

October 13, 2025

The Larchwood City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 13, 2025. Council members present were Mayor Snyders, Ned Hodgson, Shane Reinke, Candie Medema, Lauren Steers and Tanner Tracy. Also in attendance were: Sandi DeSmet, Jessica Hoberg, Matt Bouwman, Zach Majeres. In attendance on Agenda: Kyle Kramer, Jeremy Childress, Jaden Lorenzen, Curt Canfield, Connie Beldin, Zac Davis, and Jordan Metzger.

Jeremy Childress and Kyle Kramer brought the Turf Tank that was leased to the meeting. Jeremy Childress on behalf of West Lyon thanked the Council for their partnership to lease this unit. Lauren brought up figures showing that if compared at this time to what the City pays for, the City would be saving \$400. There will be many more uses such as striping of parking at the City Park, City Streets and Crosswalks that can be done in the future along with Baseball, Softball and Soccer Fields. Zac Davis would like a yearly report on what it is used for and savings.

Jaden Lorenzen gave a shed storage update and Infield restructure project update and that they have applied for a grant from the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation. For the grant they are asking for \$17,000 from the Foundation and will fund the rest with funds from their sign sales. Jaden also gave an update on projects from the past that they have funded with their sign sales. Jaden handed out the task list for the upcoming year between City Employees and the Baseball Board. The only change will be that Kyle will mow the outfield.

The City of Larchwood is working with Northwest Iowa Planning & Zoning to help the City with Nuisance Abatement. The City signed with them in 2024 and then their office in Spencer got flooded and they were contracted by the Red Cross to help in other towns with flooding assistance. They have now gotten started. They asked for 12 addresses that the City has received complaints on. They drove around and compared pictures of the property with the City Code of Ordinances. If the company found any violations, they sent out Courtesy letters advising the home owners of their violations. The homeowners have 30 days to correct the penalty. The company will then go around to review. If not resolved a fine will be imposed and letters will be delivered by the Sheriff's Department. Curt Canfield asked why didn't the Mayor just come and talk to him. He spoke with a representative with the company and explained that he has been in poor health and it was all he could do physically to keep up. He said that one of the main problems is that his neighbor put up a fence 13" from his fence instead of butting up to it. There is no way that he can get back there to get the weeds taken care of. Matt will look to see if he can find lot pins on the properties. Connie Beldin complained to the Council about the violations that she received, she stated that she went around town and took pictures of others that have items on their properties. Why are they getting letters and not the others in the same situation? Zac Davis stated that he spoke with the company and he was on the list but did not receive a letter, so the company must have felt that he was in compliance. He feels that people are targeting them.

Jordan Metzger with Stone Group noticed drain tile that is exposed and cracked in the South ditch at the City Park. Jordan spoke with David Locke at Stockwell Engineering about fixing this problem while construction is underway. David drew up a proposal to survey the problem and find a recommendation. Right now the drain tile is pushing out of the ground and is cracked from mowers and equipment running it over. This causes infiltration of dirt and debris into the storm sewer. Motion by Reinke, second by Hodgson to go forward with the proposal. Vote: all ayes.

The Consent Agenda was approved on motion by Tracy, second by Medema. Vote: all ayes. Items on the Consent Agenda were: September 13, 2025 Minutes; Building Permits: 1021 Blaine-Fence, 1236 Fell Street-shed repair/replacement; Rebates: Water Heaters- 813 Westview, 817 Blaine & 835 Brown Street.

Matt Bouwman gave his Maintenance Report: Winterization and Aeration complete, Meyer Electric fixed street light issue on Burr & Geiser, marked some graves, did water and wastewater reports with Bob Leuthold, pushed up tree pile, located curb stops, mowed around lagoons, fertilized ball fields, put up pickleball signs, flushed hydrants, replaced two. Read meters, put up City Shop sign, fixed air compressor, met with Bargaen Inc, they applied Replay sealant on some streets. Update on new development-getting ready for curb and gutter.

Shane asked for: updates on signage for the City Park and walking paths on motorized vehicles, Matt will look into and order. Planning & Zoning/Board of Adjustment Volunteer Updates-no one has volunteered. Personnel Policy employee signatures-working on them.

Lauren took a look at Sandi's computer and it needs to be updated, she will contact some computer companies that offer equipment and IT support and see what they have to offer.

Ned brought up spraying for bugs and spiders in the gym. He went in and cleaned up all the cobwebs and garbage around them, mopped all floors, cleaned hand rails in bathrooms and will be going in again to go over it again in the next couple days. Matt will check into spraying Tempo to get rid of the insects.

There have been complaints about uncollared cats in city limits. The city cannot trap them and it is illegal for anyone to trap them and drop them out in the Country. The Sheriff's Department will not do anything with cats either because of the spread of disease.

Shane was asked if the City had considered moving trick or treating to Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> this year instead of Friday, Halloween night due to the West Lyon Football playoff game being at home. Motion by Tracy, second by Hodgson to move to Saturday.

Shane did some research on Iowa Code 21.7, this code governs the rules of conduct at open meetings for governmental bodies. It states that while the public can use cameras and recording devices, governmental bodies can create and enforce reasonable rules to ensure meetings are orderly and free from interference. This code section does not grant the public the right to actively participate in discussions, though many governmental bodies may have a designated time for public comment on their agenda. Shane made the motion for the City Council to comply with Iowa Code 21.7, second by Medema, vote: all ayes.

Motion by Tracy, second by Medema to enter into Closed Session at 6:58 pm per Iowa Codes 21.5(i) and (j). Roll call vote: Reinke-aye, Medema-aye, Tracy-aye, Steers-aye, Hodgson-aye.

Motion by Reinke, second by Tracy to exit Closed Session at 8:06 pm. Roll call vote: Reinke-aye, Medema-aye, Tracy-aye, Steers-aye, Hodgson-aye.

Resolution 2026-7 Hiring and Approving Wages of Carla Manning as a Library Aide was approved on motion by Reinke, second by Medema. Roll call vote: Tracy-aye, Medema-aye, Hodgson-aye, Reinke-aye, Steers-aye. The hourly rate is in effect as of September 8, 2025.

Resolution 2026-8 Hiring and Approving Wages of Jessica Hoberg as part-time City Clerk was approved on motion by Tracy, second by Hodgson with a review in 90 days. Roll call vote: Tracy-aye, Medema-aye, Hodgson-aye, Reinke-aye, Steers-aye. The hourly rate is in effect as of September 23, 2025.

Resolution 2026-9 Hiring and Approving Wages of Zach Majeres as full-time Maintenance was approved on motion by Reinke, second by Tracy with a review in 90 days. Roll call vote: Tracy-aye, Medema-aye, Hodgson-aye, Reinke-aye, Steers-aye. The hourly rate is in effect as of October 13, 2025.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:00 pm on motion by Tracy, second by Medema. There will be a Lyon County League of Cities Meeting on October 23 at 7pm in. Regular Meeting will be November 10, 2025 at 5:30 pm in the Larchwood Community Center.