

**Lanesboro City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**

**Present:** Jason Resseman, Autumn Johnson, Robin Krom, Tom Dybing and Tom Smith

**Absent:** None

**Visitors:** Tom Manion

**Regular Meeting:**

Mayor Krom called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

- A. Agenda:** Council Member Resseman made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted with no additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Council Member Johnson. Motion carried all in favor.
  
- B. Minutes:** Council Member Johnson pointed out clerical corrections to the August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 meeting minutes which include: two spelling corrections, and the striking of the section with regards to liaisons from the Council to the various departments. It was discussed that Council Member Dybing would be the liaison for the street department. Council Member Resseman moved to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting from August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 with the aforementioned clerical corrections. Motion seconded by Council Member Dybing. Motion carried all in favor.

**Proclamation by Mayor Krom:** Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Mayor Krom read aloud a proclamation and presented Eric Sutter with an official copy.

**Public Hearing:** Zoning Change Request, 203 Elmwood Street E from R-1 to R-3. Mayor Krom opened the Public Hearing. There had been one comment that was emailed to the city office, stating the concern for the upkeep of the property if it was allowed to be rented on a short term basis. Residents John and Ann Tuff were on hand to express their concerns over the frequent turnover of the property, as well as the concern of cleanliness. Greg Lenz stated that he and his family have loved the idea of Lanesboro and they were hoping to be able to do short term rentals in order to offset the mortgage payments. Heather Lenz stated that she would be responsible for the upkeep on the property. The Lenz's also mentioned that they would require a 2 to 3 night minimum stay. Mr. Lenz stated that he had spoken with past Administrator David Todd; Todd had advised a possible change of zoning. The request had been approved by the Planning & Zoning commission.

Resident Peggy Hanson stated that there has been a long history of issue between what should be zoned residential and what should be allowed for short term rental. Stating the main point of how this could change the character of the neighborhood. Resident Theresa Coleman also stated how this request opens up a much larger discussion on zoning within Lanesboro.

Council member Resseman noted that the Planning and Zoning committee had given their approval based on the adjacent are being zoned R-3; they did not feel that this was spot zoning, as the property is within a block of downtown. City attorney Tom Manion stated that in order to pass this amendment it would need to have 4 of 5 votes. Manion also stated in his opinion this was spot zoning.

It was noted that the city is need of a new map for Planning & Zoning, to be able to have the most up to date information, and to be able to make informed decisions. Council member Dybing made a motion to approve the change in zoning from R-1 to R-3 for 203 Elmwood St E. Council member Resseman seconded. In favor were Council Members Dybing and Resseman, opposed Council Members Johnson and Smith, as well as Mayor Krom.

Council member Johnson made a motion to close the Public Hearing, Council member Dybing seconded, motion carried all in favor.

### **Committee/Commission Reports:**

- A. Library:** Board member Keith Ekstrom gave the updates for the Library. David Hennessey was recently elected to the SELCO board. Ekstrom also stated that two super readers had been rewarded for the reading over the summer. Finally he stated that during the month of July over 1700 patrons had visited the Lanesboro Library.
- B. Ambulance:** Director Benson provided the report to the Council regarding Ambulance activities for the month of August. Benson noted that the Ambulance was still waiting to hear back from the school board in regards to possible negotiations of land use for an Ambulance building. Benson requested approval for the appointment of Lee Peterson as a First Responder. Council member Johnson made a motion to approve Peterson to the Lanesboro Ambulance, Mayor Krom seconded, motion carried all in favor.
- C. Public Utilities:** LPU Commissioner Coleman was there to provide a report. She stated that the LPU had executed an agreement to have the diesel engines retrofitted to meet current emission standards. The agreement is with Farabee Mechanical for \$116,400 excluding taxes, with additional \$2,100 bond fee. Once the retrofitting has been completed LPU will be able to continue receiving extra capacity with annual revenue of \$126,571 for 2016. The project is set to be completed by December 31, 2015. Council member Dybing asked about the status of the current water project. Commissioner Coleman noted that they are nearing completion.
- D. HPC:** Council member Resseman gave the update for HPC. He noted that the committee had met on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and that the city had received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society for a member of our committee to attend the annual Historic Preservation Conference. It was mentioned that committee member Dahle may be interested in attending; Administrator Peterson will reach out to him.
- E. Planning and Zoning:** Council member Resseman also gave the update for the Planning and Zoning committee. The committee met on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 during this meeting they approved: 211 E Elmwood – rehabilitation of existing structure, 100 Sheridan St – Storage Shed, 401 Hillcrest St – replace deck, 203 Elmwood – Rezoning request from R1 to R3, 708 Viking Ave – Replace sidewalk, 503 Kenilworth Ave – Garden shed on skids, 103 Kirkwood St – Privacy fence, 604 Auburn – Garage, retaining wall, and driveway approach. He also noted that there was a special Planning and zoning meeting held on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in which the Lanesboro Golf Course was on hand to provide information in relation to a well they are planning on digging.

