

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

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

**Member(s) absent:** none

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

**Visitor(s):** Jill Tibbals, Jerry White, Scott Osmundson, Eddie Miller, Joyce Lyon, Don Lyon, Marcie Klomp (TPD), Jodie Hubka (SALC), Stacie Wendel, Emily Pisney, Brandi Ollendieck, Sheriff Tim Beckman, Casey Sebastian, Mike Johnson, Jason Passmore, Sharla Lieder, Dale Schultz (Alliant Energy), Terry Bohl (Alliant Energy)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.**

**Open Forum:** No Comments.

**Agenda, Previous Month's Minutes, Approval of Bills, and Financial report:** Burnikel made a motion to approve agenda, previous month's minutes from February 1, February 16, and February 19, 2022 meetings, bills and financial reports. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. McNamara, Burnikel, Cottrell, Leverson and Kalstabakken voted Yes. The agenda, February minutes, bills and finance reports were approved.

**Fire Department:** Fire Chief Scott Osmundson reported no fire calls for February. Firefighter Training includes a burn trailer training on Thursday this week, out front of the Community Center and Scott will bring his skid loader to clean up the smoked hay bales.

**Library Report:** Eddie Miller, Board Chair, reported Library's Snowman Contest continues thru March. Patrons served in January included 205 from in town and 155 from country with a total of 355.

**Park & Rec Report:** Sharla Lieder, Board Chair, reported the board has decided to give everyone a copy of the Pool's conduct rules and have them sign off when buying pool passes. They applied for a grant from St Paul's Lutheran Endowment Fund and put the ad in the Cresco Shopper for pool manager and guards for next 2 weeks. The plan is to open Pool end of May or early June.

**Public Works Report:** Tyler Smith, Public Works Director, reported all 4 aerators are thawed and working. Snow plowing has slowed down he started to clean storm sewers. Tyler reported sewer cameraing prices with Visu-Sewer around \$ 12,000 and Municipal Pipe Tool Co. at \$ 14,000. Tyler also mentioned that Visu-Sewer had been in town the most recent of the 2 companies. Tyler reported that the cameraing crew will help cap the sewer line at the buildings that the City is to tear down. Question was asked when the buildings are due to be torn down, and Jane answered with the City applying for a grant thru DNR, the work is not supposed to start until after June 1. Question was then asked how long it would take for the buildings to come down after started? Tyler answered that asbestos left to remove is on the roof and the asbestos people didn't really say how long that would take but when Mehmerts take down the rest of the buildings, they said about a week. Casey Sebastian commented the sewer pipe to be capped, may be lead which may have to be replaced. Burnikel motioned to have Visu-Sewer be approved to camera the sewer as less cost and had been here more recently. Leverson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Motion approved for Visu-Sewer to clean and camera the designated sewer pipes. Visu-Sewer first availability is in April.

**Spring Ahead Learning Center Lease:** Not resolved. SALC does not have the second denial letter requested by Council and Jodie Hubka, Director, said she didn't think they would obtain one either. She also commented that they do not have everything ready yet, so are not able to present anything different. Mayor Johnson proposed a verbal agreement instead of the lease, McNamara stated that she would not be in favor of anything except written. Kalstabakken's question of what does SALC want of the City went unanswered. Jodie stated she could take the verbal proposal to her board. Jodie read a letter from their board president, Carolyn Nagele. The letter stated their number one priority is the

safety of their children and asked that anyone wishing to speak with staff or director to make an appointment.

**Allocation of Utility Bills for Library/Garage Space:** Eddie Miller said that he was authorized to approve 75%/25% split. McNamara motioned for bills to be split 75% Library and 25% for Garage for Fuel & Electricity. Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Motion approved for 75%/25% split. Both Eddie and Council are in agreement for the effective date to be March 1, 2022.

**Budget FY2023:** McNamara asked if Council had any questions and there was no discussion. McNamara motioned to publish the numbers as previously discussed. Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Motion approved to publish as previously written. Kalstabakken asked if the Library had presented any new numbers and Jane answered yes, Janet had given new numbers for both current year's budget to make amendment as well as FY2023.

**Howard County Sheriff Tim Beckman:** The Sheriff presented a change to the law enforcement billing contract as requested by Howard county's supervisors. Currently the City is paying \$ 5,050 per year at a rate of \$ 10 per person using previous census data of 505. The most recent census reflects a population of 473 with a rate of \$ 15 per person for a total of \$ 7,095 per year. This new contract would be effective July 1, 2022 and that rate is to be effective for 10 years Chester is leaning towards an hourly rate instead of per capita. Elma & Protivin have to agree to the same rate as Lime Springs. Lime Springs is the first city he has proposed the change to. The hourly rate would be about \$ 53 per hour, if the City chose to go that route. McNamara motioned to approve the \$ 15 per capita rate. Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Motion approved for \$ 7,095 if the other 2 cities agree to the \$ 15 per capita.

**Cray Insurance Quote:** Cray proposed \$ 18,720 annual quote with CIA's price was \$ 21,030. Cray's rate included the abuse & molestation liability coverage that CIA had recently excluded from the City's insurance, tho CIA's insurance agent had said that he could add that clause for an extra cost. Johnson added Cray's underwriter is currently writing approximately 80% of the cities located in Iowa. Burnikel motioned to accept Cray's quote and change the City's insurance over to Cray's. Kalstabakken 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Motion approved to change City's insurance from CIA to Cray Insurance.

**Alliant Electricity:** Dan Schultz and Terry Bohl welcomed questions regarding the December 26, 2021 accident and the response time from the electric companies to cut the power. Dan offered Alliant's training virtually as well as in person to the Fire Departments teams to help for future needs. Dan will send that information to Fire Chief Osmundson. When asked where the closest service person at the current time is. They said that they have a call out list of who is available with someone in St Ansgar or Decorah as the closest person after this incident. They went on to state that Alliant plans to add an underground feed from 5 miles west of Chester coming into LS by end of 2025 as a response to improved and more reliable service.

**Truck Routes:** Discussion of how to minimize truck traffic on Main Street and breaking up of City streets. Kalstabakken motioned for signs to minimize truck traffic on Main Street and West Jackson. Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Motion approved for signage to be added to Main Street and West Jackson. Tyler said that there is already signs that had previously been used on Miller Street.

**Jason Passmore with Howard County Business & Tourism:** Jason spoke about the different programs to partnership with the City. He presented a copy of a 28E agreement for funding between Howard County Business & Tourism and the City of Lime Springs. 28E agreements are recommended

by state auditors to protect both parties by specifying how the dollars will be used. Jason spoke about rural Iowa and tourism. Jason challenged everyone to be a better tourist in our own backyard. Explore Iowa. Jason was instrumental in helping finalize the City's grant thru DNR for assisting tearing down the former Tienter & Jenkins buildings. Other assistance programs he spoke about was Housing Rehab Program that has funds available for windows, doors and roofs for low to moderate income families. Jason mentioned the Housing Demo Program that has up to \$ 10,000 available to tear down derelict properties.

Kalstabakken motioned to close the regular meeting and go into a closed session to review Deputy Clerk applications. McNamara 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Meeting in closed session at 8:31 pm.

McNamara motioned to come out of closed session and go back into regular meeting at 8:50 pm. Kalstabakken 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. Regular meeting resumed.

Kalstabakken motioned to adjourn. Leverson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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**Brian Johnson, Mayor**

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**Jane Tibbals, City Clerk**