

CITY OF LEONIDAS
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 12, 2023 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Milton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendance

Present: Mayor JoAnne Milton, Councilor Cassandra Cave, Councilor Jay DeRoos, Councilor Nathaniel Rock, Maintenance Leroy Roos, Clerk McKenzie Clinton.
Councilor Brian Otto was absent

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by DeRoos, second by Rock to adopt the agenda. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of November 14, 2023 City Council Meetings
- B. Approval of Payroll ending 11/30/2023
- C. Approval of Claims ending 11/30/2023

Motion by DeRoos, second by Rock to approve the Consent Agenda. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

5. Reports

A. Clerk's Report

Clerk Clinton stated that she had attended election training for the upcoming Presidential Nominating Primary that will take place in March. Because Leonidas is a Mail Ballot Precinct, all registered voters will be mailed for all three major party ballots, voters will then need to decide which party's ballots they would like to vote on, and discard the other two ballots. Clerk Clinton feels that this process will be confusing for voters and therefore wanted to make the city council aware of the process in order for them to answer questions from residents regarding the process.

Clerk Clinton also stated that she has been in contact with the city's insurance agent and has been sending information to the agent. She stated that the insurance will need to be renewed in the upcoming months and will keep the council updated with any information she receives.

B. Maintenance

Maintenance Leroy Roos reported that the snow plow is ready to go for winter but has not been needed yet due to how little snow there has been. He also stated that more sand for the roads may need to be purchased.

A brief discussion occurred about how residents can make snowplowing easier for the maintenance department. It was determined that it would be most helpful if residents moved their vehicles into the alleys when they saw the snowplow coming. It would also be

helpful is they could follow Eveleth's schedule for calendar parking if they are able to. A newsletter regarding this and other relevant information will be sent to residents.

C. Hall Manager

It was reported that there is one party scheduled for December. Councilor Rock asked the Council if there is any special discount that could be available for non-residents who rent the hall. Hall Manager Jessica Johnson has been dealing with a lot of upset renters that feel it is unfair that Leonidas Residents receive a special lower rate. Some of the complaints come from West Eveleth residents who feel they should qualify for the lower rate due the how close they live to Leonidas. A brief discussion about this occurred and the council felt that it would be beneficial to the hall manager, as well as renters, if a \$20 discount was offered. Hall Manager Jessica Johnson will use her judgement to determine when a discount should be offered. Councilor Rock also asked if the Hall Rental flyer could be updated so the price could be removed and instead says to contact the hall manager for more information. Clerk Clinton will update the flyers.

Motion by DeRoos, second by Rock to approve a \$20 discount when necessary. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

A. Park Lease

Clerk Clinton stated that the lawyer is reviewing the additions to the park lease, and if the lawyer felt that the additions regarding the ice rink and park equipment were adequate the Lease agreement could be sent to Eveleth. The last two pieces needed for the contract were the number of years and the cost per year. The council agreed on a 2-year agreement at a cost of \$500 a year. The contract will be sent to the Eveleth City Council for review contingent on the lawyer's review.

Clerk Clinton then stated that the last time that money was received from Eveleth for the Park lease was 2019. The council felt that an invoice covering the last 4 years for \$300/year (\$1,200 total) should be sent to Eveleth with the new contract.

Motion by DeRoos, second by Cave to approve the park lease at 2 years for \$500/year and to invoice Eveleth for the last 4 years. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

6. New Business

A. Final 2024 Levy

The final 2024 levy for Leonidas was set at \$25,000.00

Motion by Cave, second by Rock to set the levy at \$25,00.00. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

B. 2024 Meeting Schedule

The January 2024 meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 9th, 2024 at 6:30p.m. Clerk Clinton will contact city council members with the date once it is officially scheduled. The rest of the 2024 meetings will be scheduled at the January meeting.

Motion by Cave, second by Rock to pay the invoice. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

C. 2024 Budget Meeting

A brief discussion about the 2024 budget meeting took place. The council felt that there would be adequate time at the January 2024 Meeting if the meeting were to start at 6:30p.m., a later start time would not give the city council adequate time to discuss and set the budget. An alternate meeting date will be planned if needed.

D. Noxious weed Report

The County sent a 2023 Noxious weed report to the city to fill out and send back, Clerk Clinton will fill out the form with information provided by Councilor DeRoos who is the Noxious weed contact person for the city.

E. Animal Control

Clerk Clinton has been in contact with Contented Critters Animal Shelter in regards to animal control. They are willing to take in any stray animals found within Leonidas but the animals would need to be brought to Pup North animal boarding and where they would then be transported to Contented critter if they were not claimed. Contented critters provided options for animal control including paying a monthly fee or paying on a case-by-case basis. The council felt that because of the small size of the community. The case-by-case basis would be best.

A discussion took place about who the animal control agent would be for the Leonidas and if the Eveleth Police Department would be willing to be the agent if there was a contract in place with contented critters. Clerk Clinton stated that she will speak with the deputy chief and see what the options are. This will be discussed further at the January meeting when more information is available.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Rock, second by Cave to adjourn the meeting. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

JoAnne Milton, Mayor

Attest: _____