

Call To Order:

The regular meeting of the Lansing City Council was called to order by Mayor Gene Kirby at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gene Kirby called the roll and indicated which councilmembers were in attendance.

Councilmembers Present:

Ward 1: Kevin Gardner and Dave Trinkle

Ward 2: Andi Pawlowski and Don Studnicka

Ward 3: Jesse Garvey and Kerry Brungardt

Ward 4: Gregg Buehler

Councilmembers Absent: Tony McNeill

OLD BUSINESS:

Consent Calendar: Councilmember Studnicka moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 16, 2015. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Councilmember Buehler abstaining from the vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Audience Participation: Mayor Kirby called for audience participation and there was none.

Presentation: Employee of the Quarter: Wastewater Utility Director Tony Zell was presented the plaque for Employee of the Third Quarter by City Administrator Tim Vandall and Mayor Kirby.

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

Public Hearing on and Consideration of the Proposed 2016 Annual Program of Services:

Councilmember Trinkle moved to open the Public Hearing for the Proposed 2016 Annual Program of Services.

Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Janette Labbee-Holderman stated I have been a resident in Lansing for 42 years, and once again I stand before you to ask you to consider to not raise the mill levy. We have a new high school that we're paying for and the county is going to raise the mill levy by 0.7. Other cities around are managing expenses without mill levy increases and I'm wondering what they know that we don't. Since 2008, throughout the recession years, Lansing has raised the mill levy every year, and what do we have to show for it. We have not added water and electricity to Ken Bernard Park, and the soccer fields are still in trouble. We do not have a shoulder on 147th Street, so anyone could pull off in the case of an emergency which is going to become a major thoroughfare with our new high school opening next week. In fact, there are few visible changes and in general we have not provided new amenities to the families from these increased taxes. Thanks to federal funding, we have improved the trail system, with some additional trails at Angel Falls, but these are quality of life issues and we need to keep improving if we want our city to grow and make it a desirable place to live. Over the last 6 years, the Council budget work sessions have focused on spending the mill levy increases on salary and benefit packages and the purchase of additional heavy equipment. We have a street cleaning machine that probably should be sold, you never see it out, and I believe if it is used, it's too expensive to fix when it breaks. I am certainly not against salary increases, but we need to remember we are a small town on a small town budget, and yes our police officers are still underpaid. You have included in this year's budget funding money for another salary study. I ask you why is that; we did not implement the other one that was done 5 years ago and unless we have a brand new strategy on how to evaluate staff performances, why do you think another study is going to work. Please consider smarter ways to manage the money to make ends meet without increasing the mill levy again, thank you.

Councilmember Trinkle moved to close the Public Hearing for the Proposed 2016 Annual Program of Services.

Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Studnicka moved to approve the 2016 Annual Program of Services. Councilmember Trinkle seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Buehler stated I don't disagree with Janette, did we all receive the email that Andi sent out; I looked at it. I think that half a mill, I realize I don't think we can go all the way and I appreciate your comments, but I think that we have the capability to bring it down a half a mill to 1 mill, and leave it at that and it would still result in an increase and part of that money would come out of the \$127,000.00 that Andi mentioned in her email, that would still leave \$87,000.00 increase in that department, but it would bring the mill levy down to just 1 mill, instead of 1.5.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated I would say that but Gregg already did, so I ditto what Gregg said. I agree on what Janette said, we have got to get a handle on our spending, we just can't keep going back to the residents of the city. A lot of them are retired, I talked to 1 gentleman today when I went to the grocery store and he, of course I get it from him all the time, but there are multiple people in town

that are on fixed incomes, and our ability to raise taxes should not be celebrated, and I think that 1 mill is plenty. I wish it were no mills, but the salary study, I don't know if I talked to you about that or not, but we didn't implement the whole salary study last time, which was a problem, we didn't get what Janette and I thought we were going to get which was a desk audit to determine what people did, so we could better align our job descriptions with other peoples job descriptions, and I think it's imperative that we fix this problem because every year, and the council knows, we have issues with salary, and we want our people paid well we don't want them to feel like they're being slighted but there is a problem with the whole system the way we do it. My personal feeling is that we do the salary study and we listen to them this time, and we implement it completely across the board and not just pick and choose.

