

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

**Member(s) present:** Jeff Burnikel, Jennifer DeVries Kalstabakken, Mike Levenson, Richard Cottrell

**City Employees:** 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, Billi Johnson, James Wendel, Bruce Moser, Eric Munkel, Wendy Miller, Scott Koster, John Heisler

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.**

**Agenda, Previous Month's Minutes, Approval of Bills, and Financial reports:** Burnikel asked if the Building be put on the Feb 13 meeting's Agenda. Burnikel motioned to approve the agenda, previous month's minutes, bills and financial reports. Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cottrell stated he wished it noted that he was not present for roll call for the January 23 special meeting nor did he sit down. City Clerk Jane asked if Cottrell would approve the minutes from Jan. 2 & Feb. 2 meetings? As there was not a quorum for all of January 23 meeting. Jane asked Burnikel if he would amend the motion to exclude Jan. 23 meeting, which he did. Mayor asked for roll call and all 4 present voted Yes. The Agenda, Jan. 2 & Feb. 2 Minutes, Bills and Financial Reports were approved.

**City Council Vacancy Appointment:** John Heisler, Billi Johnson, Terry Kirkpatrick gave short answers on why they should be on Council. Jeff Siegenthaler said he was bowing out as there were others interested. Burnikel motioned for Billi Johnson with Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kalstabakken motioned for John Heisler with Cottrell 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Council felt they could not agree, so subject tabled.

**Fire Dept Report:** Fire Chief, Scott Osmundson, reported 1 call this last month. He reported their Dance went very well and thanked all that helped make it a success. 2 Fire fighters are at the end of their Fire Fighter One training

**Library:** Eddie Miller, LS Library Board Chair, reported Library is applying for St Paul Lutheran Grant for Technology. 7 dogs attended the recent Chip & Nail held Jan 27. Library is hosting Warm Reads thru March 30. February is Book Lovers month and they are holding "Blind Date with a Book." Annual Snowman Contest began Feb 1. Valentine Story Hour Party is Feb 14. Adult activity at the Library is Feb 17. Patrons served for Nov was 161 Town and 150 Country and a total for Dec 214. Mayor called for a vote on Resolution for Library Staff raises, to be effective July 1, 2024. Burnikel & Levenson voted No. Kalstabakken voted Yes. Cottrell asked Eddie Miller, if was matching Library Director Janet DeVries' rate to City Clerk, which was going to \$ 18/hour and Eddie answered he was matching to City Employee Tyler Smith at \$ 19/hour. Levenson questioned why there was a different rate for when Library Director cleans and why wasn't the cleaning done at same time as working? Eddie asked why this required City approval, as Library as control over their funds. Jane answered that normally the raises for Library staff is rubber stamped and approved by Council, in order to print in paper. Cottrell voted Yes. Motion not approved. Jane suggested waiting until 5 Council to discuss further.

**Community Center Report:** Jane reported the 2 kitchen stoves have been ordered and the old one has been sold, with the person who bought going to take the non-working one for parts.

**Park & Recreation Dept:** Laney Frazer, Board Chair, reported she is working on grant for sand blasting the Pool. They have started to look for guards and managers. There are classes March & April. Lifeguards must be 15 years old. They received \$ 9546 for cement in the dugouts. Cement costs have increased. She has been working with Signs by Designs for possible sharing of signs to help with costs. They reported the tennis court fence needs repair. The Millstone is crumbling and Lidtke Mill Board may help with repair. John Heisler has volunteered to teach Pickle Ball. Laney reported their Board motioned to not split the Board into 2. They are still looking for interested volunteers. The Ordinance states that term limits are 3 years. Laney asked how to enforce the limits. Burnikel continued that there is a City employee on this Board, that he has had folks ask him how come? Jane answered that this is some of the ignored recommendations, that the City Attorney had provided previous Council with. It sounds like coaches and helpers with ball last season, could be a source for more Board members. Laney reported that if there was 2 boards, they would still have to share.

