A Special Meeting of the

Lamberton City Council

June 18, 2018

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lamberton was held on June 18, 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 Knutson, seconded by Irlbeck, the council voted unanimously to decline to participate in the FY2019 Small Cities Development Grant Application with DSI, Inc.

Clerk Peterson handed out Ordinance #126 An Ordinance Defining and Prohibiting Nuisances and Providing a Penalty for Violation along with its amendments including Ordinance #147. Three (3) sample violation letters were recommended for use and an inspection fact sheet.

Clerk Peterson informed the council there were nine (9) committee members split into three (3) groups. There was a driver, a recorder and a photographer. Violations were observed from a public right-of-way or, if permission was received, from a neighbor’s property. Buildings, properties and yards were viewed using a plain view search. The committee was looking for violations as outlined in the ordinance. Some of the criteria included: broken or open doors and windows, unstable structures, ranks of growth and accumulation of weeds, trees, hedges, unlicensed vehicles, allowing the accumulation of junk and other items that annoy or interfere with any considerable number of members of the public.

After the visual plain view search, committee members organized the findings into three (3) categories to report to the city council. All three (3) categories included violations that affect health, peace and safety. The red category included violations that affect safety to a severe degree. Both yellow and green categories have moderate or mild conditions. There were nineteen (19) properties in the red category. All but three (3) of these properties are abandoned and/or unoccupied.

There were questions regarding the status of taxes being paid, where the house was, if the city was mowing these properties, and what criteria was used to determine if the property was unstable, etc. Members of the committee and the council both stated the goal of enforcing the ordinance is not to pick on property owners, it is to maintain a visually pleasing community. Discussion was held on the different perceptions which will likely be received regarding the enforcement or lack of enforcement regarding public nuisances in the past. The committee stressed the importance of being pro-active and setting a goal every community member can be visually satisfied with.

On a motion by Irlbeck, seconded by Sik, the council unanimously agreed to ease into the enforcement of Ordinance #126 by sending the first letter to all properties on the inspection list. The demand for further enforcement may be necessary in the future if the nuisance violations are not abated.

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

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

Madonna Peterson, Clerk Terry Neperman, Mayor

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