- Councilmember Trinkle asked what are they talking about the \$120, where'd this come up, this half a mill, the \$127,000.00, what's she talking about.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski replied did you see my email.
 - Councilmember Buehler stated there was \$127,000.00 I believe was for the street department increased, the CIP.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski interjected the CIP, we were raising it \$127,000.00 this year.
 - Councilmember Buehler stated we give them \$87,000.00 instead of \$127,000.00 and we lower the mill rate, tax increase by half a mill, and keep it down to a 1 mill increase.
- Councilmember Pawlowski asked what do you think Dave.
 - Councilmember Buehler stated and they are still getting a significant increase in funds, it's not like we're them cutting out.
 - Councilmember Gardner asked you're taking 127 down to 85.
 - Councilmember Buehler replied \$127,000.00 down to \$87,000.00 and we're lowering the tax increase.
- Councilmember Pawlowski asked did you get my email.
 - Councilmember Gardner replied I did, when I got home from work, I didn't have time to dissect it or go through it.
- Councilmember Buehler stated they still get the increase, but it eases the burden on the tax payer, and it's the same 2,200 households who take all of the hits on the taxes, when the taxes get raised. And it's not just us, as Janette said the county is raising the taxes, the school board is raising the taxes, I know that we have things that we have to do, but I get it.
- Councilmember Pawlowski asked has anybody talked to the Fire District, does anybody know what the fire board's doing this year?
 - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied they were originally planning on coming to this meeting, but they are in the middle of their budget too so they won't be able to come until September.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski asked but we haven't heard what they're; I haven't heard anything.
 - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied no.
 - Councilmember Trinkle stated I don't think they're doing anything. What's the difference between the mill and the 1.5 that we're going up to, how much are you taking off of a hundred thousand dollar house, do you have an idea. You drop it from 1 mill, drop it to 1 mill.
- Councilmember Gardner asked what's a half a mill worth.
 - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied about \$40,000.00.
 - Councilmember Buehler asked what's a half a mill on a tax payer on a \$200,000.00, \$300,000.00 house, I think that's what he's asking.
 - Councilmember Gardner stated 1.5 was what \$18.00 on a \$300,000.00 house or no, it was \$51.00 on a \$300,000.00 house.
 - Councilmember Buehler stated so it's \$18.00, so it's 10 bucks.
 - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied on a 1.5 mill increase on a \$150,000.00 home was \$25.91.
 - Councilmember Buehler asked a year or month.
 - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied a year.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated so it's a third of that.
 - Councilmember Garvey stated a year; 8 bucks.
 - Councilmember Buehler replied yeah, but its 8 bucks and 8 bucks and 8 bucks and 8 bucks from the

school board, and 8 bucks from the fire district and 8 bucks from the county and it all adds up.

- Councilmember Garvey stated it does.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated and we keep doing it every year.
 - Councilmember Buehler stated yeah, and it never goes away.
- Councilmember Pawlowski asked so the motion on the table is.
 - Mayor Kirby replied the motion on the table is to approve the Annual Program of Services as published as we discussed at the July 9, 2015 work session resulting in a mill levy increase of 1.502 that is the motion on the floor if there isn't any other discussion on that.
 - Councilmember Garvey asked can we deny and re-motion it. Or we can withdraw the motion.
- Councilmember Brungardt asked so you're recommending going from 1.5 to 1%.
 - Councilmember Buehler replied that's what I'm recommending.
 - Councilmember Gardner stated going from 1.5 down to 1 mill.
 - Councilmember Brungardt replied yes, 1.5 mill to 1 mill.
- Councilmember Gardner asked are those number accurate, if we drop, does it drop to an even 1 mill. If we go from \$127,000.00 to \$87,000.00 does that drop it to 1?
 - Mayor Kirby interjected you don't get an exact till the valuations come in.
 - Finance Director Beth Sanford replied it's not a straight, you know, right.
 - Councilmember Buehler stated it'd be 1.02.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated or .98.79.
 - Mayor Kirby stated but those don't come out till October, so this is the best guessed estimate from figures that they have already been provided by the county, correct, with the final solid numbers not due till October, but the county generally speaking is pretty close.
 - Finance Director Beth Sanford replied right, they are pretty close.
 - Mayor Kirby stated so we can do 1 of 2 things, we can withdraw the motions and start with a new or, or we can vote and deny this one and get a new one.
 - Councilmember Trinkle asked so what did it drop from \$25 whatever at a half, what's it going to drop it a year, if it's 25 something on a hundred thousand dollar house right.
 - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied it was \$25.91 on a \$150,000.00 house over a year, so that would drop it a little over \$8.00 a year I think.
 - Councilmember Gardner stated the next question is John, dropping that, is that going to effect the plans for next year for the street department.
 - Mayor Kirby replied well you're giving them less money.
 - Community Development Superintendent John Jacobson replied of course it is.
 - Councilmember Garvey stated but they had money left over this year.
 - Councilmember Gardner asked are we going to suffer.
 - Community Development Superintendent John Jacobson replied we will have to take some things out of the program.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski replied that's not true since we were adding some things to the program.
 - Councilmember Buehler stated well we had money left over this year, according to the email that John Young sent out today.
 - Community Development Superintendent John Jacobson stated I would have been prepared if I had known the question, but I didn't.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated so who made the motion.
 - Mayor Kirby stated well let's be sure everybody's done since we've done this twice and then somebody comes up with another question, so let's get all the discussion out of the way first.
 - Councilmember Trinkle stated I thought we had it all agreed on what we were going to do to start with. We've had more meetings this year than we've had in the past, we've sat here and argued it out and that's what we decided to go with and now we're changing it again.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski replied no, we published it and said we could always go down but we couldn't go up. So we said we'd talk about it and look at it.
 - Mayor Kirby stated some opinions have changed since July 9th.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated let me ask 1 question to Beth. On page 8, funds paid to funds with a tax levy, you don't have to look it up, but when we've talked about the sales tax, we talked about \$800,000.00 as far as what we're gaining off of sales tax currently, but none of these numbers reflect that.