**Public Works Report:** Ed Hampe reported in Tyler Smith's absence that he is able to do daily chores this week. Ed will check to see if there is a fire hydrant on hand or if replacement ordered. He will contact Casey Sebastian for assistance. Kalstabakken said that she would be willing on weekends to help with daily City chores, as Council helped previously. Visitors Bruce Moser and Jeff Siegenthaler were asked if they would be willing and available to help with City Maintenance. An ad has to be published in the paper before any hiring can be done.

**Community Action's Annual Funding:** Burnikel motioned to approve annual donation of \$ 473 to Community Action with Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 voted Yes. Motion approved.

**Retain Attorney Bart Seebach as City Attorney:** Short discussion with what is available for legal assistance and the possible conflict of interest with Upper Iowa Beef also retaining his legal services. Cottrell motioned to retain Bart Seebach with Kalstabakken 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 voted Yes. Motion approved

**Hiring Deputy Clerk:** Burnikel, Mayor and Jane interviewed Carla Fortney for Deputy Clerk earlier. Burnikel motioned to hire Carla Fortney and to offer her \$ 15.00/hour with Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 voted Yes. Motion approved to offer Carla Fortney the position at \$ 15.00/hour.

**City Insurance:** New rates not available yet from Cray Insurance. CIA was asked for a quote for comparison and they came back with no enough time to get one ready and would like a chance to bid this earlier next year.

**Pay Raises for City Staff:** Burnikel motioned to approve \$ 1.00 an hour raise for City employees, Mitch Smith, Jerry White and Jane Tibbals with Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kalstabakken questioned the effective date of Jan 1, and asked when was last raise, Jane answered it was Jan 2023. Jane stated the evaluations were done in November, that the raises normally talked about at that time dropped and she is just trying to finish this up. Kalstabakken suggested date of Feb 6, Levenson asked which would be easier for a date – 1<sup>st</sup> of a month? Jane answered that 1<sup>st</sup> of a month is always easier to work with, so Levenson said 1<sup>st</sup> of February then. All 4 voted Yes. Resolution 02062024-3 approved for Jerry White & Mitch Smith pay rate to increase from \$ 14.50/hour to \$ 15.50/hour and Jane Tibbals pay rate to increase from \$ 17.00/hour to \$ 18.00/hour and the rates to be effective Feb 1, 2024.

**City Entities Budgets:** The 5 entities, Library, Fire Dept, Parks, Pool and Community Center Boards had prepared their budgets and Council has copies of each. Cottrell asked why not share more of the property taxes with the entities. Mayor and Levenson stated this was already voted on at January 2 meeting. Kalstabakken stated that the entities already have their budgets done and can re-look at next year giving everyone more. Burnikel motioned to accept the Entities Budgets with Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kalstabakken, Levenson & Burnikel voted Yes with Cottrell voted No. City Entities Budgets approved.

**Budget & Tax Rate:** Jane handed out updated Budgets to include the Entities and she increased the Debt Service to \$ 30,000; this increased the tax rate to 12.32378, last year's rate was 11.69025. Cottrell questioned why the City can spend money for a different City truck, snow plow and buying a building all for about \$ 100,000 and the City can't give the entities \$ 10,000 more? He continued with we sold approximately \$ 144,000 of water to Beef Plant and how much did it cost to produce this water? It was pointed out that the budget reflects last year's numbers as approx \$ 157,000 expensed to water with \$ 235,738 as water income. Jane answered that there are loan payments of over \$ 140,000 that are to be expensed to water coming up this year. James Wendel answered that the net number for water is \$ 78,853 that Cottrell may be looking for. He continued that without the Beef Plant this would be a negative number. Levenson motioned to go with the tax rate and budget as presented with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 voted Yes.

**Special Council meeting with City Engineers & Upper Iowa Beef reps scheduled for February 13, 2024 at 4 pm.** This is an open meeting that anyone can attend.

**Special Election:** Burnikel motioned for Special Election with Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Motion approved for Special Election instead of appointing for Council vacancy.

Levenson motioned to adjourn with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Meeting adjourned 8:11 pm.