

Mayor Brian Johnson called the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lime Springs to order in the Community Center on December 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Member(s) present: Jeff Burnikel, Jennifer Kalstabakken, Mary Bielefeld, Richard Cottrell

Member(s) absent: Leslie Opat

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

Visitor(s): Jill Tibbals, Ed Hampe, Garth Foley, Cynthia Foley, Eddie Miller, Scott Osmundson, Jeff Siegenthaler, Terry Kirkpatrick, Rick Kirkpatrick, Mike Levenson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.

Agenda, Previous Month's Minutes, Approval of Bills, and Financial report: Burnikel motioned to approve the agenda, previous month's minutes, bills and financial reports. Kalstabakken 2nd. All 4 present voted Yes. The Agenda, November Minutes, Bills and Financials reports were approved.

Fire Dept Report: Fire Chief, Scott Osmundson, reported 1 call last month, assisted Cresco with Hawkeye Sanitation fire. New Firefighters, Cole Busch & Trent Loewen are currently in Fire Fighter 1 training. 3 sets of turnout gear ordered will be here in March. Generator folks are scheduled to come with Alliant to start install this week. Annual Dance at KCD is scheduled for January 20. Scott reported Fire Dept has not made any decision regarding changing the lights to LED yet.

Library: Eddie Miller, LS Library Board Chair, reported Library activities. Annual Silent Auction had 151 items with 22 registered bidders. Library plans to have booth at Xmas in LS with the Giving Tree on Dec 3. Coffee groups meeting at the Library Monday mornings & Thursday afternoons. Dec events planned are Game Night on Dec 2, Bingo on Dec 16, after school movie & activities Dec 5 & 8. Nov Book discussion had 3 attend. Next book discussion with movie scheduled Dec 12. Story Hour with Xmas Party scheduled for Dec 20. Patrons served for Oct was 171 Town and 217 Country.

Community Center Report: No Report, however, DJ Electric had sent over their quotes to switch Community Center & Fire Station lights to LED. Waiting until both boards have a chance to review these along with Randak's with decisions later.

Public Works Report: Tyler Smith, Public Works Director, reported Tarzan removed 3 trees as requested last month. He moved and cleaned up the compost pile at the tree dump. DJ Electric has ordered the parts to retrofit the lights on Main Street all to LED as well as to fix them to get them all working. Tyler reported he & Casey Sebastian had fixed the broken hydrant out by Casey's and then got word that this same hydrant was backed over again last week and is again broken. He went to Core & Main by Stewartville for parts to re-fix the hydrant. Tyler took City truck to Olsgaard to have the plow adjusted, wrong parts put on to fasten the one side. Sander has parts ordered. Sold old City truck on Facebook marketplace in 8 minutes. Sold City Plow truck, in about an hour, however the buyer said not road worthy & made arrangements to truck out. The City Plow truck sold for \$ 1,000. Tyler was invited by Iowa Rural Water to tour the Fredericksburg's sewer plant. This is the only Iowa lagoon with a certified lab on site. It has a blower system with 80 blowers in 3 ponds, 17 feet deep with 3 pumps to run them. Their site requires a grade 2 and a grade 3 operator. Tyler had to wait for 30 days to retake the certification tests, so plans to take by end of this month. Water main break on N Miller, one valve was replaced, but then had another break down the line, which made this fix a lot more complicated and time consuming. Tyler had Casey S help him with a more detailed read of Butch Bunikel's water meter to help isolate when the extra usage was done. They decided a faulty water softener was the reason. Servline, the City water/sewer insurance is adjusting \$ 492.31 off Butch's bill, so Butch is no longer asking City to adjust it. Cottrell asked how to find out who hit the fire hydrant, Tyler replied that he checked with UIB and Casey's and their cameras do not point that way. To avoid this in future for this hydrant, suggestion was to put up concrete barriers or poles. Cottrell asked Tyler to expand on Fredericksburg. Cottrell mentioned Triple 3 YouTube videos and asked if City engineers had checked to see if that system would work in City's current lagoon.

Resolution 12052023-1 The only fees changing is the rent for Community Center from \$ 150 to \$ 200 for a full day; part day rental from \$ 75 to \$ 100 and charging the non-profits, that are not City entities \$ 50 per time. Cottrel asked for clarification if the senior group was considered a non-profit, as they do not have formal non-profit status. Jane answered that she took the minutes for Community

Center Board and seniors was mentioned as following under the non-profits as they already pay \$ 50 per meeting. Burnikel motioned to approve Resolution 12052023-1 with Kalstabakken 2nd. All 4 voted Yes. Resolution 12052023-1 Schedule of Fees was approved and is effective January 1, 2024.

Setting Public Hearing to Buy Property: Jane reported she had received a copy of the property's abstract and forwarded to City Attorney for review. She had met with City Attorney Bart Seebach and he asked about insurability of the building with the shared wall with building next door. Current owner asked how long before he had to vacate the property and if he could keep some stuff in there until had a new building built. Cray Insurance had said that as long as he kept his own insurance, it should not be a problem if City Council approved. Cray Insurance is checking regarding the shared wall and will get back to City. Cottrell said that he was not comfortable with the support for the walls and the rafters. Mayor Johnson said that City can't build for the asking price of \$ 30,000. Rick Kirkpatrick said that a pole shed could be built for \$ 30,000. Mayor asked where to build, Kirkpatrick thought there would be room out at Tree Dump, however different Council members mentioned that lack of City water & sewer, as well as distance from town makes that site not as desirable. Council asked Tyler to have a contractor to walk thru for building soundness, particularly looking at the roof, plus asking for suggested improvements with costs. In the meantime, Cottrell motioned for the Public Hearing to be set at next regular meeting with Burnikel 2nd. All 4 voted Yes. Motion approved with Public Hearing to be set as January 2, 2024 at 6:30.