- F. Park Board:** Council member Johnson reported on the meeting held August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. She reported that the gazebo had been cleaned and stained, the border around the playground has been repaired, and that the old BBQ building will be converted to storage for the Park Department. Council member Smith noted an interest in finding a way to have the public view the inside of the cabin in the park, noting historic interest. Administrator Peterson advised that committee member Steve Rahn had officially resigned from the park board. Council member Johnson requested that an ad be placed running for two weeks announcing an opening on the Park Board to replace member Rahn.
- G. EDA:** Council member Resseman gave an update on the meeting held September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The EDA has hired someone to assist with a social media campaign. The EDA is searching out ideas for city wide Wi-Fi, as well as the possibility of a staff position within the EDA. It was also mentioned that member Bill Swanson had spoken with Titen Development regarding assistance with investment direction. Cost for providing a community assessment to determine the need for a developer can cost \$3000 to \$8000 to complete.
- H. Lanesboro Chamber of Commerce:** Business director Shirley Mulder was present to update the Council. She noted that mulch had been placed around the Chamber building, in the rain. She stated what a great job Park Director Ardell Nordgaard had done on the weeding in that area. The Chamber of Commerce is also hosting a contest to decorate light poles in the downtown area. Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Taste of the Trail event will be held outside of the depot building. Cheryl Krage the new Director of Tourism will be starting on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- I. Fire Department:** Administrator Peterson noted that a grant through AgStar financial had been applied for. The Fire Department is also looking into a whistle to be placed on the new Water Treatment facility, so that residents on that side of town can be alerted. They are also looking into the idea of changing the reasons for blowing the whistle, perhaps just for weather concerns, so as to lessen the confusion. Another item they are looking into is the ability to signal the whistle remotely, currently a member of the Fire Department must physically be in place to push a button.
- J. Street Department:** Street Superintendent Andy Drake was present to discuss several items. First item is in regards to the Street Shop and the lack of gutters present. Drake noted that runoff from the rain near the Salt Shed is undermining the pavement. He requested two bids, however only one was received. Schultz builders would make repairs to the building in order to hand gutters, while Latch Island Gutters would hang the gutters. Total cost of unbudgeted item is \$1,812.57. Council member Resseman motioned to approve repairs as estimated. Mayor Krom seconded, motion carried all in favor.
- Drake then presented the quote from Dunn Blacktop for the project completion on the 700 block of Kenilworth Ave S. This portion of the project was not included in the original bid. The extra black top at the time had been used to pave an alley way. Council member Tom Dybing moved to approve the quote from Dunn Blacktop to complete the paving on Kenilworth Ave S. Council member Johnson seconded. Motion carried, all in favor.
- Drake also mentioned the money the city will be receiving through the Small Cities Assistance, for cities under 5000 in population. Lanesboro will be receiving \$16,671; the city has already received one half of that, with the remainder to be paid out before the end of the year. The issue of whether or not another parking sign should be added to Coffee Street was discussed next. The cost for an additional sign would be \$120.00. It

was decided not to move forward at this point. Administrator Peterson was asked to reach out to John Davis with Lanesboro Arts in regards to a comprehensive plan for the City for signs and lighting ideas.

An ordinance with regards to the Bass Pond and the parking from the outfitters was asked to be placed on next month's agenda. As well City attorney Tom Manion will provide an ordinance for right of way to be presented at the next Council meeting.

### **Community Interest:**

- A. Michael Charlebois – Mr. Charlebois was present to discuss the ongoing issue of erosion below the Riverside on the Root building. An old storm drain is now plugged with concrete, when repairs were made several years ago and the drain was moved upstream. Prior attempts to fix the issue have made things worse. Council members Smith and Resseman both stated they had seen the erosion. Charlebois noted that he had obtained a quote from Ditch Creek Landscaping for \$4,460. They would place fabric and then riprap to slow erosion. Council member Johnson asked that there be more than one estimate. Mr. Charlebois will bring additional estimates to next months' Council meeting.
- B. Peggy Hanson and Frank Wright – Hanson and Wright were present to discuss the brush dump. They would like to see the City find an alternative to burning the brush dump. Currently the City burns once a year during the winter months. The larger pieces of trees are cut and the smaller pieces are chipped. When a contractor is involved they will take away the large parts of the tree, while leaving the smaller parts at the brush dump. It was determined that the City does have a permit to burn issued from the DNR. It was noted that perhaps the City may need a permit as well from the MPCA for composting of yard waste. Hanson and Wright would like to look to the future for carbon emissions, reducing waste. They would like to see the Council begin a conversation with other area towns in the area with regards to composting. Hanson and Wright would like to form a small committee to begin looking into possible ideas to bring back to the council. Council member Johnson asked that they consider the scope of the topic. The Council stated they were open to listening to ideas.
- C. Lanesboro Golf Course – Council member Resseman updated the Council on the Golf Course's plan to continue digging a well. The area the well be placed in is zoned Agricultural, therefore no additional permits were required. The clubhouse will still be connected to the City infrastructure. The well is for irrigation purposes only. It was noted that the Golf Course had obtained its first permit from the State of Minnesota; after the well is complete the contractor will then apply for the second permit.

### **Regular Business:**

- A. **Accounts Payable:** Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve the payables as presented. Motion was seconded by Council Member Resseman. Motion carried all in favor. Council member Smith requested that the department for each expense be written on the payables report.
- B. EDA Open Position – Mayor Krom made a motion to approve the appointment of Michael Brown to the EDA. Council member Johnson seconded. Motion carried all in favor.

C. 2016 Budget – Council member Smith voiced concerns with the Police budget. It was asked that a council member meet with Administrator Peterson as well as department directors to review the budget as follows:

- Ambulance – Council member Johnson
- Fire – Council member Johnson
- Police – Council member Smith
- Street – Council member Dybing
- Park – Council member Johnson
- Administration – Mayor Krom
- EDA – Council member Resseman
- Library – Mayor Krom

Council member Smith made a motion to approve the preliminary budget. Mayor Krom seconded, motion carried all in favor.

D. Miscellaneous – Council member Resseman made a motion to approve the minutes from the special Council meeting held August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Council member Smith seconded, motion carried all in favor.

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURN:** Council Member Dybing moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Council Member Johnson. Motion carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson  
City Administrator/Clerk