

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, January 5, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Justin Brandau, Ashley Huntley, Gene Miller, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Others attending included Dianne Ahrens, Jan Hanson, Donna Bhend, Axel Gumbel, Deputy T. J. Lynch, Ginger Holm, Al Hodgdon, Mike Souhrada, Jon & Rita Hiller, Brian Thiel, and Tim Freerksen. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

White administered the oath of office to Mayor Gumbel, Council Member Ashley Huntley, and Council Member Gene Miller.

Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to pass Resolution 2015-01, a Resolution of Thanks to Linda Sanders for her years of service to the City of LeRoy. Motion by Gottschalk, second by Brandau to pass Resolution 2015-02, a Resolution of Thanks to Vickie Lidtke for her years of service to the City of LeRoy. On a roll call of votes, all council members voted aye. The two resolutions passed 5-0.

Council reviewed the appointments to the standing committees from 2014. Gumbel recommended making these appointments at the February council meeting to give time for each council member to review the committees and decide which committees they would like to serve on.

Appointments to some of 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-LeRoy Independent

Official Depositories-First National Bank, LeRoy; First State Bank Minnesota, LeRoy

City Engineer-Jones, Haugh & Smith

Motion by Brandau, second by Miller to approve the appointments to these appointed committees.

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Council discussed the listing of past due water bills and the length of time some of these have been on the list.

During Public Input Time, (1) Al Hodgdon and Mike Souhrada, representatives of the LeRoy Pool Board, met with council to discuss the swimming pool and fundraising programs. The board has undertaken a new fundraising program for the next six years. The program includes private funding in the amount of \$30,000 per year plus \$40,000 per year from the school and city. The school has committed \$20,000 for 2015; the board would like to see the city up their funding from \$15,000 per year to \$20,000 per year. The board has approached the City of Ostrander for funding; Ostrander has not committed any funds yet. The board would like the City to put this item on the next council agenda for further discussion. Further discussion and explanations followed. The council thanked Mr. Hodgdon and Mr. Souhrada for their time. (2) Dianne Ahrens, Jan Hanson, and Donna Bhend, representatives of the LeRoy Garden Club, met with council to discuss the watering of the hanging flower baskets during the summer months. The city maintenance guys help put the baskets up and have taken care of watering them on a daily basis. An issue arose last summer over the July Fourth holiday weekend when the flowers did not get timely watering and withered in the heat and wind. The flower baskets were replaced with new ones in time for the Summerfest celebration. The ladies questioned if the maintenance department will continue to water the baskets this year or if the Garden Club will need to arrange for watering detail. Funding for the flower baskets comes from the LeRoy Community Foundation charitable gambling funds. Mayor Gumbel offered to attend the next Garden Club meeting to further discuss this. (3) Rita and Jon Hiller told council they had a watermain break on Christmas morning; this watermain runs in an easement through the backyards of Block 1 of the Sweet's Addition. Their concern was there were no after hours or emergency telephone numbers available on the city hall answering machine message or listed on the city website. Mrs. Hiller also expressed concern that repair of this main had to wait until the following day instead of being repaired on Christmas day. Jones was contacted and adjusted the water flow through this broken main to minimize the amount of water coming up out of the ground due to the break. He and

Dave Streit also got sand bags to help the Hillers with water flowing in their backyard from this broken main. (4) Brian Thiel suggested to council to change the layout of the tables council sits at for the council meeting; he suggested putting the tables more in a V-shape to make the layout more open instead of the two tables put together in a rectangle. Council will take this suggestion into consideration.

Deputy Lynch handed out the written police report and reviewed the activity for the month. Council had no questions for Deputy Lynch; Deputy Lynch was thanked for his time.

Tim Freerksen presented the slate of officers for 2015 for the LeRoy Volunteer Fire Department. The officers include Fire Chief-Tim Freerksen; Assistant Chief-Dan Feather; Captain-Scott Osmundson; Lieutenant-Dave Farlinger; Fire Marshall/Emergency Management Director-John Jones; Training Officer-Dan Hanson; and Secretary-Nathan Redman. Motion by Brandau, second by Huntley to approve the slate of officers for the LeRoy Fire Department for 2015. Motion carried 5-0. Freerksen noted there are 23 out of 24 members on the department. There are three members that have in over 20 years of service each and could retire at any time. He noted it is getting harder to get people to volunteer and put in the time for training and drills. Firefighter training that is required for new firefighters has been done through Chester Fire and the State of Iowa. Minnesota offers the same training but at a much higher cost than what it can be done through Iowa. Freerksen noted he does not foresee any large expenditures for the department in the coming year. Council thanked Freerksen for his time.

Gumbel updated those present on the state of repairs, or lack thereof, at the property located at 314 East Main Street. Council is waiting for guidance from the city attorney on this matter. Gumbel would like to get court action to declare this property as a hazardous property so the city can move forward with demolition when the building permit expires if proper repairs are not made. Council also discussed the burned house located at 107 East Lowell Street. White was directed to send a letter to the owner of record.

Demolition of the property located at 102 East Main Street will wait until spring due to the type of asbestos in the building and the manner in which the building must be torn down to abate the asbestos. It was noted that Koch, Inc. is checking into becoming a licensed asbestos contractor.

Gumbel updated the new council members on the history of the Rochester City Lines coach bus that transported Mayo Clinic employees to and from work. A van pool is in operation at this time and is full. There is room for another van at the city maintenance shed if need arises for another van. This group pays \$50 per month rent for housing the van in the shed. Gumbel also updated the new council members on the conversations she has had with the Mower County Board of Commissioners on the status of blowing and drifting snow on Mower County 14. The county engineer is researching various ways of addressing the blowing and drifting snow by the use of snow windrows, living snow fences, or temporary snow fences.

Council set a work session for Saturday, January 17, 2015, at 9:00 AM to further discuss the water treatment facility, water tower, and backup well. This work session will be held at city hall.

Gumbel recommended having the personnel committee review the proposed 2015 wage and benefit package and report back to council on their recommendations. The personnel committee will meet in January and present a report back to council at their February meeting.

White requested attendance at the 2015 MCFOA conference. The conference will be held March 17 to 20 at the Treasure Island Resort and Conference Center in Welch, MN. Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to allow White's attendance. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no building/zoning permits for council to review.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included an invitation to LMC training, Progress Minnesota is looking for nominations, a notice of a public hearing on the proposed sale of Interstate Power electric service, a Christmas greeting from Senator Klobuchar, a letter from Mediacom on rate increases, and a Christmas card from Pack 84. Council members are to let White know if they wish to attend the SEMLM meeting on January 29 in Rochester.

No estimates have been received from any plumbers on the Community Center heating and duct work project. Council will continue to work on improvements to the Community Center in stages. It is

hoped to replace some of the soiled ceiling tiles in the upper banquet room with some of the better tiles in the lower banquet room when the duct work is replaced and new ceiling grids and tiles are installed.

In Ongoing Items, Zoning Enforcement will be reviewed again in the spring, Gumbel would still like to arrange a meeting with area communities and organizations regarding Destination Medical Center, and the Minnesota Basic Code will become a project for upcoming months.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM on a motion by Brandau and seconded by Gottschalk.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer