

CITY OF LYNDEN

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING



September 16, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Korthuis called to order the September 16, 2024 regular session of the Lynden City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the city council chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilors Gary Bode, Lee Beld, Gary Vis, Brent Lenssen, Nick Laninga, Kyle Strengtholt and Mark Wohlrab.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: Finance Director Laura Scholl, Fire Chief Mark Billmire, Police Chief Steve Taylor, Public Works Director Jon Hutchings, Amanda Faria HR Coordinator, and City Attorney Bob Carmichael.

OATH OF OFFICE – None.

SUMMARY REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Vis moved, and Councilor Lenssen seconded, to approve the August 29, 2024 special meeting and September 3, 2024 regular council minutes. Councilor Lenssen moved, and Councilor Wohlrab seconded. Motion approved on 7-0 vote. Motion approved on 7-0 vote.

Mayor Korthuis recognized Chief Mark Billmire for his years of service to the city of Lynden. Chief Billmire's last day of work is October 4, 2024.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Betty Vandyken, Lynden, spoke in opposition of the addition of fluoride to the municipal water supply.

Gloria Bode, Lynden, spoke in opposition of the addition of fluoride to the municipal water supply.

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Candy Hoksbergen, Lynden, spoke in opposition of the addition of fluoride to the municipal water supply.

Cynthia Ripke Kutsagoitz, Lynden, spoke on appreciation of local veteran events, scholarship opportunities and appreciation to Fire Chief Mark Billmire.

Bob Taylor, Lynden, invited Mayor Korthuis to meet with him at the KGMI studio to discuss his views on fluoride. He also asked that council consider putting the fluoride issue before a vote of the people.

Greg Blankers, Lynden, explained that he is putting in a driveway for someone and is running into an obstacle with the current ADA requirements in the Lynden municipal code.

Mikhail Nichols, Lynden, expressed opinions concerning the Lynden police department and its officers.

2. CONSENT

Benson Barn Renovation Agreement – Harvey Pelleboer, HP Contracting LLC

The Parks Department proposed and reviewed the ability to renovate the Benson Barn for safety and security reasons to be able to utilize it as a storage facility for future equipment and project needs. HP Contracting LLC responded with a proposal for the project.

Administration and the Parks Department reviewed the updated proposal and recommended forwarding it to Council for approval. Parks Bond money designated for the Benson property will be used to fund this project.

Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Renovation Agreement – WRS

Some sections of the Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail from Bender to Depot Road which are lifting and cracking require repairs. WRS has responded with a proposal for this project. City administration and the Parks Department have reviewed the proposal and recommended forwarding it to the full council for approval.

Councilor Strengholt moved, and Councilor Bode seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion approved on 7-0 vote.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – None.



4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Award Bid for Community Center Renovations – Phase I

The City solicited for bids for renovations of the Community Center located at 401 Grover Street. The project includes removal and replacement of existing HVAC system and T-bar ceilings, hazmat work related to removal of ACM in gypsum board texture, as well as associated electrical work and structural work adding support for existing wood joists to support new rooftop HVAC equipment including roof patching.

Six (6) bids were received on September 10, 2024, as shown on the Bid Tabulation prepared by King Architecture. At the Public Works Committee meeting on September 3, 2024, the Committee concurred that the bid results could be forwarded directly to City Council after being informed of the results. The recommendation is to award the contract to Summit Construction Group, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$479,000.00, plus Washington State Sales Tax. The Engineer's estimate was in the range of \$620,000-\$640,000.

Councilor Bode moved, and Councilor Wohlrab seconded, to award the contract for Community Center Renovations – Phase 1 to Summit Construction Group in the amount of \$479,000.00 plus tax, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. Motion approved on 7-0 vote.

6. REPORTS

Approval of Payroll and Claims through September 16, 2024.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Minutes (LTAC)

Councilor Wohlrab, Public Safety Committee reported discussion of:

- Fire and Police department calls are up.
- Chief Billmire's retirement.
- Approval of a psych exam for a lateral position in the Lynden police department.
- Electric vehicles, UTVs, and NEVs.

Council members participated in discussion about what would be required/allowed for UTVs and NEVs to be legal in the city.

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Councilor Strengholt, Finance Committee reported discussion of:

- Special 2-hour meeting to review satellite agency budgets.
- Police department overtime.
- Sales tax review.
- Check register and invoice detail review.
- Reviewed LTAC minutes.
- Ending cash balance has decreased.
- Possibility of an Ambulance Utility Fee increase.
- Auditor (financial statement) will be in next month.
- Parks interfund loan.

Councilor Vis, Parks Committee reported discussion of:

- Benson Park study.
- Schoolyard Park irrigation/lawn.
- Discussions on how to manage/raise funds for city parks.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not hold an executive session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

September 16, 2024 regular session of the Lynden city council adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Amanda Faria, HR Coordinator

Scott Korthuis, Mayor