Water Sources & Storage and Lagoon Option comments: Jane reported that City Engineer, Drew Weber plans to attend the January meeting, hoping to have update on Merrill Street Bridge Project from DNR. Jane also asked if there was any additional comments from the last meeting regarding what had been presented. City has not heard anything from Upper Iowa Beef after the last meeting. Kalstabakken asked if UIB could drill their own well. The answer back is that DNR has restrictions about drilling wells, not saying that it can't be done, but why should they if City has water. Cottrell asked if their water use could cause a water shortage to the City in the future. Jane will check and forward current City well information to Council. This information is available online at DNR's website. Maintenance on current water tower was questioned and Tyler reported that water is not stored in City water tower as tank holds 100,000 gallons and City pumped 185,000 gallons the day before, which was a weekday. The water tower is flushed daily and sometimes twice a day. He went on to clarify that even if water tower is out of commission, the pumps still pump water, just not thru the water tower.

Ordinance Change: Kalstabakken asked if Council would consider changing the meeting date from 1st Tuesday of the month to a Wednesday. Burnikel mentioned that Center is currently booked 1st Wednesday for soup supper. Kalstabakken mentioned that another Wednesday would work and Jane answered that if changing from 1st week of the month, would change the bill paying cycle, City maybe paying late fees if bills paid late. Also the 1st Tuesday is the same as Chester and some other cities, so that people know when scheduling for more than one meeting if need be. No other discussion.

Budget Timeline: Jane presented a timeline as suggested by Iowa League of Cities. Iowa Cities have until end of April to finalize their budgets, however tax rate should be completed by March 4, so City can get paperwork to County by March 15. The County has to mail out the tax rates to all residents. This means that entities need to have their budgets to Council early January. Budgets need to be done by end of February, in order to have time for publishing. Work sessions should be scheduled in December or January, and may need more than one. Work sessions are open to the public like regular meetings, but nothing will be voted on. Burnikel suggested that entities come to Council with their needs, projects and how much money they need, rather than Council deciding how much to give each entity. Kalstabakken said won't this cause the entities to do their budgets twice. Burnikel answered that each entity knows how much it takes to maintain each year. Jane reported that history reflects that entities have been getting 50% of the money with 50% going towards General Fund, this doesn't put anything towards roads or sidewalks. Looking at the Miller Street project, how is that going to be funded with few utilities under that road? Kalstabakken clarified if the entities need a formal presentation or a rough draft? Burnikel answered that not looking for anything formal, just a list of plans and numbers. Eddie Miller stated that the Library operates on a yearly period where some entities operate on a 3 to 4 month plan. Mayor clarified that even if operating on a shorter period of time, still have to plan their budget. Cottrell agreed that each entity should have a 5 year plan on how much money it is going to take to maintain, as well as list of their projects and how to accomplish

them. He went on to say, that like the Community Center looking at changing the lights, and how much it may take to change them out this year, or even next year. Cottrell asked if Jane could print out the budgets for the last 2 or 3 years for each entity and maybe a work session is not needed. Jane & Mayor answered that each year's budget does have 3 years on it. Cottrell asked doesn't the City have to prepare an annual report that lists each entity and expenses, yes the Annual Financial Report was answered is this report. Jane will get Cottrell a copy of the recent one that had been presented to Council recently. Mayor asked Council if they wanted a work session this month or next, as one was still needed. Last year's was done December 14, and asked that all entities have their budgets done January 1st. Cottrell commented that last year's budget for the Pool & Park went so smooth, when Jane sat with them and went over their budget. Kalstabakken asked if it could be scheduled for a Wednesday, and Cottrell asked for it to be held after 5, as seniors are here until then. Council scheduled work session for Dec 20 at 5:30 pm and are asking that entities have a rough draft of their projects. Kalstabakken commented that she liked how it was done in the past with Council deciding how much to give each entity and then getting their budgets. Kalstabakken said that the pool got a lot of money thru grants, she was corrected that they got their money thru donations, not grants. Cottrell reminded that Pool has quite a bit coming up as well, like \$ 30,000 more in work to do.

Other: Cottrell asked Tyler if the new house on Clark Street was too close to the street. Tyler said that it was marked off according to what the contract laid it out. Mayor said that Tyler brought his approval to Council and it was approved at that time, so yes Council had to approved it. Cottrell felt that this needs to be paid attention in the future for new homes. Burnikel said that lots of ordinances do not get followed, and Council gave different examples of when ordinances may not be strictly followed, such as parking, spending money, and sidewalks.

Burnikel motioned to adjourn with Kalstabakken 2nd. All 4 voted Yes. Meeting adjourned 8:07 pm.

Brian Johnson, Mayor

Jane Tibbals, City Clerk