

Mayor Chris Chilson called the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lime Springs to order in the Community Center on July 6, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

**Member(s) present:** Kris Kraft, Jennifer DeVries, Jen Smith, Kristy McNamara, Amy Norton

**Member(s) absent:** none

**City Employees:** Tyler Smith (Public Works), Jane Tibbals (City Clerk)

**Visitor(s):** Marcie Klomp (TPD), Jill Tibbals, Brian Johnson, Eddie Miller, Richard Cottrell, Nate Schwickerath, Sharla Leider, Billi Johnson, Barry Johnson, Brandi Rice, Don Lyons, Brian Malm (Bolton & Menk), Nancy Miller

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Open Forum:** Dr Don Lyons said that he was coming to Council to “whine” about his swamp between him and neighbor Mark Tibbals. Unable to mow unless there it is very dry. He believed it is compounded by a culvert that drains until his property. Doc Lyons thought it could be fixed by tiling from the culvert and he added maybe he would be willing to pay a portion of the costs. He wanted to make Council aware of the problem and asked for action.

**Open Forum:** Richard Cottrell complained about a letter he received from City Council asking him to move his RV from the sidewalk on the west of his building. He argued that the RV is parked on a cement pad and not a sidewalk

**Agenda, Previous Month’s Minutes, Approval of Bills, and Financial report:** Kraft made a motion to approve agenda, previous month’s minutes from June 1 and from June 15 meetings, bills and financial report. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted yes. The agenda, previous month’s minutes, bills & finance reports were approved.

### **Department Heads:**

**Fire Dept. Report:** Fire Chief Nate Schwickerath reported 3 teams at a golf fundraiser that brought in \$ 800. Their Father’s Day Drive thru Breakfast had a lower attendance, but still made money at it. Water ball is planned for Friday night during Sweet Corn Day weekend and a full menu breakfast for Sunday. The Ladies’ Auxiliary scheduled an ATV fundraiser for Saturday during SC Days. Fire Chief brought up they have had problems with folks parking east of the building and along the side of the building, blocking the firefighters trying to get to the fire station. He wondered if the Community Center rental agreement could be changed to request visitors to use the west parking area only. Mayor Chilson asked if a moveable sign placed right in the path would deter the parking and asked Nate to work with Tyler to work on solutions.

**Library Report:** Assistant Librarian Jennifer DeVries read the library report for Eddie Miller. 52 children registered for the Summer Reading Program with 20 kids for the younger group and 20 for the older group turned in their finished sheets to be eligible for prizes. Free books were given out too all of those registered. Various activities included Bingo, Cake Decoration Contest, Book Discussion and Game night were attended. The library served 176 from town and 157 from country for the month of May for a total of 333.

**Community Board:** no report presented.

**Park/Pool:** Sharla Leider presented the Pool & Park report: The board accepted Jill Tibbals’ resignation. They purchased and installed a fire extinguisher and smoke alarm. Both popcorn poppers are not working, Council Jen Smith is checking prices for them about replacing one and getting a replacement kettle for the other one. A new Pool Vacuum has been approved and they hope to order this week. One toilet at pool has been fixed and another one needs to be replaced. The Pool & Park Board is working with Pat Boyle who wants to schedule a “Back to School Bash” to be held week of August 17 at the pool. There are 2 late night swims scheduled for July 16 & 31<sup>st</sup>. There are algae issues at the pool that they are addressing by increasing cleaning. Their board is asking for assistance with communication with the different city entities as well as with each other. After the board talked with Skylar, a lifeguard, she decided not to work there anymore. Sharla presented a new lifeguard application for Dalin Kitchen. Jen Smith, Council liaison mentioned a few items from their

last meeting: if speed limit and/or caution signs could be put up by ballfield/pool parking lot, keys to be provided for board members to lock up the bathrooms at Brown Park and asked that there be no new purchases for Ball Park concessions for this season. McNamara made a motion for keys to be available to Sharla, Janet DeVries, DJ Miller and Holly Andersen to lock the bathrooms at Brown Park each night with Public Works opening in the morning. Kraft 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Aye. Motion carried for Pool & Park Board members to receive keys to lock the Brown Park bathrooms. DeVries made a motion to accept Dalin Kitchen's lifeguard application. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. Norton abstained. Other 4 voted Aye. Motion carried for Dalin Kitchen to be hired for lifeguard.

**Public Works Director Report:** Tyler Smith reported he & Jerry White cleaned tree roots out of the drains at the tennis court. He has been looking at replacing as well as adding signs, such as stop signs, yield and speed limit signs. Tyler has been looking at trees to be trimmed and cut down. He has a list and asked others to contact him to add to it. Tyler worked with someone from Iowa Rural Water, and they tested each pump at the lift station 3 times to answer DNR's question of why the town was pumping so much water. The pumps passed the tests. Iowa Rural Water suggested using a pump service that would clean, similar to a degreaser for each pump. Tyler has scheduled him and Certified signer Dave Felper to talk with DNR to see about options. There have been some hiccups with pool being cleaned and hope those are settled. He replaced some lines and injectors on the pumps. Jerry White has been cleaning the growth on the ballfield fence. Tyler plans to use some stump killer on some of the more concentrated areas. Dust Control has been applied. Tyler was told there is a leak at the property owned by Tom Stevenson Sr, this was temporarily fixed by Mehmerts a couple of months ago. Tyler said he had been asked if old picnic tables, no longer used, if Pool & Park would sell them. Council decided that Pool & Park could sell the tables and would not name a price.

**Tienter & Jenkins Properties Update:** Charlene Gates brought in her paperwork showing that they were billed to update the Abstract. City Attorney Bart Seebach is requesting a Title Report to see if there are any liens on the Jenkins property and to get a copy of the Abstract. In the meantime, Jen Smith requested the weeds to be sprayed around the properties.

