

Mayor Brian Johnson called the special meeting / work session of the City Council of the City of Lime Springs to order in the Community Center on December 20, 2023 at 5:30 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): Eric Munkel, Michael Leverson, Eddie Miller, Sarah Osmundson, Scott Osmundson, Laney Frazer, Bob Frazer, Jarry Hughes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.

Agenda: Burnikel motioned to approve the agenda with Kalstabakken 2nd. Burnikel, Cottrell, Kalstabakken voted Yes. Bielefeld absent from vote; she arrived shortly thereafter. Agenda of Budget approved. Each of the City's 5 entities were asked to bring their area's project lists, to assist Council with Fiscal Year 2024_2025 Budget.

Fire Dept Report: Fire Chief, Scott Osmundson, presented a preliminary budget and then reported plans of replacing 2 sets of turn out gear each year. They will continue to look for an additional tanker truck as well as the rescue truck. The plan is to sell the old rescue truck, and keep the tanker truck as a backup. Their fundraisers include their annual dance and tips from Sweet Corn Days, as well as applying for grants from Howard Co Foundation, St Paul's, Kwik trip and DNR. They receive donations as well as money from controlled burns. A full set of gear costs around \$ 4,000, which does not include boots, gloves or helmet. Turn out gear is supposed to last 10 years and their oldest in use is from 2004. To update where they should be, need 6 sets, but plan to buy 3 sets this year, 1 from grant, 1 from auxiliary and 1 from donations. Currently there are 18 fire fighters. Scott plans to present this prelim budget to Fire Board for their approval before the next Council meeting.

Library: Eddie Miller, LS Library Board Chair, reported their budget is similar to last year's, except for wages and utilities. Fundraising plans are Memorial Day Dinner, Silent Auction & Sweet Corn Days. Eddie reported 5 year plan of updating computers, carpet cleaned and replacing AC. Burnikel questioned why adding \$ 10,000 on wages from last year's actual of \$ 35,000. Eddie reported that the Library plans to match the other City employees hourly rate. Kalstabakken interjected that this was a prelim budget, not presented and approved by their board yet, as she also questioned some of the other numbers looked high. Burnikel reported Cresco's hourly rate is \$ 17.50; Elma \$ 13 & Riceville @ \$ 19.25. City Clerk Jane and Library Director Janet are currently both at \$ 17 and Library planned to raise Janet's to \$ 19. City has not discussed raising Jane or Tyler's yet.

Community Center Report: Jarry Hughes, Board chair, presented a prelim budget. He reported project completed was the cement replaced the rocks in front of building. He had previously presented the LED quotes for inside lighting. He would like to write grant for LED, but timing may be off or may need to wait. Anticipating roof may need replacing and he didn't put that in budget. Projects he included replacing 1 or 2 stoves, recent sewer issue wasn't planned and dishwasher is currently leaking. Not sure if dishwasher and sewer are related. Jarry added he didn't know if sewer expense is going to be split or if Community Center paying for all of it. More income reflects as more rentals for this past year. It was confirmed that the building is paid for and is over 20 years old and the stoves are from the original build. Cottrell asked if carpet or other flooring needs to be replaced and Jarry reported that board felt lighting was the higher priority.

Park & Pool: Laney Frazer, Board chair, she said added about \$ 1,000 more to Parks budget, to reflect increased costs for electricity and mowing. Projects for Parks are Millstone needs cement repaired; add more bleachers & play equipment and bats at Ball Park, tennis court needs fence repair or replacement, plus dust control at Brown Park. They recently received grant for \$ 9,500 to cement the dugouts. It was clarified that the rental income for Parks came from picnic table rental. Fundraising includes Festival of Trees, Mother's Day Lunch, Sweet Corn Day Ball Stand, donations, raffle at Sweet Corn Days and Ball Park advertising signs. Continue to apply for grants. For Pool's budget, they feel need to increase pay rate for guards. She confirmed that Cresco requires their front desk workers need to be lifeguard certified. They discussed if managers should be lifeguard certified as well. Projects for Pool, include pool deck cement repair, fence, pump house equipment maint, new doors, gutters and

guards over the gutters. 5 to 6 lifeguards were used last year. Tyler confirmed that there is enough chemicals leftover to start the next season. Laney asked that fundraising ideas be forwarded to her.

Public Works Report: Tyler Smith, Public Works Director, reported most of the projects have already been discussed at previous meetings. They are Upper Iowa Beef possible expansion and its effect on water & sewer, plus water tower and storage. He put well house generator on his want list. Casey S had suggested he contact Northway for options. City may need a new salt spreader, Olsgaard had new one for \$ 8,500, he has had to replace the bearings every year for current one. Tree dump and cement crushing was discussed at great length with Levenson asking Tyler to make the crushing and possible disposal options a high priority. Council asked if Tyler had someone check out the sturdiness of the building for sale. Eric Munkel reported that small garage on the side may leak. Current owner is away for the holidays, but should be back before next Council meeting and Tyler plans to have contractor walk thru. Eventually the whole building will need a new roof. Jane added that she would like endpoints added to current water meters, to assist in reading the meters, but also there are daily and hourly reports available that reflect heavy usage, which may be due to leaks. This brought up the lead & copper inventory is due October 2024. There are approximately 240 meters to add endpoints at cost of \$ 160 to \$ 240 each. Levenson suggested to put note in water bill, so the inventory can be done on time, asking residents to send pictures or information to City email or text to cell phone numbers. All new meters are being put in with the electronic antenna. Jane will research electronic shut offs, instead of thru curb stops.

Tax Levy: The valuations for Howard County are available, however, it can still change before end of the year. It appears to be about \$158K to \$ 159K. Kalstabakken asked about leaving Fire Dept the same at \$ 12,000. Burnikel stated that he would like to see Pool and Fire Dept added to. Levenson also stated that Pool's projects, probably need a bit more. Mayor suggested 60% to General Operating Fund instead of 51% from last year. Cottrell asked how much excess in the General Fund? As of November end reflects \$ 34K and there will be an insurance bill due of at least \$ 26K before end of January to come out of there. Kalstabakken asked if Tyler's & Jane's wages come out of General Fund. Jane's does, but Tyler's comes out of Water, Sewer, etc. depending on what area he is working. General Fund also pays electricity, telephone, City Side of taxes, as well as Council wages. Jane also pointed out that the budgets that have been turned in, are asking for the same dollar amounts as last year's, not increasing. Why give more if the entities are not asking for more? Cottrell asked if the entities could manage with what they got last year, then this would add money to the General Fund. Cottrell continued that the City has many projects to complete as well. Then re-evaluate next year. Bobby said that wages for the Pool, will be one of the biggest obstacles. The Library, Community Center & Fire Dept said that if they had to, then they could. Jane suggested another budget meeting for end of January or beginning of February.

Kalstabakken motioned to adjourn with Burnikel 2nd. All 4 present voted Yes. Meeting adjourned 7:36 pm.

Mayor

Jane Tibbals, City Clerk