

City of Lismore
Minutes of the Council
March 19, 2024

The following are the minutes of the City Council meeting held on March 19, 2024. In attendance for the Council: Kris Weidert, Cliff Altman, Ryan Schieck & Mayor Wayne Bents. Absent was Kathryn Weber. Guest in attendance was Davi Bullerman. Mayor Wayne Bents called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was done.

On a motion by Kris and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to approve the agenda. On a motion by Kris and seconded by Cliff it was duly passed to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on February 12, 2024. Amber presented the financial statement which showed the deposits/invoices from the prior month to current. On a motion by Kris and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to approve the financial statement, pay the invoices and make the stated transfers.

Maintenance report – Josh Erwin was absent due to medical so Ryan gave the report – Ryan talked with Brandon about the ballfield cement and would like to get it done before April 1st if possible but will of course depend on weather. Brandon did have some questions on the park basketball backboards as they keep breaking so easy so Cliff will check with the City of Worthington to see where they get theirs and Amber mentioned that we did get Nobles2 Windfarm Grant money and that would be an option to spend it on if need be. Brandon had also asked Ryan about picking the park up. Booster Club will most likely do the thatching again but wondering about tree trimming. Booster Club has a meeting coming up and they will be discussing the Celebration for next year in Lismore so Ryan mentioned that some people could try attending that or we can invite Brandon to come to the next Council meeting. Amber thought having him come to the meeting would be the best as we didn't want to have too many Council members at the Booster meeting to cause a forum. Cliff said that they plan on doing the crack filling on April 5th as we still have the products on hand and Cliff can borrow the equipment to get it done. Cliff also talked to Caleb at C&B Operations in Worthington about leasing a tractor this fall and was told that they would be willing to lease a JD Tractor 140 horse with loader to the City at \$10/hour with a minimum charge of \$1,500.00/150 hours. On a motion by Kris and seconded by Cliff it was duly passed to approve leasing with C&B Operations instead of Titan Machinery. On a motion by Ryan and seconded by Cliff it was duly passed to approve the Maintenance report.

Fire Department report – Jim gave the FD Report – Jim asked if we could raise the Fire Call rate from \$750 to \$1,000 so on a motion from Cliff and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to raise rate to \$1,000. Jim also asked for the Fire Contracts in 2025 (Amber had already sent the 2024 ones) that we raise the section rate from \$225 to \$235 so on a motion by Cliff and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to raise the per section rate to \$235.00. There were 10 people that finished the Refresher Course. Spotter training will be April 8th in Slayton. Jim asked if the City has anything in place to protect them from someone whose house burnt down & instead of fixing they just took the insurance money and moved but left the mess behind. Amber didn't know of anything so will reach out to Kayla the City Attorney and she what she says. Alec Murphy applied to be a Volunteer FF and Amber had just gotten the background check back. Council looked it over and on a motion by Cliff and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to hire Alec with a probation period. On a motion by Cliff and seconded by Kris it was duly passed to approve the Fire Dept Report.

Amber Bertrand gave the clerks report – Amber had asked the Council Members at the last Council meeting to find more Election Judges to be backups incase her normal judges are unavailable as she struggled with schedules due to party balance and can't be related when judging. Council did discuss the pros and cons of going to mail in voting vs staying in-person voting. It was brought up that most townships have switched to mail in and with being a smaller town it might make more sense to try the mail in ballot way. It was brought up about knowing if a ballot was mailed was it received and counted. Amber did mention that those who are not comfortable mailing in their ballot could go to the Nobles County Auditors office to drop off their ballot in person or to do the actual voting there which has more voting dates available which could in turn make more people vote. Amber stated that she was fine with either way just if staying in-person voting will need more judges or have the council members take the training. Ryan thought that the reason they stuck with in-person voting was that once you change you cannot change back. Amber let the Council know that it was not true and that within the resolution it would state that a new resolution could be passed to change back to in-person voting. Amber will also double check with Joyce just to be on the safe side. Council discussed if they thought going to mail in would bring in more votes – Amber did say that for some of the smaller towns the voting percentage did increase but doesn't know if that would happen with Lismore or not but it does seem like the younger generations prefer the mail in voting over coming in to vote in person. The Council thought long and hard on both options but did decide to try going to mail-in voting. On a motion by Kris and seconded by Cliff it was duly passed to approve Resolution 24.3.1 Conduct Elections by Mail in Ballot with the knowledge that if this doesn't work out that they can change back to in-person voting. All were in favor, motion carried. Amber will send in the Resolution to the County and will find out what the next steps are. On a motion by Cliff and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to approve the Clerks Report.

On a motion by Cliff, seconded by Ryan and opposed by Kris it was duly passed to approve the Chicken Permit Application for Zach Schettler. No zoning permit was needed as he was using an existing building which used to be an old chicken coop.

Veteran's Memorial – Amber had talked with Ellen about what the Council discussed at the February meeting and she didn't really care for the spot the Council mentioned as she didn't think it would be big enough for what she was wanting to have placed. Ellen was planning on coming to the meeting but was sick so gave Amber some more information and sent a sketch of what she was thinking of putting in place. Ellen thought that it would still be best to keep at park but instead of further up North she was thinking more in the middle (across from the South Bell tower of the Catholic Church) around the area where there is an old flower bed with the flagpole. Ellen said that there are a couple trees there and they she thought the Evergreen tree would be fine but there are a couple Ash trees that may need to be removed. Council was on board with this idea but would really like Ellen to take a couple of them and point out exactly where she is envisioning the memorial at the park so they can

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get a better idea. Council again did not make a motion to approve anything as they are still needing a bit more info but Amber will let Ellen know and have her get a hold of a couple Council Members and show them where at the park and get the actual dimensions of memorial.

Kris brought up that with the Lismore Celebration happening next year she noticed that the landscaping around the Fire Hall building was in disrepair and not looking very good. It was also brought to Amber's attention by a resident that it was looking pretty bad so Council discussed and thought that they would check with Josh and see if he would be willing to replace some of the rock wall that goes around the building and update the shrubbery. Council did not want to hire anyone at this time as they feel Josh would be able to get it done with the help of the Correction workers.

Park Equipment – Waiting for Adrian School to put their equipment up for bids.

Land Sale – Zieske did get the land surveys done – split it out as 2 by the old ice rink and 1 by Bill Loonans place. We did in past meeting decide not to sell the 1 lot but after discussion the Council thought it was best to put that up for sale as well so on a motion by Cliff and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to try and sell all 3 lots. Wayne had invited Davi Bullerman to come to the meeting to discuss the sale of the land since she works in Real Estate. Davi went over the information about the lots that she had and explained if we went with her how the process would go. The Realtor costs for selling the land would be 5% but only payable upon sale. Council discussed and liked what Davi was coming up with and offering so on a motion by Ryan and seconded by Cliff it was duly passed to approve hiring Davi Bullerman to sell the lots. Davi will get with Amber to get more details and to go over the steps she plans on taking.

Border wall for North side of new shop – just waiting on Spring to finish.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting will be on April 29th at 2:30 pm

With no further business to discuss, on a motion by Kris and seconded by Ryan it was duly passed to adjourn the meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Minutes taken by Amber Bertrand, City Clerk