

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL

December 7, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present – Rick Martin, Betty Nelson, David Higbee, Emile Gallant, Corey Peterson, Becky Anderson, Blaine Heble & Mayor Bill Taylor

Absent – Kelley Menke

Others Present – Greg DuMars, Tim Berggren, Dan Carr, Gary Shogren, Tim Dunn, Holly Lofton, Kate Elliott, Jerry Lovett-Sperling, Bill Gusenius, Amy Habiger, David Carlson, Kimi Stoltzenberg, Kathy Richardson, Dane Pavlovich, Bill Buschbom, Chance Penner, Chace Penner, Dylan Goodell, Margo Lysell & Liz Lahodny

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Invocation was given by Pastor Bill Buschbom of Bethany Home.

Public Input – Chace & Chance Penner presented a short video concerning the need to improve Union Street. The topic will go to staff for study. Dylan Goodell spoke regarding the need for traffic sighs (yield or stop) at 3 intersections. This topic will go to Public Satefy for review.

David Carlson – Addressed council regarding the retention of students at Bethany College and the need for Lindsborg sponsors for the students. (letter is attached at the conclusion of the minutes)

Kathy Richardson & Dane Pavlovich representing Ad Hoc/Bethany thanked council for the many positive things that have taken place in Lindsborg over the last year.

Amendment to the Agenda – none

Mayor's Report – Mayor Taylor indicated that the items addressed in the code enforcement resolution had been addressed and the issue would be closed on Dec. 8th. He also noted the great Snowflake parade and the upcoming Lucia Festival. Remember to give to the less fortunate. There will be a regional wrestling tournament in town on February 19 & 20.

Consent Agenda – Betty Nelson moved to approve the consent agenda that includes the minutes of the November 16, 2015 regular meeting, Purchase Order Ordinance 4955 and Payroll Ordinance 4952. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Planning & Zoning – ANNEXATION ORDINANCE 4953 – 800 N Kansas – Betty Nelson moved to adopt Ordinance 4953, annexing 20 acres known as 800 N Kansas. Motion seconded by Emile Gallant and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Old Business – None

New Business – TELEPHONE SYSTEM - Currently the city telephone service is the Plexar service with AT&T. That contract expired May of 2014. AT&T will renew the Plexar service for another 3 years, but beyond that they will not be offering this service. AT&T is in the process of discontinuing all of their copper line based service programs. Plexar is a copper line based service. Proposals were received for the 3 year Plexar service and for voice over internet protocol (VoIP) phone service. VoIP proposals were received from AT&T and Cox Communications for a 3 year agreement. The AT& T VoIP service is called Flex IP and the Cox Communications VoIP service is called PRI (Primary Radio Interface). A switch to VoIP service would require a software card change out in the phone system controller and the replacement of 6 phones. After discussion, Rick Martin moved to approve the Cox Business PRI 10 2-Way phone service and hardware for VoIP phone service. Motion seconded by Becky Anderson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR USDA RD LOAN - A USDA Rural Development loan is being secured for the construction of a new Emergency Medical Services building to house EMS. One of the requirements of the RD loan is to secure a Legal Services Agreement with the City Attorney to represent the City of Lindsborg legally in the loan process. Emile Gallant moved to approve the Legal Services Agreement for the USDA Rural Development loan for the construction of a new EMS building. Motion seconded by Betty Nelson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE 4954 – MUNICIPAL COURT FEE INCREASE - We have received notice that effective January 1, 2016, municipal courts will need to submit \$1.00 per municipal court case as an education fee for the training and certification of municipal courts judges. Currently the fee is \$0.50. Additionally, proposing to raise the base cost court fee from \$62.50 to \$63.00. The two proposed increases would change the court cost fee from \$83 to \$84. Emile Gallant moved to adopt Ordinance 4954, increasing court costs by \$1. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY BONUS - It has been the tradition of City Council to provide to every regular full-time employee a holiday bonus of \$100 per employee. Currently there are 30 regular full-time employees with the City. Betty Nelson moved to approve a holiday gift of \$100 for each regular full time employee. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

YEAR END COUNCIL MEETING – Historically there has been a year end City Council meeting to deal with the issues of Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses, Sales Tax Transfer, COLA and other last minute business. This Special Meeting is held the last week of December, typically December 29th or 30th. This is the first year of two City Council meetings per month and many of these items can be handled during the second Council meeting of the month. The question is whether City Council would like to have a Special Year End Council meeting to deal with the yearend business or handle the yearend business at the regularly scheduled December 21, 2015, meeting. The decision was to not have an additional special council meeting.