- Finance Director Beth Sanford replied its sales tax and use tax.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated ok, but the local sales tax and the county sales tax, so in both of those cases are we actually collecting more than, I know we collected more than we did in 14.
 - Finance Director Beth Sanford replied those are the revenues that I bumped up to match what we collected in 2014.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated right, but I thought that we talked about the 1 cent sales tax that the number that we were throwing around was \$800,000.00, is that not quite true.
 - Finance Director Beth Sanford replied in regards to what we were going to budget or what we were collecting.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated no what we were generating, what that was generating for us in income.
 - Councilmember Buehler stated I think that was just a general number; about \$800,000.00
 - Finance Director Beth Sanford replied yeah, that was just a general number.
 - Councilmember Garvey stated you can't project that number, you know what I mean.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated you can pretend.
 - Councilmember Garvey replied well yeah.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated ok, it was just a question I had written down.
- Mayor Kirby asked ok do we have the questions out of the way. Ok are we going to get the motion withdrawn or are we going to take a vote. I think the preferred method is to withdraw the motion. So the second was from?
 - City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner replied Mr. Trinkle.

Councilmember Trinkle withdrew his second.

- Councilmember Studnicka stated I made the motion I'll withdraw it.

Councilmember Studnicka withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Buehler moved to approve the budget as amended taking the \$40,000.00 out and only leaving the mill increase to 1 mill. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion.

- Mayor Kirby stated any more discussion. Just so we're clear that money is coming out of the Capital Improvement Projects which is roadwork, correct.
 - Finance Director Beth Sanford replied correct.
- Mayor Kirby asked any other discussion.
 - Councilmember Gardner stated I just have 1 thing I wanted to say, I know we have different entities raising mills and having an effect on mill levy, I don't think we should punish ourselves because other entities are raising theirs, and we shouldn't force ourselves to not because they are. I think we should take ours as it is and deal with ours as we should, and not take less or do less because other people are taking more.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski replied I think my feeling was that we've been raising it.
 - Councilmember Gardner interjected I know, but it keeps being brought up that they're doing this and they're doing this, and we shouldn't be doing it for them. I think if we need to we should, regardless of what they're doing.
 - Councilmember Brungardt stated I think that is a very good point Kevin.
 - Councilmember Garvey stated I just wish Tim has more time to be here for this.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated next year he's bring his magic wand and fix it all.
 - Mayor Kirby stated on subject please. So if there isn't any more discussion relevant to the new motion, then let's call the roll.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. B-3-15 Municipal Investment Pool Signature Card: Councilmember Brungardt moved to approve Resolution No. B-3-15, updating the State of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool signature cards. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance No. 948 – Sewer & Trash Disposal Assessments: Councilmember Buehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 948 for assessment of delinquent sewer and trash bills. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion.

