

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

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

Member(s) absent: Kristy McNamara

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

Visitor(s): Marcie Klomp (TPD), Jill Tibbals, Brian Johnson, Richard Cottrell, Nate Schwickerath, Sharla Lieder, Becky Fritcher, Carolyn Nagele, Angela Cottrell, Ed Hampe, Don Lyon, Becky Pahl, Brandi Ollendieck, Luke Johnson, Tim Beckman (Howard Co Sheriff), Nick Rissman (Howard Co Engineer)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.

Open Forum: Becky Pahl presented a plan for a “Little Pantry” to be installed in Lime Springs. This plan is the result of St Paul’s Lutheran Church answer to “God’s Work, Our Hands” to make a difference in the community. The project calls for a 4’ by 4’ unit approx. 2’ deep, where canned and boxed items would be available for those that have need. Pastor Jeff Jacobs presented this plan to LS Community Club, and they already approved it. 2 sites are suggested, one by the recycled cans located by Johnson’s Heating and 2nd site in front of LS Community Center. The church felt both sites would reflect on cameras in case of tempering problems. They are hoping to install yet this Fall. St Paul will be monitoring the site and will be asking United Methodist Church and others if they wish to donate goods. Mayor Chilson asked this to be put on next month’s agenda for final Council approval.

Agenda, Previous Month’s Minutes, Approval of Bills, and Financial report: Jane mentioned that the Financials presented are incomplete as the new 2022 Budget is not reflected. Kraft made a motion to approve Agenda, Previous month’s minutes from August 3 meeting and Bills. Norton 2nd. Kraft, DeVries, Norton voted yes. McNamara & Smith not present to vote. The agenda, previous month’s minutes, & bills were approved. Smith came to meeting at 8:10 during New Business.

Department Heads:

Fire Dept. Report: Fire Chief Nate Schwickerath reported Sweet Corn Days activities with 14 teams came together for Water Ball, 41 units for the ATV/UTV ride, attendance & income was average for Sunday Breakfast – very pleased with Sweet Corn Days 2021. Fire Dept is reviewing gear for all firemen to see if any replacements are needed. FD is planning Annual Firefighters & Spouses meal on September 18. Nate reported 2 retirements from the LS Fire Dept. Nate Widell retired as of their last meeting and Fire Chief Nate Schwickerath reported his own retirement effective for end of this year.

Library Report: Becky Pahl presented the Library report. The Library reported 303 from town and 155 from country for a total of 458 patrons served for July. There is a Magic Show scheduled for October 10, sponsored by the Library. The Magic Show will be at the LS Community Center and there will be a magician as well as activities for the kids to play. August activities included Drum Circle in Kitchen Park on August 26. The Outreach Program started today, September 7, where Janet goes out and reads to the LS Daycares once a month.

Community Center Board: No Report.

Park/Pool: Sharla Lieder presented the Pool & Park report. they sold approx. 200 dinners for Sweet Corn Days. 77 people swam at the Back to School Bash, and sold \$ 158 in concessions, which got rid of almost all of their inventory. They cleaned, power washed and organized the pool area with Tyler’s help. Repainting the pool was discussed, but feel need grant money to assist, so going to wait. Punch passes and pool tabs have all been returned. The older punch passes were destroyed and will make changes next year to put expiration dates on them. they plan to remove the signs from the ball fence and store until next season. Working on various fundraising ideas. Pool & Park are sponsoring Trunk or Treat as a fundraiser for October 31, charging \$ 10 per car entry. They created an internal calendar to assist with their planning for next season. Question from Council DeVries if the previous motion from last meeting needed to be re-done. Jane clarified that motions only need majority of those present which was 3 present and vote was 2, so that motion can stand.

Public Works Director Report: Tyler Smith reported put signs up by pool/ballpark area as well as installed Dead End sign on Jones Street. Tyler assisted with shutting down the pool. Talked with Brent Mehmert and scheduled valve replacement by Mark Tibbals' by end of September. Tyler and Brent discussed permits needed by DNR and they placed calls to Bergo regarding the asbestos in the 2 buildings to be taken down. Both agreed that most of the buildings will have to taken to landfill due to the deterioration of the site. Tyler responded to a couple of tree trimming requests. One by Mark Stockman's previous home, the tree is in the boulevard and is City's responsibility and he feels he will be able to trim it. Tyler is getting bids for a couple of the bigger ones to take down. He has also been checking visibility and plans to trim around some signs and corners. Tyler has been working on his monthly reports to complete early as he is vacationing this next week. Certified Signer Dave Felper said he may be able to help if needed in Tyler's absence. Building permits granted to Ethan Kime for a cement pad with garage and Tyler checked out Jason Munkel's fence and it is approved for snow removal around it. Tyler also talked with a few people regarding their lawns, and they have since mowed.

Tienter & Jenkins Properties Update: Kraft made a motion to for City to sign the purchase agreement to offer \$ 6,000 to Steve Jenkins for his property. Norton 2nd. all 3 present voted yes, with McNamara & Smith absent from vote. City Attorney Bart Seebach will send to Steve in order for City to move forward with building removal.

Future plans for Sewer & Water rates: Maggie Burger with Speer Financial, had emailed 2 reports treating Water separate from Sewer. Her scenarios reflected an increase of 46% in water rates and 25% in sewer rates. She also presented an increase of \$ 15.00/monthly per household would generate \$ 46,000 per year. Jane also handed Council an updated Outstanding Debt Report which reflected current City obligations. There have been no increases in past 2 years, previously the increases were 5% at a time. Katie Sterk from Bolton-Menk, suggested she could develop a project list for 2.5 million funding which would include Jackson Street and a couple other sections of road as well as working on the leaks in order to answer the water/sewer needs. This is all a lot of information to digest. Kraft motioned to table this discussion until everyone had a chance to read all of the information. DeVries 2nd. all 3 present voted yes with McNamara & Smith absent from vote.

