

Mayor Rick Kirkpatrick called the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lime Springs to order in the Lime Springs Community Center on February 4, 2025 6:30 pm.

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

**Absent:** Jennifer Kalstabakken,

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

**Visitor(s):** Jill Tibbals, Jeff Siegenthaler, Eddie Miller, Drew Weber (Bolton & Menk), Stacie Wendel, Sonda Niewoehner, Renee Gher, BJ Fritcher, Rhonda Klapperich, Dennis Grabau

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.**

**Agenda:** Heisler motioned to approve the agenda, previous month's minutes, bills & financial reports. Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 voted Yes. The Agenda, January 7 Minutes, Bills & Financial Reports Approved.

**Fire Dept:** Council Levenson reported in Chief Scott Osmundson, absence. LS FD responded to 4 or 5 fires this last month. Thank you to all that helped make the Soup Supper & Dance Fundraiser a great success. 2 sets of Turn Out gear have been ordered to keep up with the rotation.

**Resolution 02042025-1 Write off Fire Calls:** Burnikel motioned to write off \$1,000 in Fire Calls billed with Heisler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 voted Yes. Motion approved for the write off.

**Library Board:** Eddie Miller, Board President, reported the Library's activities in February including Warm Reads starting Feb 1 – March 31; Feb is Library Lovers month which includes Date with a Book; Snowman Contest starting Feb 1 – March 31; Lego Program had 7 attend; Bingo night; Book Discussion is Message in a Bottle; & Chip & Nail Program on Feb 15 for \$12 with Chips available for \$ 25. Patrons served for December was 171 Town & 126 Country.

**Community Center Board:** Jane pointed out their Board's minutes reports Center is switching their lights to LED with the Fire Dept also switching to LED. Both areas have the money saved. Electrician has been contacted. They both decided to go with retro fit instead of different fixtures. Cottrell added the Health Inspector came and inspected the kitchen for the Seniors' meals and passed 100%. He continued that folks have come to him thanking the City for what the Center looks like and having it available for use. Cottrell also asked there be a clarification regarding the Center being reported as a Storm Shelter, it is only to be used when there is no Power, as it is not safe from Tornados.

**Park & Rec Board:** no one from Board available, however Jane reported that she had checked with Alliant regarding the Pool's electric bill. Previously Pool had been billed for basic service during the off season around \$ 18/month but the bill changed to \$ 75/month and when called, it was because Alliant had previously not billed the 3 phase basic service correctly. Jane checked with Alliant re disconnecting power during offseason and found the disconnect & reconnect charge is \$ 78.11 each time. Jane checked and at the Parks, if going to disconnect & reconnect during offseason, the charge is \$ 18.11, but then there is no power in shelter nor for Christmas lights. Council feels power should be left on for Parks. The basic charge for Parks is \$ 18.17/month. Jeff S volunteered to look into switching the Pool from 3 phase power to single.

**St Paul Lutheran Church Transfer of Property to City:** Levenson motioned to accept the designated property from the Church with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Jane reported attorney estimated costs of doing transfer and survey is approx. \$ 1,000. Nearby property owner, Tom Stevenson expressed to both Jane & Burnikel, his interest about buying the property that is already fenced that he has been mowing, that he thought was already his and survey reported it was church property. 133 feet by 52 feet appears to be the fenced in area. Cottrell asked if need to contact someone to see what land is worth, but rest of Council disagreed since it is landlocked and not really use to anyone else. Levenson motioned to let Stevenson buy the land for the total costs of doing this transfer with Heisler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Burnikel, Levenson & Heisler Voted Yes. Cottrell Voted No. Motion approved for Stevenson to buy the land requested for the total costs of property transfer & survey.

**Public Works:** Kendall Fox, Public Works Director, answered Spring Ahead Learning Center's request for maintenance schedules as requested by the Fire Marshall. Sonda Niewoehner, SALC director reported that she had taken care of the Sprinkler System area and just asking that City take care of Generator and Fire Extinguishers' documentation standards. Kendall reported that he had looked for the previous records and Jane said that she didn't think previous PW workers have been documenting it, so there may not be any previous records. Sonda said that would make sense as SALC was previously cited in 2018 & 2021. Sonda asked if the records could be kept on site, as the inspectors show up unannounced. Kendall asked for copies to be kept off-site as well. Jane asked what is being done with the sprinklers to comply and Sonda reported that Blackhawk is inspecting twice a year and she contacted them to switch to quarterly and the Fire Marshall accepted this to comply. Jane questioned what is required as the Blackhawk costs are currently being paid by the City and each visit is approx. \$ 250. Sonda reported quarterly is what is required and since this is a City building, City should pay in order for them to keep their license. Jane had printed out the costs for the last couple of years for these inspections. Heisler questioned the costs of Semi-Annual Fire Alarm inspection, which is \$ 400 each visit from Hawkeye Communication. Cottrell asked if this should be something open for bids. Jane reminded that the SALC lease is up for renewal in October and until then rent is \$150/month. Levenson motioned for City to pay the extra costs for Blackhawk with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cottrell asked if SALC had money in the bank, for financial information and how many children in care. Sonda reported that currently 37 children are enrolled. Heisler asked if financials could be available to Council and Sonda said that she will ask the board. Burnikel, Levenson & Heisler Voted Yes. Cottrell Voted No. Cottrell asked if SALC was part of the grant that Jason Passmore had spoken about earlier and Sonda reported yes Howard Co Coalition is being used to pay wages & bonuses to staff. Cottrell reported there are tree branches that need to be cut near SALC.

