

City of Loretto
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
279 N. Medina Street, Council Chambers
March 10, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Koch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Kent Koch, Council Members Brenda Daniels, Eric Riley, and Brian Sevigny.

Members absent: Council Member Melissa Markham

Also present: City Attorney Jared Shepherd, Medina Police Chief Ed Belland, Public Works Director Jeff Leuer, and Utility Clerk Connie Scheibe

There were four people in the audience.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. SET AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

On a motion by Sevigny, seconded by Riley to approve the February 11, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. MEDINA POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Ed Belland presented the February Police Report, noting 143 total calls for service, of which 109 were general patrols.

Belland stated he will be retiring on March 31st and thanked the Mayor and Council Members past and present for their support over the past twenty-eight years working for the Medina Police, twenty-four years as Police Chief. Belland stated there were many events that occurred over the years that were great training for his department, including a train derailment, an anhydrous ammonia spill and evacuations, a bank robbery, protests over taking down the water tower and work with the Loretto Fire Department. Belland stated Sergeant Nelson will be taking over as Police Chief and will be taking over a well-staffed department ready to provide great service to Loretto.

The Council thanked Belland for his service to Loretto and Medina and wished him well in his retirement.

6. OPEN FORUM

Tim Wellman Jr., 115 Railway Street East, addressed the Council, stating he is wondering about rules for outside storage of junk vehicles and A to Z Auto and is wondering why they are allowed to have so many vehicles stored outside.

Mayor Koch and Council Member Sevigny gave a brief summary of past efforts of the City to enforce city ordinances related to the conditions at A to Z Auto, including a settlement agreement and more recently a criminal prosecution that took a couple years in court before resulting in little if any fine.

Council directed staff to provide a summary report to Mr. Wellman.

7. ACTION/PLANNING

a. Cat Tractor Options

On a motion by Sevigny, seconded by Riley, approve paying the city of Medina \$17,500 to purchase in full the Caterpillar Tractor currently shared with the city of Medina (\$17,500 = 1/2 the trade-in value.)

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Quiet Zone Preliminary Engineering Agreement

On a motion by Riley, seconded by Daniels, to approve the Quiet Zone Preliminary Engineering Agreement with Canadian Pacific Railway at a cost of \$5,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. 2019 Fire Department Year-end Report

Fire Chief Jeff Leuer presented the 2019 year-end report. Council reviewed. No action taken.

9. MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS

a. City Hall

1) Annual Staff Performance Review Reports

On a motion by Koch, seconded by Daniels, to approve a three percent increase in wages for all staff as budgeted.

Motion carried unanimously.

2) Presidential Nomination Primary Election Review

Council reviewed. No action taken.

b. Streets

Public Works Director Leuer reported he has a meeting scheduled with Canadian Pacific Railway regarding the Quiet Zone and will be meeting with Hennepin County and Three Rivers Parks District representatives regarding the bike trail and the Quiet Zone.

c. Water

Leuer reported a new pitless well is being installed at Well #3. Leuer stated water may be rusty while running the system off Well #2.

d. Wastewater

No items were brought forward.

e. Parks

1) Hennepin Youth Spring Sports Equipment Grant

On a motion by Sevigny, seconded by Daniels, to approve the Hennepin Youth Spring Sports Equipment grant application as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

2) Hennepin Youth Playground Grant for Highlands Park

On a motion by Riley, seconded by Sevigny, to approve the Hennepin Youth Playground grant application as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Stormwater

Leuer reported beavers have built a dam by the ballfields. The DNR are working to trap them.

10. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

No reports were given.

11. FINANCIAL

a. March Bills

On a motion by Sevigny, seconded by Riley, to approve electronic check numbers 3429E-3450E and paper check numbers 23529-23560 for a grand total of \$57,320.97
Motion carried unanimously.

b. Monthly Balance Sheet

Council reviewed. No action taken.

c. Quarterly Financial Reports

Council reviewed. No action taken.

12. Closed meeting under Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) for a confidential and privileged attorney-client consultation to receive legal advice from Attorney Jared Shepherd regarding potential condemnation proceedings authorized by Resolution 2019-30 [regarding utility easements for the City's Waste Water Project at 205 Albert Street, Loretto, MN (PID # 06-118-23-43-0046) and XXX County Road 19, Medina, MN (PID # 07-118-23-12-0001)] and related strategy and settlement.

On a motion by Koch, seconded by Sevigny, to go into closed session under Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) for a confidential and privileged attorney-client consultation to receive legal advice from Attorney Jared Shepherd regarding potential condemnation proceedings authorized by Resolution 2019-30 [regarding utility easements for the City's Waste Water Project at 205 Albert Street, Loretto, MN (PID # 06-118-23-43-0046) and XXX County Road 19, Medina, MN (PID # 07-118-23-12-0001)] and related strategy and settlement.
Motion carried unanimously.

The closed session began at 7:33 p.m.

Koch called the meeting back to open session at 7:56 p.m.

On a motion by Sevigny, seconded by Daniels, to direct staff and the City Attorney to accept the Lindquist's settlement offer of \$24,200.00 for the easement at 205 Albert Street (PID # 06-118-23-43-0046) and to prepare and secure the necessary executed easement documents and draft an agreement memorializing the transaction.
Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Sevigny, seconded by Riley, to direct staff and the City Attorney to accept the Elsen's settlement offer of \$65,000.00 for the easement at XXX County Road 19, Medina, MN (PID # 07-118-23-12-0001) and to prepare and secure the necessary executed easement documents and draft an agreement memorializing the transaction.
Motion carried unanimously.

13. ADJOURN

On a motion by Riley, seconded by Daniels, to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Mary K. Schneider, City Clerk Treasurer

Kent Koch, Mayor