ANNUAL HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT - City Council adopted Resolution 2-15 on April 6, 2015 to participate in the McPherson County Hazard Mitigation Plan. By joining the plan, the city is eligible to apply for pre- and post-disaster mitigation funds when available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). An annual evaluation report is required to be presented to Council annually. No action required.

Executive Session – PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATING TO NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL – Rick Martin moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to include the city administrator and city attorney to discuss matters relating to non-elected personnel. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed. Session began at 7:16 p.m. and returned at 7:31 p.m. Betty Nelson moved to return to executive session for 10 more minutes. Motion seconded by Rick Martin and passed. Session began at 7:32 and with a motion by Betty Nelson and second by Rick Martin and passed to adjourn the session early at 7:41 p.m.

Other –

Adjournment – Rick Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Lovett Sperling, MMC

City Clerk

MESSAGE TO THE LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL — 12/07/2015

Bethany College is a vital part of Lindsborg's life and economy. The reality of Bethany's financial struggle is common knowledge. Don Anderson visited Lois and myself last week to request a financial commitment. Don and other volunteers will be making similar visits to most everyone in town. If you haven't received such a representative you will.

The residents of Lindsborg probably do not have the kind of money that the college needs to sustain itself. It is safe to assume that if there were other less expensive ways to support Bethany College, a large number would be interested, especially the leaders in our community.

A month ago I had lunch with Jaccob, a freshman student on the football team. He gave me a reality check that you need to hear. Twenty fellow members of the football team that he knows, will be leaving Bethany College, not even completing their freshman year. There will be others.

Each year recidivism, students moving on, is a concern to the college and certainly a concern to the city. The reasons for leaving can easily be listed — I came to play football and am not willing to sit on the bench. — I am homesick — I didn't realize the cost —They expected me to open a book and others.

The number one reason, however, may surprise you. Jaccob said, "They didn't feel comfortable in a small town." Think about it? They did not feel comfortable in Lindsborg.

We lost 60% of our property in the flood a few years back. Our basement would probably still be a muddy mess if it wasn't for the volunteer high school and college students that came and did so much work.

One of those volunteers was Steve Williams, the starting linebacker on Bethany's football team. Wonderful young man. During a break, we talked about Bethany and life in Lindsborg. He only wanted to talk about B and Becky Anderson who had done so much for him in making him feel welcome. There are others in Lindsborg who have special relationship with students — Sharon and John Palmquist come to mind and I am sure there are others.

How many other residents of Lindsborg would love a Bethany student as a friend, as a local supporter?

Brett Morehouse, the head women's basketball coach, organized a host family program. Twenty seven Bethany women have a host family. Lois and I are the host family for a student from Carson, California. A good basketball player but also an "A" student who should be around for four years. We have taken her out for lunch — how much does that cost? I text her about once per week — how much does that cost?

This semester will end in a matter of days. New students will be coming in. Now is the time for the city of Lindsborg and Bethany College to consider expanding this kind of support to new students. A personal connection with a Lindsborg resident may insure that they will graduate from Bethany. The cost is very little but can be a wonderful experience for both the student and the host family.

By the way, Steve Williams graduated this spring. You would have seen something special if you were at the ceremony. He walked across the stage with his one year old son.

I am taking my friend Jaccob to lunch tomorrow before he heads home for Christmas. He may want to talk about the friends who will be leaving Bethany in a few days and not return. It shouldn't have to happen.

Thank you for your time. David Carlson

