

Newly elected Mayor Rick Kirkpatrick called the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lime Springs to order in the Community Center on January 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Member(s) present: Jeff Burnikel, Mike Levenson, Richard Cottrell

Member(s) absent: Leslie Opat

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

Visitor(s): Jill Tibbals, Terry Kirkpatrick, Jeff Siegenthaler, Ed Hampe, Garth Foley, Cynthia Foley, Eddie Miller, Scott Osmundson, Laney Frazer, Bob Frazer, Mark Bowen, Jennifer Kalstabakken, Brian Johnson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.

Announcement: it was noted that newly elected Jennifer Kalstabakken had not taken her oath of office, prior to the noon deadline. This creates a vacancy on City Council and she is not eligible to vote.

Agenda, Previous Month's Minutes, Approval of Bills, and Financial reports: Burnikel motioned to approve the agenda, previous month's minutes, bills and financial reports. Kalstabakken asked it to be noted that December 20 meeting had some numbers quoted. She stated that these numbers from Cresco Library was from their 2021 annual report and Elma & Riceville numbers were from their 2023 annual reports. Levenson 2nd. All 3 present voted Yes. The Agenda, December 5 & 20 Minutes, Bills and Financials Reports were approved.

Fire Dept Report: Fire Chief, Scott Osmundson, reported Fire Dept updated their officers as: Secretary Dan Gibbs; Safety Officer Mike Levenson; Training Officers as Jeff Hovde & Jason Hammon; Asst Chief Matt Levenson and Fire Chief Scott Osmundson. He reported Jeff Burnikel plans to hook up the propane to newly installed generator. It was confirmed that the generator is able to run the entire building. Burnikel suggested adding a separate 1,000 gallon tank, this will help monitor usage. Generator will use up to 8 gallons of propane an hour, when running at full capacity. Burnikel asked Tyler for half a load of rock to put under tank, prior to set up. This will be a temporary hookup with lines buried next Spring. Osmundson reported Fire Dept gearing up for annual dance at KCD's Jan 20 Truman is leading for pie in the face at 225, Cody 2nd and Michael 3rd.

Library: Eddie Miller, LS Library Board Chair, reported Library did not meet in December, however he did report 3 new board members of Peggy Walker, Diane Tieskotter & Sandy Heisler, as of Jan 1, 2024.

Community Center Report: H & M Underground presented \$ 5,600 bill for cleaning out sewer line and installing cleanout back of Community Center/Fire Station building. Burnikel motioned to split bill 3 ways between Community Center, Fire Dept & City buildings. Levenson 2nd. All 3 presented voted Yes. Bill approved.

Park & Recreation Dept: Laney Frazer, Board Chair, brought up the possibility of splitting the current 6 person board into 2 separate boards, where one board would focus on the Pool and other board would focus on the Parks. This requires an ordinance change. She presented the idea at their last board meeting; however they were missing members and didn't discuss. She then stated she didn't know how the board evolved into the chair of this board giving up their voting rights. The ordinance states 5 members, which is the same as Community Center, Fire and Library boards and all members of those boards vote, including their chairperson. She continued that the current board has some members with expired terms and didn't know how to enforce. The ordinance states terms of 3 years. Fire Dept says that they rotate off after 4 or 5 years. Community Center board's terms are 3 years and can only renew once and then are done after 6 years. Discussion followed that there is such a short season for both and seems like way too much for one group to handle without neglecting other recreational areas. Council suggested a notice being sent with next water bills, asking for board members to see if there is enough interest to maintain 2 separate boards. Council also asked if the board did split if Laney could be part of both boards for a while. She said she would be willing to be a chair of one, probably the Pool and a member of the other one. Burnikel asked for clarification of City employees being part of the boards, as he was denied for Park & Rec as he was a Council person and Jane had to quit this board when she was hired as City employee. Levenson stated that he had to quit Fire Board, when he came on City Council. This brought up the question of why Janet DeVries, City

employee at the Library, is on the Park & Rec Board. Kalstabakken stated that Council said it was OK then. Mayor stated should be fair for everyone and discussion will be continued at another time.

