

City of LeRoy MN – January 3, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Thiel on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Ashley Huntley, Gene Miller, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Also attending included Sharon Thiel, Dave Perkins, Tim Freerksen, Dan Feather, John Kerr, and Axel Gumbel.

White administered the oath of office to Mayor Thiel, Council Member Kathleen Gottschalk, and Council Member Jan Whisler.

Motion by Miller, second by Gottschalk to pass Resolution 2017-01, a Resolution of Thanks to Jennifer Gumbel for her years of service to the City of LeRoy. On a roll call of votes, all council members voted aye. The resolution passed 5-0.

Council reviewed the appointments to the standing committees from 2016. Thiel noted he is willing to make these appointments at the February meeting, or he would accept a motion to appoint them tonight. Council all expressed they would like to stay on their respective committees. Appointments to the standing committees for the new year were made as follows:

- Kathleen Gottschalk-Cemetery, Library Board, Prairie Visions Representative, Personnel Committee, Acting Mayor
- Gene Miller-Public Buildings, Parks & Recreation, Tree Board, EDA
- Ashley Huntley-Swimming Pool Representative, LeRoy Area Ambulance board member, Fire Department personnel committee
- Jan Whisler-Water and Sewer, Streets and Alleys, EDA
- Brian Thiel-Legal Affairs, Police Department, Personnel Committee

Motion by Huntley, second by Miller to approve the appointments to the standing committees except for the personnel committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Thiel noted he felt it ideal to have a personnel committee with a member of the community that has supervisory and human relations experience. Sharon Thiel reported that she will be resigning from the personnel committee to avoid any possible conflict of interest. Thiel would like to defer making any appointments to the personnel committee until at least the February meeting. Miller would like the seated personnel committee to meet to review the proposed pay increases.

Motion by Miller that the personnel committee of Mayor Thiel, Rita Miller, Councilor Gottschalk, and Sharon Thiel meet prior to the February council meeting to discuss personnel issues and proposed pay increases. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0.

Appointments to the appointed committees for the new year were made as follows:

- City Attorney-Tom Baudler of Baudler, Maus & Forman, LLP
- City Auditor-Smith Schafer & Associates, LTD
- Official City Newspaper-Mower County Independent
- Official Depositories-First National Bank, LeRoy; First State Bank Minnesota, LeRoy
- City Engineer-Jones, Haugh & Smith

Motion by Miller, second by Gottschalk to approve the appointments to the appointed committees. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Miller to appoint Mayor Thiel, Councilor Gottschalk, and Clerk White as official signatories for the city checking account. Second by Whisler. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Gottschalk to appoint Mayor Thiel and Clerk White as the Fire Relief Assn. Board Representatives. Second by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Thiel noted there is a vacancy on the Tree Board and on the EDA Board. Council discussed how best to let people know about these vacancies. They discussed putting an article in the newspaper advertising openings on various committees. Appointments to the Library Board, Tree Board, and EDA will be made at future meetings.

Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to reappoint Jody Morrow to another six-year term on the LeRoy EDA. Motion carried 5-0.

Dan Feather presented the slate of officers for 2017 for the LeRoy Volunteer Fire Department. The officers include Fire Chief-Tim Freerksen; Assistant Chief-Dan Feather; Captain-Scott Osmundson; Lieutenant-Caleb Hovde; Fire Marshall/Emergency Management Director-John Jones; Training Officers-Matt Main and Jake Payne; Secretary-Nathan Redman.

Motion by Huntley to approve the slate of officers for the LeRoy Volunteer Fire Department for 2017. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Gottschalk to appoint Mayor Thiel, Councilor Huntley, Clerk White, ex-officio, Tim Freerksen, and Dan Feather to the Fire Department Personnel Committee. Second by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Huntley, second by Miller to appoint Gerald Payne, James Loven, Roger Dietrich, and Shirley Whisler-alternate to the Administrative Fine Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda with making a correction to the minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

No one present had anything to report during Public Input Time. Thiel reminded those present that standing policy is for the council to only address written, signed complaints. Oral or unsigned complaints will not be addressed.

