

**Lanesboro City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

**Absent:** None

**Visitors:** Attorney Tom Manion, Bretta Grabau, Char Brown, Hannah Wingert, Lee Peterson, Elaine and Mark Edwards, Bill Swanson, Jerod Wagner, Greg Schieber, Sheryl Johnson, Ceil Allen, Ken Graner, Rick Lamon, Anna Loney, Cheryl Krage, LuAnn Wilcox, Julie Kiehne, Vicki Torkelson, Bethany Krom, Harriet Lawston, Bonnie Handmacher, Andy Batstone, Matt Schultz, John Dahle, Lester & Diane Dunn, Sandra Webb, Pat Schmidt, Harriet Dollar, and Denise Dahle.

**Regular Meeting:**

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

- A. Agenda:** Member Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted with the additions of: Sign removal at Parkway & Whittier, PTO Discussion, Taxi Cab, and Attorney Services for 2017 to the top of Regular Business. Motion seconded by Council Member Resseman. Motion carried all in favor.
- B. Approval of Minutes:**
1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  2. Minutes of the Special Meeting, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Member Johnson motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Mayor Krom seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- C. Consent Agenda:**
1. Ordinance 30.111
  2. Accounts Payable
- Member Resseman motioned to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Mayor Krom seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

**Public Hearing:** Rick and Cheryl Lamon 100 Beacon Street East – Mayor Krom opened the Public Hearing at 5:32 p.m. Mr. Lamon provided a description of the proposed project. Property owner Henry Becker offered he had no objections to the project. Administrator Peterson shared a letter of concern with the Council. It was noted that Planning & Zoning approved of the project. Member Dybing motioned to approve the request for variance. Member Resseman seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

**Committee/Commission Reports:**

- A. Fire:** Chief Jerod Wagner was present to provide the report. He noted that the department had recently gone through an application and interview process for two new firemen. The department is recommending the appointment of Collin Bakke and Cody Hungerholt. Member Smith motioned to approve the appointment for Collin Bakke and Cody Hungerholt. Member Resseman seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor. Wagner also mentioned the County had applied for and received

grant funding for a 50 / 50 match for radios. The new radios will include a base until for the fire hall. Also noted was that currently there is a problem with the mass text issuance through Verizon. The County is working on a solution. The 1992 truck has been listed for sale, however no interest has been shown yet. The truck is currently being stored at the Water Treatment Facility. Wagner also stated that total calls for the year were up to 24, which is much higher than the average.

- B. Museum:** Sandy Webb was present to thank the Council for their support of the Museum in the building repairs. She also noted how improved the Museum is with the new data base system. Finally she invited the council to an event in February of 2017.
- C. Chamber of Commerce:** Cheryl Krage was present to provide a report to the Council. She noted that the Inn Tour had taken place last weekend, with over 300 tickets sold. There is a Holiday Open House from 3-5 pm tomorrow, as well as the Annual Meeting will be held January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Krage then brought forward the discussion of the matching grant and the request for \$400 from the City. Sheryl Johnson was also present and noted the City, School, and LPU have been contributing since 2005. Mayor Krom motioned to approve payment of \$400 towards the matching portion of the grant. Member Dybing seconded the motion. Mayor Krom and Members Dybing and Smith voted in favor of. Members Johnson and Resseman voted no. Motion carried.
- D. Task Force:** Julie Kiehne was present to provide a final report from the Task Force. She gave an overview of the members of the Task Force, the process, as well as the work completed. The group has created a Project Proposal form as well as a Project Summary Report for future volunteer efforts. She stated the Task Force has completed what it had been charged with. She felt that perhaps in the future new groups could be formed in an effort to keep the momentum going. Mayor Krom thanked the Task Force the work completed. It was requested that the Task Force be placed on the January agenda.

