Lynd City Council Minutes
September 15th, 2026

The Lynd City Council met in regular session on September 15, 2026. Present were Mayor Justin Guggisberg and Councilmembers Josh Bruley, David Reaves, and Shantel Williams. Councilmember Jerry Sodemann participated via Microsoft Teams. Also present were Public Works Director Dillon Schultz and City Clerk/Treasurer Jenni DeRuyter. City Attorney John Engels was absent.

Mayor Guggisberg called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the August 18, 2026, meeting. It was noted that the spelling of "Sharrett" Street was incorrect. Josh made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Shantel. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda

The Council reviewed the agenda and made the following additions: Shantel requested that the City Tree Dump be added under the Councilmember Report. Under New Business, building permit applications for Diane Boe and William Boe were added. Chuck Fennell and Daryl Neels were also added under Public Forum. Shantel made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions as presented, seconded by David. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Public Forum

Chuck Fennell addressed the Council regarding streetlights in Affinity Hills. Council did inform that three additional streetlights are currently on order. Monte Electric has not yet received the materials, but installation will take place once they are available and weather permitting.

Fennell also expressed concerns regarding the appearance and maintenance of the Affinity Hills entrance, including mowing, trimming around the rock areas, and weed control. Council discussed responsibility for maintaining the right-of-way and surrounding property. It was noted that there has been some conflicting information regarding which areas are the City's responsibility. Following discussion, Public Works Director Dillon Schultz will mow the center area, along with a portion of the right-of-way, and complete necessary trimming. Areas located on privately owned property will remain the responsibility of the respective property owner.

Daryl Neels addressed the Council regarding the $50 fee assessed for completed work on a pickleball court prior to obtaining a building permit. Neels stated that he was unaware a building permit was required for the concrete work. Council explained that the City's ordinance requires a building permit for the concrete pad and related improvements.

Neels also noted that he has performed mowing, spraying, and other maintenance work in the Affinity Hills area and requested that the Council waive the $50 fee.

Following discussion, David made a motion to waive the $50 fee assessed for completing the concrete pad and fence for the pickleball court prior to obtaining a building permit. Jerry seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Council Member Input

Mayor Justin Guggisberg: No items presented.
Councilman Jerry Sodemann: No items presented.
Councilman David Reaves: No items presented.
Councilman Josh Bruley: No items presented.
Councilwoman Shantel Williams: discussion about ongoing concerns regarding the City tree dump. Williams expressed interest in installing cameras at the site due to individuals dumping unauthorized items and reports of reckless driving in the area. Council noted that a trail camera previously placed at the tree dump had been stolen. After discussion, the matter was tabled to allow Council additional time to consider possible solutions and security options before the next meeting. Council also discussed replacing the existing tree dump sign with updated wording that more clearly explains the rules and regulations for use of the site. City Clerk Jenni DeRuyter will prepare wording options for Council to review at the next meeting.

Fire Report

Fire Chief Dillon Schultz reported that the Fire Department responded to 12 first responder calls, two fire calls, and one mutual aid call with the Russell Fire Department.

Schultz also reported that Pumper 828 recently underwent its biannual testing. The truck passed the required standards; however, several minor vacuum leaks were identified. The estimated cost to repair the leaks is between $2,500 and $3,000. The repairs can be completed the next time the service provider is in the area, rather than requiring a special service trip.

Shantel made a motion to approve the Fire Department Report. David seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Law Enforcement Report

None

Public Works Report

Public Works Director Dillon Schultz reported that the gas tank straps on Big Red were replaced by Kruse Motors. The repair required the existing straps to be torched off and additional work to complete the installation, with a total cost of approximately $829. Precision Paving also completed crack filling in Bergman Circle and Kindler Circle, and Schultz reported that the finished work looks good. In addition, the Horse Shoe Court at the Historical Site was removed due to its deteriorated and unusable condition. The area was filled with dirt and seeded with grass.

