

Mayor Brian Johnson called the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lime Springs to order in the Community Center on February 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

**Member(s) present:** Jennifer Kalstabakken, Kristy McNamara, Jeff Burnikel, Richard Cottrell

**Member(s) absent:** none

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

**Visitor(s):** Marcie Klomp (TPD), Ed Hampe, Scott Osmundson, Nate Schwickerath, Jodie Hubka, Sharla Lieder, Brian Krambeer (MiEnergy), Mike Walton (MiEnergy), Carl Reicks (MiEnergy), Dennis Ptacek (MiEnergy), Mike Wagner (Alliant Energy), Jerry White, Brian Malm (Bolton & Menk), Angela Cottrell, Dean Eastman (Howard Co Supervisor), Nick Rissman (Howard Co Engineer), Michael Leverson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.**

**Open Forum:** McNamara asked to address the Council. She commented regarding the last Council meeting on the Mayor's attempt to nullify the acquisition between the Library and the City stating as it was not listed on the agenda and the issue to be readdressed and she would hope that in the future, the Mayor would review all of the facts before accusations of wrong doing on the February 2, 2021 City Council Agenda does list Library under New Business and the information was presented and passed to the City Council and also signed by the Mayor and by the Library Board President. She had a copy of the Agenda as proof. She had another comment regarding conflict of interest and the Mayor of repairs going forward. McNamara quoted "the law provides the Mayor shall not have an indirect or direct interest in any contract job or work or materials or such services performed for his municipality." She was referring to a bill listed for the City to pay to BJ's Repair. Mayor Brian Johnson is sole owner and operator of BJ's Repair.

**Agenda, Previous Month's Minutes, Approval of Bills, and Financial report:** McNamara made a motion to approve agenda, previous month's minutes from January 4, 2022 and January 19, 2022 meetings, bills and financial reports. Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. McNamara, Burnikel, Cottrell and Kalstabakken voted yes. The agenda, January minutes, bills and finance reports were approved.

**Public Hearing: Appointment of City Council Vacancy.** Kalstabakken motioned to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. McNamara, Burnikel, Cottrell and Kalstabakken voted yes. Public Hearing opened at 7:07. Cottrell opened with asking the Council to not rush into anything, but to really think about the City's Future. Cottrell then asked Tyler's plan for Water & Sewer Certifications. Tyler answered that he had received some practice tests from Iowa Rural Water. Tyler said that his goal is to get these done sooner rather than later. Council Appointee Michael Leverson was present, and Council asked Leverson why he was interested on being on Council. Leverson answered that he was a lifelong resident and wanted to help out on Council and to help better the town. He said that he is willing to put the time into helping anywhere needed. Kalstabakken motioned to close the Public Hearing and re-open the regular meeting. Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. McNamara, Burnikel, Cottrell and Kalstabakken voted yes. Regular meeting re-opened at 7:19. McNamara motioned to appoint Michael Leverson to City Council. Kalstabakken 2<sup>nd</sup>. McNamara, Burnikel, Cottrell and Kalstabakken voted yes. Michael Leverson was sworn into City Council at 7:21 pm. It was announced that Michael Leverson is now eligible to motion and vote for Council.

### **Department Heads:**

**Fire Dept. Report:** Fire Chief Scott Osmundson reported LS Fire Dept responded to 2 fire calls in January. A house fire in Chester and a possible car fire that turned out to be a wheel bearing. Their dance was held in January and was phenomenal for fundraising. Firefighter 1 is set to be wrapped up in March. Fire Dept has applied for a grant thru Howard Co Foundation for a backup generator for the Fire Station and building.

**Library Report:** Library Board President Eddie Miller presented the Library's report. The Library is applying for grants thru HCCF and St Paul Lutheran Mission Endowment program. February is Library Lovers Month. Snowman contest started February 1<sup>st</sup> and is thru March 31. The patrons served in November was 431 and December served 158 from town and 173 from the country with a total of 331. McNamara asked Tyler to shovel the Library's back door for fire escape purposes and also there is still some cement bags to be moved out of the area. Tyler answered that yes, he would keep the back door shoveled out and is still looking for a place to move the cement to so that it doesn't get wet.

**Park & Rec Report:** Sharla Lieder reported they had submitted a grant for paint. They also talked about raising their prices for passes by \$ 5.00. Lieder submitted an application from Laney Frazer to be added to their Board. The Park & Rec Board have already approved this and is asking for Council approval. Kalstabakken motioned to approve. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 Council voted yes. Laney Frazer approved for Park & Rec Board.

**Public Works Director Report:** Tyler Smith reported volunteer Dan Murphy has been having fun running the plow truck with the recent snow and has been doing a good job. Tyler ordered parts for the City truck. He has not heard from the asbestos removal company and will follow up with them. He stated that he had the garage space cleared out for the Library's use. There have not been any water main breaks. 2 out of 4 of the aerators are thawed out, one in each pond. He is watching the numbers and it does not seem to have affected the numbers. Kalstabakken mentioned that if he sees anything that needs to be updated to bring it to Council, such as a different truck. Burnikel wondered if a heavier-duty truck should be looked for instead, such as a ton truck for replacement. Tyler reported that he had used rubber dairy cow mats and cut them to be used in replacing the worn rubber edge on the city truck's plow. Mayor mentioned that a new block heater had been installed on the plow truck. Tyler handed Council a pricing list from Municipal Pipe Tool Co. They do cameraing as well as cleaning of sewer pipes and their rep said he could come to Council to present his services. Tyler had received a visit from Visu-Sewer earlier this Fall if Council wanted to compare the 2. Tyler thought that the south end of town has the most need of attention. Council requested Tyler to pursue prices for cameraing the sewer lines.

