

Mayor Rick Kirkpatrick called the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Lime Springs to order in the Community Center on May 22, 2024 at 5 pm.

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

**City Employees:** Kendall Fox (Public Works Director), Jane Tibbals (City Clerk)

**Visitor(s):** Jill Tibbals, Terry Kirkpatrick

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.**

**Agenda:** Kalstabakken motioned to approve the Agenda, with Heisler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 voted Yes. The Agenda was Approved.

**Pool Guard Applications:** 3 Pool Guard Applications were presented to Council for Approval: Alyssa Friedhof, Emily Bjugan-Hanson, Rose Niewoehner. Kalstabakken motioned with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve hiring the 3 applicants pending on their certifications. All 5 Voted Yes. Motion approved for Alyssa Friedhof, Emily Bjugan-Hanson and Rose Niewoehner to be hired as Pool Guards.

**Bolton & Menk Updates on City Project:** Drew Weber, City Engineer sent an email instead of presenting in-person. Drew suggested waiting on the concrete crushing as there maybe some cost savings of including it in next Spring's road projects. Cottrell asked where City was at with locking the gate and Mayor answered that work needs to be done before locks are put on. Council asked Kendall to get a separate quote from Jedd for crushing, plus check with Linkenmeyer to see if their quote of \$ 25, 000 plus \$ 1200 mobilization fee is still good. It was commented that the concrete has been moved around in order to measure it, it may just look like more since instead of piled up it has been spread out. Levenson motioned for Brent Mehmert's quote of \$ 165/hour with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 Voted Yes. Motion approved for Brent Mehmert for 20 to 25 hours @ \$ 165/hour to move dirt at the Tree Dump. Mayor said that he would contact Brent to see when he can work and get that started. Signage was mentioned to help people when they take stuff out there. Kendall mentioned that the wood chips from Alliant's tree trimming, is probably not the right kind for spreading in the Parks.

**Truck Route:** Kendall had mapped out the truck routes thru town and suggested arrows along with signs that say, "Truck Route."

**Rate Increases:** Terry K. asked if the increase in money is used for upcoming water projects. Jane answered that most of the increase of revenue is absorbed by increased maintenance costs. Heisler mentioned that maybe a substantial increase such as 5% or more, to help plan for future. Burnikel mentioned if too much, than folks are going to be more upset. Cottrell said that many folks on fixed income may find it harder to increase as have increased in last 2 years. Kalstabakken mentioned that even dollar amounts may be easier to figure. Jane mentioned that system will prorate it , so will not stay even dollar amounts. Levenson motioned for 4% increase with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 Voted Yes. Motioned approved for 4% increase in Water Base Rate, Water Usage, Sewer Base Rate and Sewer Usage. Garbage already has increases set up in their contract and these will all be effective July 1.

**Wellhouse:** Eric Munkel had submitted a quote of \$ 14,000 for materials, not counting dollars towards the foundation, nor labor. The heater also needs to be replaced. The original building is from 1944. Site Services has already removed the asbestos from the outside of the building. Casey Sebastian (Iowa Rural Water) & City Engineers have suggested that the pump be rebuilt. Kendall had already contacted Northway Well & Pump to get prices for rebuilding as well as replacing and timelines. Heisler thought that \$ 14,000 seems high for size, but the price includes 2 windows, door & insulation. Mayor asked if both wellhouses have the same pump equipment and since was done at different times, even the brand names are different as well as pump sizes, so no.

**Nuisance Ordinance:** Jane asked Council a couple of questions on how they wanted to update the current Ordinance. Council brought up a couple of places in town that need to mow their lawns. Current Ordinance does not state how often or how long to allow lawns before mowing required. Jane

had suggested 12 inches, Council suggested 6 to 10 inches and settled on 10. Levenson suggested 1 warning with a timeline of 3 days but after that put a fine on them. Suggestion was \$ 50 for a fine and current rates are already set up at \$ 150 if the City has to mow it. Levenson mentioned that if the City mows someone's lawn and because of their having junk in the lawn, then City has to also charge them for fixing City mowers. Jane had also suggested to add a nuisance clause regarding "Blowing Grass into the Street." Currently in the State of Iowa it is not illegal to blow grass into the street, however this can be a danger to motorcycles as well as goes into the storm drains. Jane also suggested adding a clause specifically about "Abandoned Appliances" as a nuisance. Council said if these have to specified in order to get folks to comply, then add them. Jane then brought up "Inoperable Vehicles." Current Ordinances do not address anything about vehicles and machinery as long as they are on private property. Mayor asked what about lawn mowers and the answer is that as long as they are off the boulevard, then yes lawn mowers, vehicles and machinery can be visible in a person's yard. Burnikel mentioned that these vehicles can be considered someone's therapy by them tinkering with them. Levenson goes how to word this so that there can be a different between "Yard Art" and "Junk." Kendall suggested about putting a number on to determine what is "junk." Mayor brought up what about temporary having a vehicle there until someone is building a garage or fixing. A fence was suggested for some yards. The problem of enforcement was also brought up. Heisler & Levenson also said that by someone allowing their area to look rundown, this brings the value of the neighborhood's properties down. Council at this time to leave the "Inoperable Vehicles" alone on private property, but to keep them off the boulevard and public property. Jane then asked about "Numbering of Buildings." Current Ordinance states that all buildings are to be numbered. Suggested to add "Visible Numbers." Levenson brought up that this is a 911 requirement, everyone should have "Visible Numbers." Jane then brought up if there should be anything in the Ordinances where someone may be living in their car and the house doesn't have water or sewer connected to currently. Again, enforcement was brought up. Cottrell asked if they have Garbage charges and no they do not since they do not pay for water or sewer. Jane asked if the fines should be in the Ordinance or be put in the Resolution for fees and Council said the Resolution so that fees can be changed easier. The Schedule of Fees Resolution will be presented for approval at next meeting along with an updated Nuisance Ordinance.

Levenson motioned to adjourn with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 5 Voted Yes. Meeting adjourned 6:26 pm.

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**Rick Kirkpatrick, Mayor**

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**Jane Tibbals, City Clerk**