Schultz also provided an update on the Affinity Hills lift station. The battery has been identified as the likely cause of the ongoing issues, and a replacement battery has been ordered through Freightliner. Because it is an uncommon battery size, the estimated delivery time is approximately 2

to 20 weeks. Once received, the battery will be installed to determine whether it resolves the issue. David made a motion to approve the Public Works report. Josh seconded the motion. Upon a vote, all members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Accounts Payable

Jenni presented the Septmeber 2026 Accounts Payable. Shantel made a motion to approve the Account Payable, Jerry seconded, and all voted in favor.

Financial Report

Jenni presented the financial reports for August 2026. Josh made a motion to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Shantel. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

City Clerk's Report

Jenni DeRuyter reported that the water loss ratio for August 2026 was -13.5 %, with the City billing residents for 509,000 gallons of water while Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water billed the City for 590,00 gallons. Jenni did let council know and clarification on the Lyon County Special Assessment Certification for 2027. A list of past due balance for Utilities will be brought to October City Council Meeting. David made a motion to approve the City Clerk's report. Shantel seconded the motion. Upon a vote, all members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Legal Issues

None at this time.

Old Business

Council discussed the Historic Site. Mayor Justin Guggisberg reported that he spoke with Gruhot regarding the possibility of providing a donation or assistance with constructing a pad for agricultural equipment at the site. Councilmember Shantel Williams also reported that Brian from Lynd Antiques would be willing to display a small cabinet containing items from the Historic Site in the store. The items would not be for sale. Council agreed to allow the display as long as an inventory or record of the items is maintained. Shantel will coordinate this effort.

Council reviewed the City's fee schedule. Justin made a motion to increase the sewer base rate to $45.00 effective January 1, 2027. Shantel seconded the motion. Upon a vote, all members voted in favor, and the motion carried. Building permit fees were also discussed. Shantel suggested considering a tiered or step-based fee structure so that larger projects, such as new homes, would have a higher permit fee than smaller projects such as fences or concrete work. Shantel will research how other cities structure their building permit fees and bring information back to Council for further discussion next month. Council also discussed the Fire Department portion of the fee schedule and noted that the wording regarding equipment charges was unclear. Council would like the language revised to indicate that additional equipment charges may be assessed at the discretion of the Fire Chief or chief on scene. Proposed wording will be brought back for review and final approval at the next meeting.

Council also discussed the ongoing wastewater pond project. The City continues to have difficulty identifying landowners who are interested in discussing the sale of property for the proposed pond.

Regionalization with the City of Ghent continues to be explored as an option. Dawn Vlaminck indicated that there may be a possible site located north of Ghent and is continuing discussions regarding that property. Council noted that pumping all of Lynd's wastewater to Ghent may not be the most practical option and that a more centrally located site between the two communities would be preferable. There are several factors and potential options still being evaluated, and discussions regarding land availability and regionalization are ongoing.

New Business

Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2027 budget, which must be submitted to the County by September 30. Discussion included the purpose of various funds, current fund balances, wage categories, and other budgeted amounts. It was noted that once the preliminary levy is certified, it may be lowered but cannot be increased. Justin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-4, adopting the preliminary 2027 budget as presented. Shantel seconded the motion. Upon a vote, all members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water submitted a proposed contract extension related to water service in Affinity Hills. Council discussed the numerous factors involved in eventually transferring the water system to the City of Lynd. Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water indicated that approximately two years may be needed to secure funding and complete the necessary planning for the project and requested an extension of the current agreement. Council also discussed which existing contract is the most current. Because the requested extension is not needed until December, Council tabled the matter until next month to allow additional time to review the existing agreements and proposed extension.

Council reviewed a building permit application from Diane Boe for the construction of a wooden storage shed measuring approximately 9 feet by 13 feet. David made a motion to approve the building permit. Shantel seconded the motion. Upon a vote, all members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Council also reviewed a building permit application from William Boe for a new dry-storage outbuilding measuring approximately 15 feet by 40 feet, with construction anticipated to begin within the next few weeks. Shantel made a motion to approve the building permit. Josh seconded the motion. Upon a vote, all members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Roads – Shantel & Josh: No report at this time.

EDA – Justin & David: No report at this time.

Adjournment

Justin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jerry seconded, and all were in favor.

Mayor Justin Guggisberg

City Clerk Jennifer DeRuyter