**Merrill Street Bridge:** Brian Malm highlighted a written memo, with copies, regarding Merrill Street Bridge replacement. He presented their 2 options of a Box Culvert or a Bridge. They recommended the 12 X 4 concrete box culvert as the best alternative based upon costs, the longevity and the box culvert would require less maintenance than a steel bridge. The bridge option would require additional engineering and they didn't know how the vibrations would interact with the houses close by. The estimated cost for the box culvert is \$ 95,000 and the steel bridge cost is estimated at \$ 100,000. Brian Malm had been talking with Howard County engineer - Nick Rissman to see if they would still be available for construction assistance. Tyler Smith had talked with Howard County last week and they also mentioned they would have to rent a crane to help set the box culvert but would still be willing to help. Next step is Brian will talk with Nick Rissman and Tyler will follow up.

**Jackson Street:** Brian Malm presented an estimated project costs analysis for W Jackson Street reconstruction. Their recommendation is to replace the sewer and water main prior to resurface the street. Total cost is estimated at \$ 559,650, which includes the surface & curbs. He also handed out a preliminary estimate for a 400 foot block that could be used as a guide for any street in town. If one just replaced the watermain and reconnected- then it was estimated at \$ 490 per linear foot which is \$196K. if just replacing the sewer lines- then the estimate was \$ 370 per linear foot or \$148K and full street & both reconstructed would be \$ 1260 per linear foot or \$504K. The estimates have different scenarios, depending on if that street has water and or sewer mains and sometimes the street does not need to be resurfaced. CBDG & SRF Funding is available for water & sewer expenses as well as low interest loans. Smith made a motion to proceed with Jackson Street project. Norton 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kraft abstained from voting as she lives on Jackson. The other 4 voted Aye. Motion passed to explore funding and proceed with Jackson Street project.

**Future plans for Sewer & Water rates:** Jane has a survey from Iowa Rural Water to complete and copy to Financial Advisor Maggie Burger to ask her recommendations.

**Deputy Clerk replacement:** no applications received as of yet. Jane does not have any time off planned when asked if she needed coverage for time off.

**Spring Ahead Learning Center Lease:** Council members Jen Smith & Kris Kraft are scheduled to attend the Spring Ahead Learning Center's next board meeting on July 12. Board member Brandi

Rice, said they felt many of the expenses would stay the same even if the day care wasn't in that building because its dual purpose of the City's storm shelter. McNamara said that she has surveyed 31 city residents and they expressed they were surprised that the city was supplementing the cost of the day care facility. McNamara clarified that she and the city are not against the daycare existence, but she feels the city's money could be spent more wisely in other areas. Mayor Chilson said the lease will be decided at the August Council meeting.

**Nancy Miller & Pool Concerns:** Pool patron-Nancy Miller asked to be put on the agenda to express her observations while taking her grandchildren to the pool. she reported that she observed up to 4 swimmers on the board at the same time, as well as some diving from the side of the board. She didn't hear any whistles blown so she yelled at her grandchildren for their antics. She said that she was doing the lifeguard's job. She didn't feel the guards were as attentive as they should be, as her kids didn't pay one of the days that she wasn't with them as the guards didn't punch their punch passes, so they got in free that day. Her daughter was with her one day and noticed similar inattentiveness. Nancy strongly suggested that rules be enforced, and the guards be told of the concerns. She has many fond memories of the pools and doesn't want to see it closed. She added, this is just a lawsuit waiting to happen. Council answered that concerns can start with the Lifeguard manager first and there should be one on duty at all times when the pool is open. Pool & Park Chair Sharla Leider countered that there is a mandatory guard meeting scheduled for Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup> and these concerns will be addressed at that time. Another helpful suggestion was to post who the manager is at the pool each day. Another possibly is adding cameras for assistance. Mayor Chilson asked if she noticed if the guards had their cell phones on the pool deck or if they were on them in the guard shack. Guards with cell phones on deck is a reason for immediate dismissal. Nancy said that she couldn't tell when the guards were looking down if they were on cell phone or if they were just not paying attention.

**Hawkeye Clean-up Day:** Hawkeye is saying City can have clean-up day however Hawkeye is unable to pick up at each home. Their alternative is for City to bring in a dumpster to a central location, then to supervise the dumpster to make sure nothing is dumped that should not be. Council decided against dumpster at this time.

**American Rescue Plan Act Fund:** Smith made a motion for City to apply for the fund. Kraft 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Aye. Motion carried and Mayor Chilson signed paperwork for Jane to submit.

**Public Hearing:** McNamara made a motion to close the regular meeting to open up the Public Hearing for Sale of School Park Property at 8:55. DeVries 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Aye. 3 Bids have been submitted. There was no discussion. Kraft made a motion to close the Public Hearing and re-open regular meeting. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Aye. Regular meeting reopened at 8:57. Bids opened and read by Mayor Chilson. Richard Cottrell's bid \$ 5,250.00. Randy Assmus' bid \$ 2,050.00. Barry Johnson's bid \$ 2,000.00. Kraft made a motion to accept the highest bid of \$ 5,250.00. Norton 2<sup>nd</sup>. Smith abstained. Other 4 Voted Aye. Mayor Chilson thanked for the bids and said would let City Attorney know to make all the necessary property transfers.

**Other:** Jane announced nomination papers are available for next City Election in November for anyone that wants them.

Kraft made motion to close the regular city council meeting and enter into closed session to discuss past due water bills. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted Aye to go into closed session at 9:05 pm.

Kraft made a motion to come out of closed session at 9:30 pm to adjourn. Norton 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted Aye to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.



**Chris Chilson, Mayor**



**Jane Tibbals, City Clerk**