Merrill Street Bridge: Brian Malm (Bolton-Menk) had previously come before Council and recommended a 12 by 4 Single Barrell Box Culvert. Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer, reported Howard County was just finishing up a similar project of a 12 by 5 foot Box Culvert and the materials will be approximately \$70,000. Nick reported the County is still willing to furnish their labor with the City of LS providing the materials and any outside costs. Outside costs may include rental of any equipment that Howard County does not have. Howard County would coordinate and pay for the full project of bridge replacement and present bill at end. Kraft made a motion to have Bolton-Menk finalize the plans and get them to Nick, so project can go out for bids. Norton 2nd. all 3 present voted Yes, with 2 absent from vote. Nick will bring 28E agreement to October Council. 28E agreement is a 10 year agreement with the City to pay Howard County annually in 10 installments. The 28E can be written to include an additional acceptance and finalization by Council after bids have come in.

Howard Co Wind Farm Urban Renewal Plan: Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer gave a bit of history that originally in 2010 the County started the Wind Farm Urban Plan, and the projects were bonded thru TIF, this is the 3rd time the plan is being amended to change by adding roads. These TIF bonds have helped repair or replace over 35 bridges since they have started. The 3rd amendment effects LS by adding to A23 / 50th Street & A21/45th Street both on west side of town as well as V26 (James/Jade Ave). Kraft made a motion for Mayor & Clerk to sign 3rd Amendment. DeVries 2nd. all 3 present Voted Aye with 2 absent from voting.

Jackson Street: no update except from Katie Sterk including it in future projects.

Spring Ahead Learning Center Lease: at end of last Council meeting, the lease was left at a tie vote. Kraft made a motion for a 3 year lease at \$ 150/month with Spring Ahead Learning Center (SALC) paying for own garbage. DeVries made a motion for a 2 year lease at \$ 150/month and SALC paying for own garbage. With 2 motions on the floor, Norton 2nd the 3 year lease and vote was 3 accepting the 3 year lease and 2 not present to vote. Lease will be sent to City Attorney to be written as 3 year lease for \$ 150/month and SALC paying for their own garbage with City billing Hawkeye's current rate. Hawkeye's current rate is \$ 89.58 per month for the once a month pickup requested by SALC.

BuyIT@OCIO Laptop Program update: Jane was able to order 4 laptops and there is no information available for arrival.

Richard Cottrell RV Parking & Crosswalks: Mr. Richard Cottrell requested to come to City Council in response to 2 letters from City, where the City had requested him to remove his RV from the sidewalk. His argument appears to be that the cement is not a sidewalk, but a cement pad and his private property. He also went into 40 minutes of asking why crosswalks are not painted, why others are allowed to block sidewalks by parking on them. He asked why children cannot wait inside of the Learning Center, why kids walk where they do for the school buses and why the fence around the SALC is so close to his property line. He did state that the vehicle is licensed and registered currently in Arizona, but he is working on transferring title to Iowa. Mayor answered back that others have received attention as well regarding the parking or blocking of sidewalks. Mayor asked if Council was OK with no action being taken on the RV at this time, while more research is being done. Mayor also requested City to get bids out for crosswalk painting after it will be determined where these should be. Council Kraft read the ordinance that stated sidewalks are to be 4 feet wide and 4 inches thick. Don Lyon also expressed concerns regarding lack of safe sidewalks and unsafe to walk in road.

Wanda Knutson's Easement: Wanda has sent over a proposal from her property surveyor that is changing the City's Easement from 8 feet to 20 feet in width. No change for her property taxes, she had expressed concern that bigger vehicles have the necessary room.

Beacon Software as possible solution for Beef Plant: Upper Iowa Beef may need the capability read their own meters more frequently than the once a month currently done. Jane presented software cost at \$ 6,400 with an additional \$ 871 for new endpoints. this software is an updated version of the Badger Reader currently used at month end. The software does have capabilities to turn off water service electronically instead of manually, with some hardware modifications. Jane is to present this back to Pickar-Oulman that is requesting the information for Upper Iowa Beef.

Animal Control: Sheriff Tim Beckman was asked his opinion of the recent dog bite in Lime Springs. He did state the dog acted in an aggressive manner when he approached the house to talk with the dog owners. Kraft made a motion for a dog to be deemed vicious and be asked to leave the City of Lime Springs. Norton 2nd. All 4 present voted yes with McNamara absent. Mayor asked letter to be sent certified giving dog owner 30 days.

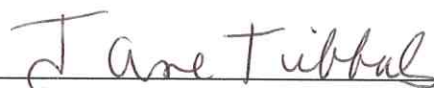
American Rescue Plan Funding: Report given that total funding is \$ 70,637.22 with 2 installments and first installment of \$ 35,318.61 should be here by end of this month. Jane will check and clarify what the money can be used for.

Kraft made motion to close the regular city council meeting and enter into closed session to for Employee Evaluations for Jane and Tyler. Norton 2nd. All 4 voted Aye to go into closed session at 9:02 pm.

Kraft made a motion to come out of closed session at 9:30 pm to adjourn. DeVries 2nd. All 4 voted Aye to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.



Chris Chilson, Mayor



Jane Tibbals, City Clerk