Public Works Report: Tyler Smith, Public Works Director, reported sander's starter locked up and replaced it, also replaced relay switch last week. Tyler talked to Jedd's Construction regarding crushing concrete and they are to send prices. Jedd also asked if City would be OK with him leaving his loader onsite after crushing and sell the pile for City. Tyler also talked to Brent Mehmert about crushed concrete as Upper Iowa Beef may have need for it during their changes. The question was asked if this could be used for fixing City streets. Answer is that it doesn't have enough fines that are needed for packing, however it can be used as fill or as a base. Jedd has capability to crush at 1.5 inch minus. Tyler will follow up with both. Discussion followed about locking the Tree Dump so no more concrete can be dumped there, but this will deter others from taking their trees and brush out there. No changes being made at present time. Levenson suggested that City get on a 2 year schedule so this pile would not get so big in future, as it looks like there may be street projects every year or every other year. Tyler reported current meter for Mennonite Church is reading in cubic units instead of gallons, which happened after it got cold or wet. Tyler has a new electronic 1 inch meter for them to install in the church building and their plumber needs to install it. Tyler also reported there is a 3 inch service line there. Kirkpatrick said he remembered the original plan was for a subdivision to be added there. Currently City is billing the church minimum of 1,000 gallons per month. Tyler asked if a Lead & Copper questionnaire could be mailed with Water bills. He gave Council a sample paper that Casey Sebastian from Iowa Rural Water, Jane said that she would like to add a few more explanations to it and asked if there should be anything else added before being sent at end of month. DNR is asking that all Iowa cities identify their service lines by October 2024. Tyler asked if Council had any suggestions for better cell phone service or if he needed a separate phone to separate the City business calls from his personal calls. He also said that he will make appointments to take his Water & Wastewater operator tests by end of the month. Tyler asked Laney if the tennis court should be flooded for skating as he has a drain plug for it, they will get together.

Commission Appointments for 2024: Council discussed the previous appointments and felt that due to needs of City changing, some of them can be eliminated. Council decided to remove Finance, Civil Defense, Tree, City Employees Safety & City Employees Supervisory Committees. It did not appear that these committees had not met in last 2 years. Levenson said they can be re-added if there is a need. There is no liaisons listed in the City ordinances that they are required. Cottrell & Levenson were added to Water-Sewer-Waste Committee; Burnikel replaces Cottrell on the Park & Rec; Cottrell replaces Burnikel on the Library; Levenson is added as liaison to the Fire Board; Kalstabakken stated that she would be interested to be added as liaison to Community Center Board. Mayor stated that prior to this meeting, he wanted to appoint Kalstabakken as Mayor Pro Tem Mayor Pro Tem will not change from Burnikel at the present time.

Inquiry Rights & Authorized Banking Signers: Cottrell motioned to remove Brian Johnson and Mary Bielefeld from all City Accounts effective 01/02/2024. Burnikel 2nd. All 3 present voted Yes. Motion approved to remove Brian Johnson as signer and both Brian Johnson and Mary Bielefeld from inquiry of accounts. Council didn't feel it was ready to finalize the paperwork for Inquiry Rights, which will leave Jeff Burnikel and Jane Tibbals as Authorized Signers. Jane will contact Burnikel when there are checks to sign. All City checks require 2 signatures.

Raises: Cottrell asked Council to consider a \$ 1.00 an hour raise for both Mitch Smith & Jerry White. They work part time, mowing lawn and shoveling snow. Cottrell stated that he didn't feel Tyler Smith should get a raise until he passes his certification tests. He continued that Jane Tibbals should be tutoring Tyler as both of them are full time employees. He then continued that until Jane gets an assistant and Tyler gets an assistant that neither one of them should get a raise, tho he did agree that City would be trouble if anything should happen to either one of them. Jane answered that she didn't feel she could tutor Tyler as she doesn't know enough about the Water & Wastewater information that is on those tests. Eddie Miller asked what was the stipulation when Tyler was hired and it was answered that it was not a stipulation for Tyler to pass the DNR tests in a certain amount of time. It was clarified the tests cannot be taken until an operator has at least 1 year of experience. Kirkpatrick volunteered to help tutor Tyler if that would help. Burnikel motioned for \$ 1.00 an hour raise for Mitch

Smith, Jerry White and Jane Tibbals. Levenson 2nd. Burnikel & Levenson voted Yes with Cottrell voted No. Motion approved. Raises for Tyler will be talked about at another meeting.