During Standing Committee Reports, (1) Huntley reported the Pool Board will be meeting on January 9. The Ambulance Board met last night and will be sending out notices for the 2017 per-capita. She also noted the ambulance service is still short EMT's. (2) Gottschalk reported the Library Board did not meet in December. (3) Miller reported the EDA is now in the bus business operating the LeRoy City Lines. This provides commuter service to Rochester five days per week and is also available for charter trips. He also noted the EDA purchased the former Bergan Building, the west building has been demolished, and clean-up inside the remaining building will begin soon. Administration of the Small Cities grant program is progressing.

No one was present to give the Police Report.

There was nothing new to report on the Capital Improvement Plan including the water treatment facility, water tower, and backup well.

Miller noted the EDA has received a request from the Presbyterian and Friends Choir for a charter trip on the LeRoy City Lines bus on Sunday, January 15, when they perform at the Eagles Cancer Telethon. This trip would consist of approximately four hours. The cost of this trip would be roughly \$150 to \$170 including the cost of the driver. The choir has carpooled to this event in the past. Axel Gumbel questioned if this is a legal contribution from the city. Sharon Thiel noted the choir people could come up with some funds to help off-set the cost of this. Council felt this is a good way to get the bus out there; they felt this is a good promotion.

Miller had a spreadsheet he had compiled from 2014 through 2016 with employee wages and benefits included. Council was reminded a 3% increase in pay for all city employees was factored into the 2017 budget. White presented renewal information for the city health insurance plan. Premiums increased approximately 20% with the current health insurance plan. White had reviewed various plans through Blue Cross and with other carriers to see if there were other plans with a lower premium. The city employees (Barnes, Jones, Sweeney, and White) currently have a plan that utilizes health savings accounts and has a deductible of \$2000 per year. A different plan through Blue Cross

that still utilizes health savings accounts with a \$3500 per year deductible appears to be the best choice for a comparable monthly premium to what is currently being paid.

Motion by Whisler to approve BlueAccess HSA Silver \$3500 Plan 642 for the four city employees for 2017. Second by Miller. Motion carried 5-0. The balance of the wage package will be deferred until the February meeting.

Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to allow White's attendance at the annual Minnesota Clerk's and Finance Officers Association conference March 14 through 18, 2017. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no land use permits for council review.

Council reviewed the Communications File. A thank you from Troop 84 was read.

Whisler reported he has contacted more than one street maintenance company to request information on street maintenance and repair. J.C. Nerstad from Four Season Maintenance in Spring Grove would like to attend a council meeting to give a presentation, but he has conflicts with our meeting time. Council could call a special meeting or plan a work session to hear his proposal. Whisler noted he would like to see street maintenance done throughout the community, but he would prefer to not do a complete street project this year. Council also discussed the videotaping of the sanitary sewer mains that had been completed quite a number of years ago. Whisler will make contact with Mr. Nerstad to see when he may be available to give a presentation.

Thiel noted he has been contacted by city residents about the condition of the city streets with snow and ice pack. He noted that North Broadway and West Cabot streets are county streets and have been plowed more times than the city streets have been plowed. Thiel reported the streets weren't plowed after the first snowfall. Jones reported the streets weren't plowed after the first snowfall; the temperatures warmed up and the snow melted. The rain on Christmas affected the streets. Jones noted Mower County has been short of sand/salt for spreading on the streets, so the streets have not been sanded as much as Jones would like to see. Miller felt discretion has to be used and allow Jones the ability to do his job. Thiel's personal opinion that three inches of snowfall is not the only standard to go by; it depends on the type of snow that falls and the temperature forecast to determine when plowing is done. Council will continue to monitor this and discuss at future meetings.

Council further discussed the sanitary sewer videotapes and wondered if these could be transferred to a different medium. Council will research this possibility.

White noted she had filed an application with the LeRoy Community Foundation for Chesebrough Funds for the renovations that have been completed at the Community Center. Someone from the council needs to attend the Foundation meeting to review the application. Miller volunteered to attend this meeting on January 18, at 6:15 PM.

There was nothing further to discuss with the ongoing items.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Gottschalk at 8:25 PM.

Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer