

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL

October 5, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present – Rick Martin, Becky Anderson, Kelley Menke, David Higbee, Emile Gallant, Corey Peterson, Blaine Heble & Mayor Bill Taylor – Betty Nelson arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Absent –

Others Present – Greg DuMars, Jerry Lovett-Sperling, Tim Berggren, Larry Lindgren, Dan Carr, Kate Elliott, Gary Shogren, Bill Gusenius, Tim Dunn, Elizabeth Spencer, Linda Branch, Bob Carlson, Stephanie Wessel, Bruce Buchannan, Jan Buchannan, Amy Habiger, Kent Ebling

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Holmes of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Public Input – Merle Larson was present to ask for city assistance in putting up Christmas lights in the downtown trees. Specifically the use of the bucket truck to reach the taller treetops. Mayor Taylor said that staff would get back to him soon.

Amendments to the Agenda – None

Mayor's Report – Mayor Taylor remarked about the upcoming festival and the Swedish Ambassadors visit. He noted the 20th anniversary of the Swedish Country Inn. Special meetings of note include the joint meeting of P & Z and Council on October 20th and the joint meeting of the USD 400 School Board and Council on the 22nd. Both meetings will be held at the conference center.

Consent Agenda – Rick Martin moved to approve the consent agenda that includes the minutes of the September 21, 2015 regular meeting, minutes of the September 25, 2015 special meeting, Purchase Order Ordinance 4943 and Payroll Ordinance 4942. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Planning & Zoning – reminder of joint meeting on October 20, 2015

Old Business – ORDINANCE 4939 – PERMITTED PARKING 500 BLOCK N. SECOND STREET – Rick Martin moved to take Ordinance 4939 off the table. Motion seconded by Emile Gallant and passed. Rick Martin then moved to adopt Ordinance 4939 and Emile Gallant seconded the motion. Elizabeth Spencer and Bob Carlson spoke of the agreement between the home owners and the college regarding parking in the area and it was the consensus of council to allow a period of time to see how the agreement works out. Rick Martin moved to table the ordinance. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed.

New Business – CHICKENS - At the September 21, 2015, a request to change the ordinance regarding the raising of chickens was made. This item was asked to be included on this meeting's agenda. Stephanie Wessel and Bruce Buchanan were present to request that council consider amending the city code to allow chickens within the city limits. After discussion, council asked staff and the city attorney to draft an ordinance with reasonable restrictions including no more than 6 egg-laying hens, 35' from nearest residence, proper shelter and no roosters for consideration at the next meeting.

ORDINANCE 4944 – AMENDING FEE SCHEDULE FOR WATER RATES - moved to adopt Ordinance 4944 - The last water rate increase was passed September 3, 2013, for all utility bills due January 1, 2014, and thereafter. The base charge was \$11.50 for up to 2,000 gallons of water metered per month, plus \$0.00275 per gallon 2,001 and over. For users outside of the city limits, a 25% surcharge of all minimum and user charges is applied. Costs of production and of maintaining the water system continue to increase. Additionally, water conservation measures need to be researched and implemented.

It is recommended that the base charge be increased to \$12.00 for up to 2,000 gallons of water metered per month, plus \$0.003 per gallon 2,001 and over. For users outside of the city limits, a 25% surcharge of all minimum and user charges shall be applied. It is recommended that this increase will take effect with utility bills due January 1, 2016, and thereafter. Emile Gallant moved to adopt Ordinance 4944 which amends the water rates. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

RURAL WATER DISTRICT #6 WHOLESAL WATER RATE - The City of Lindsborg wholesales water to McPherson County Rural Water District (RWD) No. 6. The City and RWD entered into an agreement in 2000. Under this agreement, the City wholesales water to RWD No. 6 for distribution and sale to their customers. Under the agreement the City may increase the rate to the water district in proportion to the rate increase to the City's retail customers. The proposed rate increase to the City's customers is 9.1%. The rate to RWD No. 6 last increased from \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons in January, 2014. A 9.1% increase would change the rate to \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons. It is recommended that the rate charged to RWD No. 6 be increased to \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons to be effective with November consumption which is due with the January, 2016 utility bill. Rick Martin moved to approve in increase the wholesale rate to Rural Water District #6 to \$1.20 per thousand gallons. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed.