**Truth in Taxation Hearing:** Mayor Krom opened the hearing at 6:02 p.m. Administrator Peterson stated that proposed budget resulted in a 2.9% increase to the levy for 2017. Mayor Krom stated that the preliminary budget had been set higher in anticipation that it could not be finalized higher than the preliminary. Mayor Krom then opened the hearing to public input. Andy Batstone presented the Council with a spreadsheet on property tax information he had gathered. Further discussion was had regarding the Homestead Credit, the School Levy, and on Property Tax values. Member Dybing motioned to close the hearing at 6:19 p.m. Member Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

#### **Regular Business:**

- A. Sign Removal at Parkway & Whittier:** Member Johnson motioned to approve the removal of the “No U Turn” sign at the intersection of Parkway Avenue South and Whittier Street. Mayor Krom seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- B. PTO Discussion:** Administrator Peterson explained that currently the Employee Policy states that no PTO time can be paid out, the time must be taken off. Peterson received a request to have the PTO paid out at 50%, rather than the employee losing that time off. Member Johnson suggested checking with the League to look for sample policies. Member Smith provided an example that had been used at the County years ago. Member Smith motioned to table the discussion. Mayor Krom seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- C. Taxi Cab Ordinance:** The discussion began by reviewing the proposed ordinance, along with the suggestions from LuAnn Wilcox. Further discussion was had regarding Uber and the Tour businesses in town. Mayor Krom motioned to table the discussion to allow for Council and the City Attorney to complete further discovery. Member Resseman seconded the motion. Discussion then continued to

inspections, something that is required by state statute, as well as driver qualifications and insurance requirements. Member Johnson inquired to Wilcox if she had a plan or an idea on what she would like to do. Wilcox replied that it would depend on what the ordinance dictates. Motion carried all in favor.

- D. Attorney Services:** Mayor Krom advised that there were 2 RFP's for Attorney Services received. Administrator Peterson provided a spreadsheet showing the different options submitted. It was noted that the retainer option from Nethercut Schieber would include prosecution fees. Also discussed were extra fees, it was noted that both requests were similar. Member Resseman motioned to accept Attorney Manion's proposal of a retainer fee of \$19,500.00 per year. Member Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- E. 2017 Budget:** Member Smith motioned to decrease the salary increase to 2%, rather than the 2% step increase and 2% cola. Due to no second to the motion, motion died. Member Johnson motioned to remove the \$7,500 budgeted for the EDA. Member Resseman seconded the motion. Mayor Krom noted he was opposed to that idea, Krom then invited input from visitor Andy Batstone, Harmony EDA. Discussion was then had regarding the purpose for the funding. Members Johnson and Resseman voted in favor. Mayor Krom and Members Dybing and Smith voted no. Motion failed. Member Resseman inquired on the funds being budgeted for the Park Department truck replacement. Member Smith inquired if staff could begin work on the new brush dump as time allows over the winter months.
- 1. Resolution 2016-21 Certifying Final 2017 Tax Levy to County Auditor:** Member Dybing motioned to approve the budget as submitted with a 2.9% increase to the levy. Mayor Krom seconded the motion. Mayor Krom and Members Johnson, Dybing, and Resseman voted yes. Member Smith voted no. Motion carried.
- F. Ordinance 54.06- Utility Fees for 2017:** Discussion was had regarding the need for the increases. Administrator Peterson provided the explanation for the sewer, electric, and garbage. Member Dybing gave an overview of the benefits to looking at a tiered water rate system. LPU commission member Brown stated that the REU is an engineering calculation, not a rate system. Brown also felt that feedback from the community had been positive during the special meeting discussion the change to water rates. Mayor Krom motioned to table the discussion hoping that LPU could provide a demonstration to the Council. Member Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Krom and Members Johnson, Dybing, and Smith voted yes. Member Resseman voted no. Motion carried.
- G. Continued Business:**
- 1. Davy Engineering Contract:** Administrator Peterson verified that the funds that had been spent thus far on the project would be funded back to the city prior to the end of the year. Member Resseman motioned to terminate the contract with Davy Engineering. Mayor Krom seconded the motion. Attorney Manion noted that all though the contract could be terminated for convenience; the City could be billed for closeout costs. The motion was amended to inquire regarding the costs relating to cancelation. Motion carried all in favor.
  - 2. Herbicide Task Force:** Member Dybing and Anna Loney both stated they are looking forward to spring for further updates. Ms. Loney also requested that the name of the Task Force be changed, however no suggestions were made.
- H. Administrator Update:** Administrator Peterson thanked the Council for all of their work the last year. Peterson then presented the Council members with their checks for the year. Also presented were two

certificates, first to Robin Krom for his 2 years of service. Finally a certificate was presented to Tom Dybing for his 12 years of service on the City Council.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURN:** Council Member Dybing moved to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Motion seconded by Mayor Krom. Motion carried all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson  
City Administrator/Clerk