

City of Lismore
Minutes of the Council
January 9, 2023

The following are the minutes of the City Council meeting held on January 9, 2023. In attendance for the Council: Kris Weidert, Kathryn Weber, Cliff Altman, Ryan Schieck and Mayor Wayne Bents. Guests were Ruth Bents and Chaz Kohorst. Mayor Bents called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was done.

Ryan, Kathryn and Wayne read and signed the Oath of Office.

On a motion by Cliff and seconded by Kris it was duly passed to approve the agenda. On a motion by Ryan and seconded by Kathryn it was duly passed to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on December 13, 2022. Amber presented the financial statement which showed the deposits/invoices from the prior month to current. Last meeting it was discussed about paying the additional \$1,500 to Loosbrock digging and Council asked Amber to mail a letter inviting someone from Loosbrock to attend the meeting to go over the reason for the increase on the bid which she did but in response Amber received a letter stating the reasons for the overage as no one would be able to attend the January Council meeting. Reason was due to unforeseen circumstances which resulted in bringing more men to work on removing the cement, sawing of the foundation & use of torch/hazmat for an oil/fuel filled pit. Council discussed again and still felt that Loosbrock Digging should have reached out to Coltin or someone on the council since the overage was a significant amount to get approval before continuing. Council still had some questions & since no one was present they were unable to ask so decided to send one more letter inviting someone from Loosbrock Digging to come to the February meeting in person to discuss – the City will not pay the additional owed until they can discuss in person with Loosbrock digging at a Council meeting. On a motion by Cliff and seconded by Kris it was duly passed to approve the financial statement, pay the invoices and make the stated transfers.

Maintenance report – Coltin gave the report – Coltin asked if the City should be removing snow around the Fire Hydrants or if that is a homeowners responsibility – Council stated that if he comes across one that isn't dug out to get it cleaned as that can be the difference between saving a house or not so he will check and clean out the ones that haven't been. Coltin also asked about vehicles that are left on the street when trying to remove snow – Amber had looked up the ordinance & a vehicle needs to be removed from the street if it hinders the snow removal process/clean-up and can be towed along with getting fined. The owner of the vehicle will get a letter on the first offense just reminding them of the ordinance but after that vehicle could be towed with no notice. Amber will get a notice/snow emergency out on the days that need one. During the last couple snowfalls the City leased tractor and plow had broken & Lee Henning volunteered to help clean the streets as did Rick Knips & Tom Diekmann so it was brought up if they should be paid for their time. Council discussed and had no issues paying but they would need to turn in the hours they worked. On a motion by Kris and seconded by Cliff it was duly passed to pay Ryan and Wayne \$15/hr for snow removal & if they need someone else to help they would also be paid at the \$15/hr. It was also brought up that Chaz Kohorst was moving snow but putting piles in places that made it hard for the plow to clean the streets. Chaz was present and said he cleaned up the piles that were an issue & he also asked if the City was fine with him cleaning his own alley as long as he doesn't push the snow into the streets which the Council was ok with. Garage openers are in & just waiting on Duane to do the electrical which should be done soon. County plans to come and remove some of the snow out of the park. On a motion by Ryan and seconded by Cliff it was duly passed to approve the maintenance report.

Fire Department report. Jim gave the report and said that the officers all stayed the same for 2023. Jim requested to raise the retirement from \$900 to \$1,000 per year. Cliff stated that the Relief Association is the one that puts the money into the retirement fund and that they have the money to do the increase. On a motion by Ryan and seconded by Kris it was duly passed to raise the retirement fund to \$1,000 for 2023. Amber had done the Fire Dept budget & explained the increase that was approved last year for the sections along with having to raise Kenneth and the City portion as well. On a motion by Cliff and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to approve the Fire Department Report.

Amber Bertrand gave the clerks report – Amber had received an email from Bruce Heitkamp at Nobles County wondering if the city would like to participate in the Nobles Home Initiative (NHI) which runs from January 2023 to December 31, 2027. This program helps those who wish to build a new home or replacement of dilapidated housing structures by doing a tax abatement for 5 years. They do need to be pre-approved with the County & need to meet certain requirements. If the City wants to participate we will need to pass a resolution stating this and send that back to Bruce. Amber has worked on the Water Budget which is pretty much the same as 2022 except in the salary since the City is paying Justin and Coltin at this time On a motion by Ryan and seconded by Kris it was duly passed to approve the clerks report.

On a motion by Kris and seconded by Kathryn it was duly passed to approve resolution 23.1.1 Fee Schedule.

On a motion by Cliff and seconded by Kris it was duly passed to approve resolution 23.1.2 Designation of Appointments.

On a motion by Cliff and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to approve resolution 23.1.3 Participation in the NHI Tax Abatement Program for years 2023-2027.

Nobles County ARPA Funds –Waiting until work can be started. Will work on getting lumber.

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Park Equipment – will look into it over the winter and decide so new equipment can get in the park next spring.

Purchase of JCB – Still looking to see what may be out there.

Loosbrock Storage Shed – Council called Justin and he said he has the parts but since we would need to pour cement we will need to wait until spring.

With no further business to discuss, on a motion by Cliff and seconded by Kathryn it was duly passed to adjourn the meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday February 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Minutes taken by Amber Bertrand, City Clerk