SUNDSTROM CONFERENCE CENTER CARPET - The front stair well at the Sundstrom currently has unfinished flooring. The stairs are concrete with paint splatters on them. As the 2nd floor gains in popularity to rent, the stairs are being used much more. Several contractors and flooring companies from Lindsborg and the surrounding area were contacted in the past few months. Bids to purchase and install carpeting on the stairs and both the top and bottom landing area were requested. Only two responded. The bid from Ritter Tile out of Salina has the lowest bid for the carpeting materials and labor to install. They have made us aware that installation would be after Thanksgiving. Betty Nelson moved to approve \$2,900.00 for Ritter Tile to purchase and install carpet on the front stairwell at the JOS. Motion seconded by Rick Martin. After questions from council, Betty Nelson moved table the item until further information is received. Motion seconded by Emile and passed.

FIRE HOSE - After receiving an ISO inspection our Fire Department needs to have additional hose added in order to keep our current ISO rating. Fire Chief Ebling made some calls on hose and found that Weis Fire is currently having a sale on 2 ½ pressure hose which is what is needed. The price quoted by telephone was 50' hose at \$165.00 dollars. Emile Gallant moved to approve the purchase of 6 50' sections of hose at a cost of \$990.00 from Weis Fire. Motion seconded by Rick Martin and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

STREETS/WATER DEPARTMENT SKID STEER – The quote from Bobcat of Salina for the annual replacement of our skid-steer loader is \$1,200.00. This is an ongoing program with Bobcat where we originally purchased the machine and then each year, at a cost of \$1200.00, the machine is traded in for a brand new machine. The machines are always under warranty and we have to do virtually no maintenance on them. This machine is shared between the Streets and Water Departments. Betty Nelson moved to trade in the existing Bobcat S550 skid-steer loader for a new S590 Skid Steer at a cost of \$1200.00 from Bobcat Salina. Motion seconded by Blaine Heble and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT SKID STEER – The quote from Bobcat of Salina for the annual replacement of our skid-steer loader. This is an ongoing program with Bobcat where we originally purchased the machine and then each year, at a cost of \$1200.00, the machine is traded in for a brand new machine. The machines are always under warranty and we have to do virtually no maintenance on them. Betty Nelson moved to trade in the existing Bobcat S650 skid-steer loader for a new S650 at a cost of \$1200.00 from Bobcat Salina. Motion seconded by Kelley Menke and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

BILLBOARD RENEWAL - A three year billboard contract with George Lay Signs expires in October. The sign is located on northbound I-135 near the rest area between McPherson and Lindsborg. The renewal contract reflects a 10% increase in cost. The planned wrap will be the same as the recently replaced Community Development billboard south of Salina. Monthly cost is \$275 x 2 months (November and December) plus the Re-wrap cost is \$475 for a total of \$1,025 to cover the remainder of 2015. Betty Nelson moved to approve \$1,025 for the contract with George Lay Signs for the remainder of 2015. Motion seconded by Becky Anderson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2016 HEALTH INSURANCE - 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). The advantage of being “grandfathered” is that the health insurance cost is based upon the group’s experience and not on the group’s age demographic. Being rated by the group’s experience, the increase in the cost of health insurance from Coventry Health Insurance is 7.5%. If the cost of the insurance were rated on age demographic, the cost increase would

be between 40% - 78%. Under the health insurance program, dental coverage is self-insured. Freedom Claims Management, the third party administrator for our health insurance, has recommended a 5% increase for the dental coverage. This is the first increase in two years for dental coverage. To offset part of the health insurance and dental insurance cost increases, an increase of 5.6% in employee contribution is proposed. The total cost of health and dental insurance to the City of Lindsborg would increase by 3.7%. Emile Gallant moved to approve the renewal of the Coventry Health Insurance program coverage and dental insurance coverage with a 5.6% increase in employee contribution to the health and dental coverage with the coverage to be effective December 1, 2015. Motion seconded by Betty Nelson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

CHRISTMAS BANNERS - A request was made at the September 21, 2015, City Council meeting to have a discussion of Christmas banners on the October 5, 2015, Council agenda. The discussion centered around whether the city would put them up, take them down and store them if another entity purchased the banners. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – none

OTHER – David Higbee inquired about street maintenance in a particular area and was informed that it had been taken care of. Emile Gallant asked about any progress on recent break-ins. Chief stated that they had gathered evidence and there were possible suspects. Becky Anderson asked if city had a program to evaluate street lighting. No written policy but the practice has been to place lights on street corners.

ADJOURNMENT - Betty Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by David Higbee and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Lovett-Sperling, MMC

City Clerk