Property Sharing with Entities: Kalstabakken proposed \$ 500 more than last year for each of the 5. Both Bob & Laney said that the Pool needs more than last year, because they had a hard time hiring lifeguards at \$ 10/hour. They are anticipating paying \$ 12/hour for guards and \$ 14/hour for manager, this next season. Laney said their Pool budget reflects \$ 24,000 as requesting from the City, which is \$ 3,000 more than last year. Cottrell proposed \$ 2,000 more than last year for each of the 5. Jane pointed out that the financial reports reflect the totals for the City, not just the City's general operating budget. Burnikel proposed that the Pool should get more. Kirkpatrick proposed taking \$ 500 from each of the other 4 and giving \$ 2,000 to the Pool. Burnikel suggested \$ 3,000 extra for Pool and \$ 500 extra for the other 4. Levenson stated that never going to get all to agree, so he motioned to give Pool extra \$ 3,000 and leave the other 4 the same as last year. Burnikel 2nd. Burnikel & Levenson voted Yes and Cottrell said that his vote was to shut the Pool down, the City cannot afford to keep it open, so no. Motion approved at 2 to 1 with Community Center at \$ 6,000; Fire Dept at \$ 12,000; Library at \$ 23,000; Parks at \$ 7,000 and Pool at \$ 24,000. This will leave the General Fund receiving \$ 87,809. Council set workshop & meeting for Budget and other items for January 23, at 5:30 pm.

Public Hearing for Purchasing Property: Burnikel motioned to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing with Levenson 2nd. All 3 present voted Yes. Public Hearing opened at 8:58 pm. This hearing is to purchase the property currently owned by Mark Bowen at 122 E Main Street to use as a City Shop and storage. Typer reported he had contractor Marty Rice go thru it earlier in the day, Burnikel toured the building last week. Kalstabakken & Cottrell toured the building a couple of months ago. Mayor asked why the building is needed, for storage or more? Burnikel reported that there is no more room for City equipment. Tyler reported current City Shop is crowded, currently he has to take the tractor out in order to work on the truck. The current City Shop, he can get the door shut with the plow and the sander on with about 8 inches between the door and truck. The building is for sale at \$ 30,000. Current owner, Mark Bowen, was present and he offered to open it up and take anyone thru that wants to view it again. Council meeting paused while Mark Bowen, Cottrell and Mayor Kirkpatrick went to tour the building. The 3 people came back and regular meeting resumed. Mayor asked where the funds would come from to pay for this building and the answer was from Local Option Sales Tax fund. Levenson said that prior Council meeting it was discussed that Tyler and Mitch would be able to insulate it. The building would be ready for storage right away, but it does not have heat. Council members also discussed if they would sell the storage container that was bought and moved by the water tower. Burnikel motioned to close the Public Hearing and reopen the regular Council meeting. Levenson 2nd. All 3 present voted Yes. Regular meeting re-opened at 9:30. Levenson motioned to purchase the building for \$ 30,000. Burnikel 2nd. Levenson & Burnikel voted Yes. Cottrell voted No. Motion approved to purchase building for \$ 30,000.

Other: Cottrell motioned for Vacancy to be filled by Appointment with Burnikel 2nd. All 3 Voted Yes. Motion approved for Council Vacancy to be filled by Appointment at the February Council meeting. Notice will be sent to newspaper. Cottrell announced that he had found out what was wrong with stove in the Community Center and the part is less than \$ 65. He then continued that he found that the lights could be replaced for cheaper than the quotes, by not replacing the fixtures. Cottrell asked if the Firemen could assist and Mayor asked if a public building needs a licensed electrician? Levenson answered that Fire Chief Osmundson had told the firemen, that they could not change out the lights in the Fire Station, because they were not licensed, so this would be similar. The Community Center Board will be notified and they can research this further.

Levenson motioned to adjourn with Burnikel 2nd. All 3 present voted Yes. Meeting adjourned 9:46 pm.

Rick Kirkpatrick, Mayor

Jane Tibbals, City Clerk