Councilmember Gardner asked is this the same thing was had as last year?

- Finance Director Beth Sanford replied yes it is.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski asked and these are all property owners no renters?
 - Finance Director Beth Sanford replied yes they are, no renters.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance No. 949 – Weed Removal Assessments: Councilmember Buehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 949 for assessment of delinquent fees for weed removal. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Pawlowski asked have we checked to see if these are in foreclosure, we don't know.
 - Finance Director Beth Sanford replied I looked them up and they are not.

The motion was unanimously approved.

PRAB Appointment: Councilmember Brungardt moved to appoint Tom Pawlowski to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for a term ending December 31, 2016. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Studnicka asked question Andi, how does an Army officer be the head coach for the Air Force Academy rugby team?
 - Councilmember Pawlowski replied I don't know, that was before my time. He played rugby I don't know.
 - Councilmember Studnicka stated I wish Tom was here, I wanted to ask Tom that, I know he played. Unless he was assigned there as an instructor.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski replied he was an instructor there in the math department first before he went for his Ph.D. You'll have to ask him about that some time, it is a pretty funny story.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Conditional Use Permit – 1151/1153/1155 Industrial Street – Leavenworth County Humane Society: Councilmember Trinkle moved to approve the proposed conditional use permit for 1151/1153/1155 Industrial Street in the Lansing Business Center. Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Trinkle asked does this mean we can take our dogs and others over there, instead of using Leavenworth.
 - Crystal Blackdeer of the Leavenworth County Humane Society replied it is our intent to offer contracts to the cities within the county that don't have their own shelters, to be able to shelter pets for your animal control system with the Police Department and we've already talked to them about that. And to allow residents to bring strays there.
- Councilmember Trinkle stated I mean that has been talked about being done.
 - Crystal Blackdeer of the Leavenworth County Humane Society replied we intend to open sometime in 2018. We need to raise the money to build the building and then get it up and running. But we do intend to put those contracts to the cities within the county that don't have their own shelter.
- Councilmember Pawlowski asked so the conditional use permit is 5 years, is that right. So will she have to come back if the building isn't built until 2018, will she have to come back in 2020.
 - Community Development Superintendent John Jacobson replied yes, again the conditional use is strictly for the use and not for the construction of the building.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated but she won't be using it until 2018.
 - Community Development Superintendent John Jacobson replied it doesn't matter, when it's issued that's when the terms start.

The motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

City Attorney: City Attorney had nothing to report

City Administrator: City Administrator has nothing to report

Governing Body: Councilmember Garvey stated I was just at the Lansing high school for the ribbon cutting it's going to be an exciting tour we're getting ready to go on. August 13th is the ribbon cutting for Angel Falls, isn't that right. The 11th, 11th, sorry.

Councilmember Buehler stated Tony congratulations, Janette thank you for caring enough to look at it and come and let us know what your opinion is, we appreciate that.

Councilmember Brungardt stated school starts August 13th, if you haven't been out to the high school it is an unbelievable complex and something the city can be very very proud of. And in another year, we're going to also be very proud of the old high school becoming the new middle school, a huge renovation.

- Councilmember Buehler interjected I heard your office is shrinking in size over there.
 - Councilmember Brungardt replied probably, I don't need much space.

Councilmember Studnicka stated congratulations Tony for being employee of the month.

Councilmember Trinkle congratulated Tony.

Councilmember Gardner stated well deserved Tony, good job, and Janette thank you for coming up and speaking.

Councilmember Pawlowski stated congrats Tony. If anybody wants to come after to tour the high school we're going.

Mayor Kirby stated our schedule, we have the Angel Falls and the pictures are slated for?

- City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner replied, the pictures are scheduled for August 20th.
 - Councilmember Gardner asked out front.
 - City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner replied yes out front.

Mayor Kirby stated because Tim's first report didn't include calendar that we used to have and I've talked to Sarah and we're going to get that back on there. We liked your report we just miss the calendar, it helps keep me straight.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilmember Pawlowski moved to adjourn. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Trinkle asked you going to keep his report on there, correct.
 - Mayor Kirby replied yeah, we're going to add the calendar back.
 - Councilmember Trinkle asked but the calendar is just the addition.
 - Mayor Kirby replied right.

The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Louis E. Kirby, Mayor

Sarah Bodensteiner, City Clerk