

August 14, 2023

The Larchwood City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Council members in attendance were: Mayor Snyder, Holly Horstman, Shane Reinke, Candie Medema, Tanner Tracy and Mike Metzger. Others in attendance were: Sandi DeSmet, Matt Bouwman, Tony DeSmet, Steve Simons, Jared Vander Sanden, Elaine Snyder, Isabel Carolan and Brett Sichmeller.

Mayor Snyder called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jared Vander Sanden with Larchwood Economic Development Group informed the Council of a dirt work project that was brought to their attention. When the Northern Acres project was completed there was supposed to be a 4-1 slope on the dirt pile to the North of the project. This was not completed, there are problems with rainfall erosion, snowfall and drifting in the area. The Group put out a request for sealed bids that would provide for a gradual slope to make the area more manageable and to make the lots more presentable. The low bid came in at \$17,500 for the dirt work for the City to pay and the Economic Development Group would pay for the seeding. Motion by Horstman, second by Tracy to approve the project. Vote: all ayes. An update was given on lot sales, the last two lots are sold in the Zuraff Addition and there are 4 lot sold in the Northern Acres Addition.

Isabel Carolan and Brett Sichmeller with Alpine Companies spoke with the Council and the Larchwood Economic Development Group about their interest in listing the city lots in the Northern Acres addition on their Multiple listing service in the area. They will attend the next Economic Development meeting to discuss and answer any questions.

Jeremy Childress presented the Council with a bid for a backstop project at the softball diamond. The price will be \$54,705. The City has \$55,000 budgeted for the project. They would like to purchase the items in this budget but will most likely not have it completed until next Fall. Jeremy will also apply for grants to help with the project. Motion by Metzger, second by Reinke to approve the project. Vote: all ayes.

The Consent Agenda was approved on motion by Metzger, second by Medema. Vote: all ayes. Items on the Consent Agenda were: July 10, 2023 Minutes, Building Permits: 825 Carter Street-install new diesel pumps and remodel building; 1407 Willard Lane-shed; 1039 Broadway-shed & garage; 916 Edgerley-deck replacement; 1010 Dement-fence; 1116 Shirley Avenue-deck addition. Cigarette Permit: Venus. Liquor License: Venus & SportsCenter.

Tony DeSmet gave the Maintenance Report: did some sign replacement, new tires on loader installed, did some hole filling at the cemetery there are gophers and badgers invading. Got new batteries for the radar sign, fixed leaking faucets at gym. There is a ground water problem at the Community Center, going to try to seal from inside and take care of downspout issue outside. Alleys bladed, took tree grates in to get cut larger for tree growth. Water main break at Carter Street, will need to replace the entire line. Material collection system has arrived. Took 5 days vacation 7/24-7/29. Holly added that due to the storm watch over the weekend, the Rodeo needed a storm shelter so Tony and Sandi helped to make sure the Community Center basement was okay to use and got them keys for the Community Center and Gym.

Received a replacement Leg Press/Calf Raise at the gym.

Received a rubber mulch quote to replace the sand at the park for \$22,334.75 motion by Metzger, second by Medema to table until Spring.

Sandi presented the Outstanding Obligation Report \$974,240 is due on the General Obligation Bond and \$249,097.60 is due on the Land Purchase Loan.

Resolution 2024-3 City Street Financial Report was approved on motion by Tracy, second by Medema. Roll call vote: all ayes. The City received \$127,428 from the Road Use Tax Fund and had \$160,228 in expenditures.

Resolution 2024-4 Personnel Policy was tabled until next month for extra review.

Received a quotation from Black-Top Paving for overlays for \$188,428. Areas to be done are Hyland Drive, Church Hill Drive, South Street & partial Blaine Street and ball diamond road. Homeowners will be contacted.

Mid-Sioux asked Sandi if she would consider joining their Board, motion by Metzger, second by Tracy to nominate Sandi to represent the Private Sector. Vote: all ayes.

Ahlers & Cooney Attorneys notified Sandi that State legislature passed a tax reform bill this Spring and there are changes impacting new urban revitalization tax exemptions, effective July 1, 2024. They recommend that the City amends the Urban Revitalization Plan. Motion by Tracy, second by Metzger to amend. Vote: all ayes.

Shane asked for some items to be placed on the Agenda: Rulland Street-pool of water standing, the County will be looking at this for suggestions. Blaine Street alligator cracks-on the schedule for infrared patching. Church Hill Drive pot hole-will be paved. Softball field budget number-\$55,000. Empty City of Larchwood lot North of Larco Homes-discussion was held about selling this again, Shane and Candie didn't think that it really got used for parking this year, Holly disagreed. Motion by Metzger to put out for sealed bids with a minimum bid of \$30,000 required, due by September 11 at noon at City Hall, second by Reinke. Roll call vote: Reinke-aye, Medema-aye, Metzger-aye, Tracy-nay, Horstman-nay.

The meeting was then adjourned at 6:30 pm on motion by Metzger, second by Reinke.

Sandi DeSmet, City Clerk