**Spring Ahead Learning Center Lease:** Jodie Hubka, SALC director reported CIA's denial insurance letter had been sent to the City today and yes it had been received and a copy given to the Mayor reflecting this. She is still waiting for the other 2 letters. City will wait for those letters. The City Attorney has said that the final decision is still the Council's if the lease needs to be re-written regarding SALC's insurance requirements.

**Merrill Street Bridge project update:** Brian Malm, City's engineering firm of Bolton & Menk reported the findings from a survey that reflected there is a sewer pipe that needs to be relocated. Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer & Brian Malm presented 2 options. Option 1 included a lift station was estimated at \$ 644,000. Option 2 included a gravity sewer at \$ 1,930,000. A gravity sewer included a longer length of sewer with the advantage of no lift station. Option 2 may be the less cost overall as the area has need of water & sewer lines to be replaced in near future anyway. Option 2 also includes the street replacement costs. Council asked grant feasibility and Brian Malm's answer was that the City currently doesn't have a lot of debt, so may have problems qualifying for due to not a lot of recent projects. However, the City will probably qualify for low interest loans. Brian Malm agreed that videoing the sewers would be a good idea, then City would know which ones may be lined instead of replacing. Maggie Burger, a financial advisor will be contacted for more information on City's eligibility for low interest loans and grants.

**A23/V26 Paving Project:** Nick Rissman reported Howard County has approved the bid for Croell's to pave A23 as it comes into the City past A & K up to Merrill Street by Brown Park. The county will pay 50% of construction cost within city limits up to a max of \$ 132,263.41. The payback will be as a 3 year no interest loan. The estimate does not include paved driveways, sidewalks and utility work. Timeline of when this is expected is not known yet. Nick Rissman would like the Council's decision by next month's Council meeting. Nick Rissman also asked if he could come to the Budget meeting that is scheduled for February 16, as he may have better idea of timelines. A21 coming in from Hwy 63 past Casey's is tentatively planned for next 2023 construction season.

**MiEnergy:** Brian Krambeer, President/CEO of MiEnergy asked to come to Council to clarify the territories of MiEnergy & Alliant Energy. Brian Krambeer introduced Mike Wagner with Alliant Energy as a visitor to glean more information. Both companies are working on better communication with each other to know who to call. Brian K answered the question if "Mutual Aid" could be worked out between the 2 companies. And he didn't really think so in most cases, as the 2 different companies use different voltage in different areas and the employees would not have the specs of each other's area. He also handed out maps reflecting the boundaries for each company.

**Utility Bills allocation:** With the Library using more space in that building, should the heating fuel bill and the electric bill be changed from 50/50 split. Tyler measured the garage space as 967 square feet which would be 30% of the building. Tyler asked if the garage should use a different type of heat as the old heaters may no longer be efficient. Eddie Miller did add that the Library is putting in Mini-splits for their new heat source & AC, which are electric. This decision will be tabled until next meeting, after Eddie has had a chance to talk with the Library Board.

**CIA Insurance property values:** CIA's annual insurance bill increased by 22% to \$ 21,030.00. The City has also asked Tom Cray to bid out the insurance, to see if there is any difference in his rates. CIA's bill is due February 1, and it came less than a week ago. CIA also sent over City property values to be signed off on. McNamara motioned to accept the City property values and to pay CIA's insurance at this time, while waiting for another bid to come in. Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted yes. Motion approved to pay CIA's bill and sign property values.

**Parking on Main Street:** Question had come to Council regarding plowing snow on Main Street when there are cars parked in the way? The landlord was contacted regarding the car in question and car owner did move the car. Levenson asked if signage could be placed on the street, so that Tyler does not have to ask for cars to be moved. Signage will be researched.

**Public Hearing Set for Fiscal Year Budget 2023:** Kalstabakken motioned to set the public hearing for March 1, 2022. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted yes. Motion approved for Public Hearing for Budget Fiscal Year 2023 to be held on March 1, 2022.

**Entities Budgets:** All 5 entities budgets have been turned in and Council has copies. McNamara motioned to accept their budgets. Kalstabakken 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Budgets from the Fire Dept., Library, Parks, Pool and Community Center have been approved to be published.

**Chain of Command Clarification:** Council discussed and said going forward Council will decide what tasks need to be done, rather than any one Council telling employees what to do. If there are problems, to take it to the Employees Supervisory Committee, which is made up of Burnikel and Levenson. They in turn will talk with the employee privately. If all of the Council needs to be involved it will be in closed session. This brought up the question of which Commission Appointments is Levenson on and Mayor said that Levenson will take the ones that were previously assigned to Brady Vrieze.

**Employee Handbook:** it appears that the last time the employee handbook was done for Public Works and City Clerk was 2019. The 2019 version will be distributed to all so that all have the same one. The Library has a separate handbook as well as Pool employees.

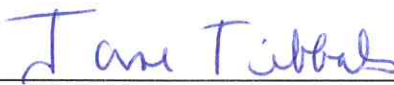
**Special Meetings Agendas:** Council asked if Special Meeting Agendas could be more on point and if the items should be included on regular meeting agendas instead of adding the Special Meetings and/or Work Sessions.

**Other:** Council wants Bolton & Menk to come to a separate meeting to speak on what is needed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to keep it in compliance. The ad for Deputy Clerk will be published.

Burnikel motioned to adjourn. Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 present voted Yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

  
 Brian Johnson, Mayor

  
 Jane Tibbals, City Clerk