**Bolton & Menk:** Drew Weber, City Engineer reported their findings regarding Water demands of current and possible future demands for UIB growth. Future pumping demands reflect over 5 times more pumped. With this growth comes the requirement for a third City Well. Drew reported improving distribution by adding a loop from Lincoln St to UIB. The growth also requires additional storage and he presented the 2 options of adding a Water Tower or adding an at grade storage tank. Both options are 500,000 gallons. Drew reported this would be funded as one project, tho there will be different contractors involved and Bolton & Menk will oversee them onsite. Heisler asked if this would be debt serviced and Drew answered yes. Drew reported that UIB is 85% of City's current water use. Heisler asked if commercial and residential rates have to be the same and Drew answered no. He continued that Maggie, as financial advisor, would be best person to help City make those decisions. City rates currently are all the same. Drew responded that all 3 wells and the 2 storage would be looked as one system, where the water is ran to one place, then chemicals mixed, then pumped to storage and then pumped to each person/business . If not, then DNR would recognize as 2 systems and have to run double the tests and maintain separately. Levenson motioned for Bolton & Menk to go with Alternative 1 with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Motion approved which included 2<sup>nd</sup> 500,000 gallon Water Tower, 3<sup>rd</sup> Well, Looping Water Main from Lincoln St to UIB and Funding options. Costs were estimated at \$ 7.27 million. Bolton & Menk plan to bring more details to March meeting and Mayor will share these plans with UIB before March meeting. Bolton & Menk's first step is to contact the firm that assists in locating the best places for well drilling. Drew said that he will send a proposal for updating the City's Water System maps. The updated technology will put the maps on electronics, including phones. Drew updated Council on the Merrill Street Bridge Project, DNR has delayed and appears to have started some of the processes over again. Drew re-submitted and they told him it could be another 9 months from January update. Drew has been keeping Howard Co up to date on the bridge project.

**Public Works Continued:** Kendall reported City truck still has the check engine light on after it was repaired. It has been diagnosed as DPF filter which is estimated at \$2500 labor plus \$4500 for filter.

Heisler asked if it could be deleted or bypassed. Levenson said Ford dealer won't since it comes as standard equipment. It was suggested that trickle charge be put on every night. Levenson motioned to replace the DPF if that will fix it with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Kendall reported a Fire hydrant needs repair due to being backed over. He has the parts and the individual's car insurance is asking for costs including labor. Kendall is going to change oil in Well House generator before electrician comes to wire it & then propane can be added to tank. Jane presented the annual Water Use Report. The difference between pumped and billed was 10 million gallons. Part of the difference is not metering or documenting the meters from pool, fire station, library, shop, watering flowers. Council also asked Kendall to check into adding meter to hydrant in front of fire station, that is used frequently.

**Community Club Report:** Burnikel reported LS Community Club donated \$12,500 for new Holiday lights, \$4,000 for Welcome sign on Hwy 63, \$1,500 for Flowers, \$4,000 Pool and \$1,000 to Community Center and \$2,065 to Fire Dept for using the facility and their support. In 2024, they sponsored Easter Egg Hunt, LS Tractor Pull, Christmas in LS with chili and Santa and over \$36,383 spent for 3 days of Sweet Corn Days. Thank you to all volunteers and donors that make this happen. Levenson suggested to set date to take decorations down, they have been unplugged.

**Tree Grant:** Howard Co Comm. Foundaton granted \$ 5,000 towards taking down trees. 2 bids have been received to take down 30+ trees, from Tarzan and from Underwood. City has seen what Tarzan does and would like to evaluate Underwood. Heisler motioned to have Underwood come in and take a couple of trees down with Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Motion approved and to start at SALC.

**Howard Winn Schools Giving Back to Community Day:** Park & Rec presented their lists and asked Kendall to give a list. Council suggested painting lines, curbs, and trimming trees. Cottrell asked Kendall to paint yellow no parking at end of sidewalk at Community Center so that folks cease parking there so sidewalk ramp can be used by seniors.

**All Electricity being shut down for up to an hour:** Alliant is asking City to schedule a day to shut down all power for up to an hour while they make updates. They requested day hours, Monday thru Thursday, sometime April or May. Jane contacted Clinic and Johnson Farms. Clinic said they close at noon on Tuesday & Thursday and Johnson Farms said try to make it a Tuesday at 2 pm so they can plan a break then. Jane is going to ask for 2 weeks' notice so that folks in town can plan.

**Community Action Funding:** Annual request for \$ 473. Heisler motioned to do the annual donation with Levenson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Motion approved for \$ 473.

**Casey Credit Card:** Jane researched and Casey's offers an 8 cent per gallon discount with a \$ 1.75/month charge for as many cards as needed. The discount includes gas & diesel. No monthly interest as card paid in full each month. Levenson motioned to get the card with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Motion approved for City to obtain Casey's card.

**City Web Page:** Jane has appointment with current web page designer & maintainer this Saturday.

**City Entity Budgets:** The 5 entities, Library, Fire Dept, Parks, Pool and Community Center Boards had prepared their budgets and Council has copies of each. Levenson motioned to accept the Entities Budgets with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. City Entities Budgets approved.

**City Tax Rate:** Jane presented 4 options for Tax Levy Rates. Last year's rate was 12.3. Levenson motioned to increase the rate to 14 with full Debt Service and Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. Burnikel, Heisler, Levenson Voted Yes and Cottrell Voted No. Motion approved to increase Tax Levy to 14.

Levenson motioned to adjourn with Burnikel 2<sup>nd</sup>. All 4 Voted Yes. Meeting adjourned 8:42 pm.