

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL

October 16, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present – Betty Nelson, Kathy Richardson, Rick Martin, Mark Friesen, Corey Peterson, David Higbee, Ed Radatz & Bill Taylor

Absent – Blaine Heble

Others Present – Greg DuMars, Jerry Lovett-Sperling, Tim Berggren, Larry Lindgren, Kate Elliott, Chris Lindholm, Gary Shogren, Dan Carr, Bill Gusenius & Holly Lofton

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bill Taylor and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Public Input – none

Amendments to the Agenda – A committee appointment for the Sundstrom Advisory Board.

Mayor's Report – Last week was terrific with the announcement of the gift from the David Nutt estate. This generous gift will enhance the whole city for decades to come.

Another great Svensk Hyllningsfest is in the books. Thanks to all of the volunteers who help make the festival possible. AND Smoky Valley and Bethany both won their games!

Consent Agenda – Betty Nelson moved to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2017 regular council meeting, Payroll Ordinance 5079 and Purchase Order Ordinance 5080. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Appointments – Rick Martin moved to approve the appointment of Mari Loder to the JO Sundstrom Advisory Board. Motion seconded by Kathy Richardson and passed.

Planning & Zoning – none

Old Business –

New Business – CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST – In recent years, the City of Lindsborg has sponsored a holiday lighting display contest. We all enjoy seeing Lindsborg dressed up for the season. Children and adults alike appreciate seeing their neighborhoods sparkle with the spirit of their neighbors decorating efforts. The homes are judged anonymously and awarded cash prizes of “Lindsborg Loot” redeemable at any Lindsborg business. Kathy Richardson moved to approve \$500 for the Christmas Lighting Contest. Motion seconded by Rick Martin and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL - In 2013, the City of Lindsborg established health insurance coverage through the use of umbrella coverage and a health reimbursement account (HRA). On December 1, 2013, the health insurance program was renewed so it would have “grandfathered” status and not be required to meet all the terms of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Switching to an HRA has allowed better health coverage cost control. Under the health insurance program, dental coverage is self-insured. Freedom Claims Management, the third party administrator for our health insurance, provided options and quotes for other health insurance companies to provide the umbrella coverage. The proposed policy and coverage represents a 3.5% increase in employer cost over 2017. The last increase in cost of health insurance coverage was 2015. The premium for 2016 and 2017 were static. Estimated annual cost \$332,892.00.

Rick Martin moved to approve the change in the umbrella health insurance provider to Blue Cross/Blue Shield with a \$6,500/\$13,000 deductible and the employee contribution to health insurance cost remain at the 2017 health insurance contribution levels, but with an increase in all copays. Rick Martin made a motion to approve the health insurance coverage program for 2018. Motion seconded by Ed Radatz and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE 5081 – CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIMES – The 2016 Kansas Legislature changed municipal elections from first Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday in November. An additional change was prescribing that the newly-elected municipal officials take office the second Monday of January. Currently, the City of Lindsborg holds City Council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. The proposed ordinance changes the January City Council meeting of each year to the 2nd and 3rd Monday. This would retain the two meetings per month per current city ordinance, but would allow for the newly-elected City Council members to be seated at meeting held on the 2nd Monday of January.

Kathy Richardson moved to adopt Ordinance 5081. Motion seconded by Rick Martin and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

SIGNATORY TO APPA MUNICIPAL BOND LETTER - As the U.S. administration proposes to amend the tax code, one of the issues that keeps getting addressed is municipal bond tax exemption. Prior proposed budgets and tax code amendments have included removing the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. The current effort to amend the tax code entitled, "United Framework for Fixing Our Broken Tax Code" retains the tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. The American Public Power Association (APPA) has drafted a letter to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Chair of Senate Finance Committee Hatch, Head of the National Economic Council Cohn, Speaker of the House Ryan, and Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee Brady expressing the association and its members support for retaining the current tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. APPA is seeking additional municipal electric utilities to be additional signatories in support of the letter. Rick Martin moved to approve the City of Lindsborg be an additional signatory to the American Public Power Association's letter expressing support for the retention of the tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed.

Executive Session – none

Department Head Reports – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS – Gary Shogren informed council that the fence variance from last meeting will be addressed again by Planning & Zoning on Tuesday night and will be brought back to council in November. He also noted that the fish pond in Swensson park will be drained for the winter.

RECREATION – Kate Elliott passed out information on the “numbers” at the golf course. She gave kudos to the clubhouse staff for their improvements. She also noted that the city recreation department will be partnering with the Salina YMCA for the recreation basketball season.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE – Greg DuMars shared the updated spreadsheet on revenues/expenditures of all funds. He told council that after the first of the year we will need to take a hard look at updating our broadcasting abilities (or lack thereof). He also shared some of the issues with getting the Hyllningsfest activities broadcast this year and the continued audio issues with the council meetings.

Other – The Citizen Surveys have gone out and we hope for a significant return to help council plan for the future of Lindsborg.

Adjournment – Rick Martin moved to adjourn the meeting, Motion seconded by Betty Nelson and passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Lovett-Sperling, MMC

City Clerk