

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL
December 7, 2020– 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Becky Anderson, Rebecca Van Der Wege, Ed Radatz, Kirsten Bruce, Blaine Heble, Rick Martin, Mark Friesen, Jodi Duncan

ABSENT: Emile Gallant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lucas Neece, Roxie Sjogren, Bill Gusenius, Holly Lofton, Beth Ferguson, Gary Shogren

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Becky Anderson followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT:

No public input.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No amendments

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Anderson encouraged everyone to check event schedules online to see if things have been cancelled or modified. This weekend is St. Lucia. StepMC will be having a drive-thru Swedish Pancake Fundraiser with a free will donation.

CONSENT AGENDA: Kirsten Bruce moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2020 regular council meeting, Payroll Ordinance 5268 and 5269, and Purchase Order Ordinance 5270. Motion seconded by Ed Radatz and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS:

Rick Martin moved to appoint Larry Potter to the Tree Board. Seconded by Blaine Heble and passed unanimously by voice vote.

PLANNING & ZONING: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Billboard Lease Renewal

The Lindsborg Convention and Visitors Bureau is currently in a 3-year contract with George Lay Signs for a billboard located 2.2 miles west of Salina on I-70. This sign faces east. The current cost for this billboard is \$245 per month and can be renewed for an additional 3 years at this same cost.

A new vinyl wrap would cost an additional \$475. This wrap should last 3 years, or the life of the new contract.

The CVB was granted an extension of six months by George Lay to make the decision to renew this billboard's 3-year lease. We have been paying on a month-to-month basis that will end in December 2020.

Rebecca Van Der Wege moved to approve \$3,415.00 to George Lay Signs and approval of contract and a new vinyl wrap for billboard sign located 2.2 miles west on Interstate 70. Seconded by Kirsten Bruce and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Repurpose Riverside Park Tennis Courts

Both the Park and Recreation Departments have been working on how to repurpose the Tennis Courts at Riverside Park. After many years of use and weather, the courts have developed cracking and shifting issues throughout the complex.

These courts are currently rarely used due to other courts in town and the better condition of those other courts. The Riverside Park tennis courts were last redone in 2009.

The Recreation Department would like to repurpose these courts into pickleball courts for the area. According to USA Pickleball, the sport has grown from 4000 memberships to nearly 40,000 in the last 7 years. In 2019, USAPA (USA Pickleball Association) documented that the number of pickleball courts in North America has increased to nearly 30,000 (indoor and outdoor), a 5-year increase of 133%.

Pickleball is rising for various reasons. It is one of the fastest growing sports because it can be social or competitive, it is low to moderate exercise, any age can play, minimal equipment is needed, and it is an easy game to play. The City could have leagues, open net nights, or have it available for families to come and enjoy outside together.

The Recreation Department believes that because the City currently has the court space, this would be a perfect location to not only help cosmetically, but also provide a wonderful exercise option to our community. The Recreation Director has reached out to a Sales Rep for Sport Court regarding an indoor/outdoor tile that can be laid over our current courts safely. This is a flooring system that is engineered and extensively tested to ensure youth and adults alike are safe while learning, practicing, and competing on sport court surfaces. These tiles feature specially designed surfaces that lower the risk of skin damage without compromising on traction. It has a feature that allows for slight movement between the tiles to absorb the transition forces generated from sudden shifts in direction, reducing the risk of muscle and joint injuries.

The Recreation Director received a consensus from Council to proceed with securing funding through grants and fundraising to repurpose the tennis courts at Riverside Park into Pickleball courts. This project will only continue if/when the money has been raised.

Property Purchase

A vacant residential property located at 316 East State Street was made available for purchase by the City last month; staff was able to negotiate a price as presented in the attached contract. The parcel is sited at the intersection of East State Street and the Välkommen Trail, oddly shaped because of its position between a platted alley and the original Union Pacific railroad right of way.

There are two double-wide mobile homes on the property that originally served as a thrift store, owned, and operated by TACOL. The site later became a dog-grooming shop, then a residential rental. In recent years, the structures have fallen into disrepair. A review of utility billings indicates that the structures are inadequately weatherized and very expensive to heat and cool.

Staff considers the purchase an opportunity to remove a derelict property from the rental market while creating the potential to expand trail utilization along the historic railroad corridor.

Blaine Heble moved to purchase real estate commonly known as 316 East State Street in the amount of \$22,700. Seconded by Rick Martin and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Employee Assistance Program Policy

On October 19, 2020 City Council approved providing an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for City employees. Attached is a copy of the policy regarding the City's ability to refer employees for any assistance provided by the EAP.

Jodi Duncan moved to approve the Employee Assistance Program policy. Seconded by Ed Radatz and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses

The City has received three applications for Cereal Malt Beverage renewals for 2021. They are for Casey's General Store, Pizza Hut and YesWay. All applications have been reviewed by the Police Department and background checks completed. The proper application fees have also been received.

Blaine Heble moved to approve the applications for CMB licenses for 2021. Seconded by Rebecca Van Der Wege and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Employee Holiday Bonus

It has been the tradition of City Council to provide to every regular full-time employee a holiday bonus. The recommendation is for \$150 per employee. Currently there are 32 regular full-time employees with the City

Rick Martin moved to approve of holiday bonus in the amount of \$150 per employee for a total of \$4,800. Seconded by Kirsten Bruce and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

OTHER:

Shockey Consulting will be meeting with Council next Monday, December 14 at 6:30pm. Shockey will be “zoomed” in while Council meets in the Sundstrom Conference Center.

The City is looking into mass COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic people. Wichita State University would conduct the testing; WSU has funds available through SPARK funds to cover the cost. The rationale for the City providing the testing is that it has been difficult to get tested if you are not exhibiting symptoms and the county is working beyond its capacity.

Kirsten Bruce approved the contract with Wichita State University to provide mass COVID-19 testing at zero dollars to the City. Seconded by Rebecca Van Der Wege and passed unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Kirsten Bruce, seconded by Ed Radatz and passed unanimously. Adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roxie Sjogren
City Clerk