberton.

B) Knutson moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of Resolution 2018-22 A Resolution Adopting the 2018 Final Tax Levy, Collectible in 2019 at $505,925 which is a 4.99% increase from last year.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A) Sik moved, Knutson seconded for unanimous approval of the November 2018 Financial Report. Donations were accepted in the amount of $3,315. There was four (4) new vendors and no transfers. A full report is available upon request.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A) As requested, Peterson sent notification letters to the property owners, who have a current nuisance violation, asking them to attend the December council meeting. Several of those in violation attended the meeting to protest why they received the notice, how they received the notice, what was wrong with the notice or that they didn’t receive a notice. It was stated the verbiage in the ordinance should be reviewed after contentious accusations of trespassing and fabricating conclusions were made. Many extensions were granted. Mayor Neperman stated that communication is important, and the council will consider giving extensions when the city can see progress of abatement are being made. Sik moved, Irlbeck seconded for unanimous approval to suspend all current violation penalties until June 1, 2019 except for new weeds and overgrowth next spring. Sik stated Lamberton does need to be cleaned up and the Nuisance Committee can continue to identify locations and send notices; however, the notices need to be more specific.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A) A resident was present to discuss the safety hazard of snow on sidewalks. Ordinance No. 126 regulates clearing snow from sidewalks within twelve (12) hours of it falling. Clerk Peterson was requested to put a reminder in the newspaper to remind residents of this ordinance in the hope the residents will take the responsibility to maintain their property without the city having to force compliance.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, Irlbeck moved, seconded by Sik for unanimous approval to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

Madonna Peterson, Clerk Terry Neperman, Mayor

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