

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, January 7, 2013, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Linda Sanders, Vickie Lidtke, Kathleen Gottschalk, Justin Brandau, Maintenance Supervisor Dave Streit, and City Clerk Patty White. Others in attendance included Daniel Gottschalk, Axel Gumbel, Deputy Pete Hillman, Don Olson, Doug & Eileen Hutchins, Harold & Joann Shipman, Jean Knight, Roger & Pauline Fister, Virgil & Mary Speer, Don Theobald, Tim Freerksen, Chris Eastvold, Ginger Holm, Matt Asfahl, Rose Erie, and Jan & Shirley Whisler. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

White administered the oath of office to Gumbel, Gottschalk, and Brandau.

Motion by Gumbel, second by Sanders to pass Resolutions 2013-01, 2013-02, and 2013-03, resolutions recognizing the public service of Kathy Farlinger, Georgena Bird, and Harold Shipman. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed the standing and appointed committee assignments. Appointments to the standing committees for the new year were made as follows:

Kathleen Gottschalk-Cemetery, Public Buildings, Swimming Pool Representative
Vickie Lidtke-LeRoy Area Ambulance board member, Parks & Recreation, Tree Board
Linda Sanders-EDA, Library Board, Acting Mayor
Justin Brandau-EDA, Water & Sewer, Streets & Alleys
Jennifer Gumbel-Legal Affairs, Police Department, Personnel

Motion by Sanders, second by Gottschalk to approve the appointments to the standing committees. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Fire Relief Assn. Board Representatives-Mayor Gumbel, Clerk White
City Attorney-Jeff Kritzer of Baudler, Maus, Forman, Kritzer & Wagner
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
LeRoy Tree Board-Vickie Lidtke, Clerk White, Gail Manahan, Jerry Barber
Library Board-Linda Sanders, Gladys Kasel, Barb Payne, Georgia Eastvold, Carrol Cartney, Jan

Hanson, Pat Utz, Ben Reburn

Motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke to approve the appointments to the appointed committees. Motion carried 5-0.

Don Theobald presented the slate of officers for 2013 for the LeRoy Volunteer Fire Department. The officers include Fire Chief-Don Theobald; Assistant Chief-Chris Eastvold; Captain-Tim Freerksen; Lieutenant-Dan Feather; Fire Marshall/Emergency Management Director-John Jones; Training Officer-not filled, to be determined. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to approve the slate of officers for the LeRoy Fire Department for 2013. Motion carried 5-0. Chief Theobald reported he doesn't foresee any major purchases for 2013. Appointments to the Fire Department Personnel Committee include Mayor Gumbel, Councilor Brandau, Don Theobald, Chris Eastvold, and Clerk White, ex-officio. Motion by Gumbel, second by Gottschalk to approve the appointments to the Fire Department Personnel Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2012, council meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Lidtke, second by Brandau to approve the current bills. Motion carried 5-0. Council reviewed the written reports; there were no questions. Council also reviewed the past due bills report.

During public input time, Don Olson greeted the new council and expressed concern with some type of city-wide cleanup. He expressed hope that this council will be one to get something done with this issue. Gumbel commented she felt the council needs to enforce the ordinances as written, but the cost for enforcement will need to be considered, too. She felt it would make sense to hold a council work session to review the ordinance. Eileen Hutchins also commented that if the council wants to clean up and spruce up the town that they should also look at fixing the ceiling of the Community Center. Brandau commented that the council should lead by example.

Deputy Hillman gave the monthly police report. He noted there have been some petty burglaries. People were reminded to lock their homes and garages.

There was nothing to report under standing committee reports.

Streit updated the council on findings by Karen Cavett from SEH on the water facilities and wastewater facilities. Council also reviewed the rate analysis compiled by White. Gumbel would like to hold a work session to further review this information. More discussion followed. Motion by Gumbel to schedule a work session to look at the information compiled by SEH in their reports and not schedule a work session with SEH at this time. Second by Brandau. Motion carried 5-0.

Gumbel noted that at this time she is the only person appointed to the personnel committee. Additional members would bring more balance and insight to the committee. She felt this would be more fair to the employees and would be better to not do something arbitrary and capricious. It would require another person to serve on this committee. Gottschalk volunteered to serve on the personnel committee. Gumbel noted this committee would be more of an advisory committee; any changes would still come to the city council. Sanders questioned if a community member could also serve. White will check into this and report back at the February meeting. Chris Eastvold felt that the fire department personnel committee that is already in place could serve this purpose. White explained that committee is in place for the fire department and not for the other city employees.

Council reviewed the pay package and employee benefits for 2013. It was noted that the health premiums have decreased for 2013. Gumbel's view was to leave things as they are for 2013; she commented the employees are picking up a greater share in the increase in the deductible by 9.5% and the decrease in the premium by 6%. Sanders questioned if the city should make the employee responsible for up to 30% of the premium for dependent coverage. Harold Shipman commented that citizens complain of the taxes levied because of Wildwood Grove; he felt that the amount of taxes being levied is too high because the health insurance premiums are too high. White explained the way the budget is put together; the preliminary budget is put out in late August and the preliminary levy is certified in September. The final budget and levy was approved and certified in December. Don Olson was in agreement with White's statement and felt that the budget, once adopted, needs to be lived with and by. Jan Whisler questioned if the budget could be published in the newspaper. Council felt cost would be an issue. Other alternatives were discussed including putting the budget on the city website. White reminded those present that the budget is public information and available at city hall. Brandau felt to make the summary budget available on the city bulletin board with copies at city hall and possibly publish the summary budget in the newspaper. Gumbel does not feel the need to make a motion at this meeting to change the wage and benefit package for 2013. Brandau commented he is not opposed to what Sanders said but felt more time is needed to review this. No motions were made.

Motion by Gumbel, second by Gottschalk to approve the 2013 licenses. Motion carried 5-0.

White requested to be allowed to attend the annual MCFOA conference in March. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to allow White's attendance at the MCFOA conference. Motion carried 5-0. Streit requested to be allowed to attend the annual MRWA conference in March. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to allow Streit's attendance at the MRWA conference. Motion carried 5-0.

Zoning enforcement was discussed. Gumbel felt this is an on-going issue. She commented that if the city has zoning ordinances, they should be enforced. She would like to hold a work session to

review the ordinances in addition to the work session for the water & wastewater facilities. These could possibly be held on the same day. Motion by Gumbel to hold a work session to review zoning enforcement. Second by Brandau. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed the communications file. Items included the charitable gambling reports from the LeRoy Community Foundation, the minutes from the September meeting of the Mower County League of Cities, a thank you card from Pack 84 for the use of the Community Center for their pancake breakfast, and a thank you card from Classic Carpets for the city's business in 2012. Council also reviewed a request for membership in the Minnesota Association of Small Cities. Council denied this request for membership.

Streit updated council on the booster pump; he noted the pump was just delivered to Rochester today. The pump will get installed in the very near future; estimates for repairing the old pump will get done. He also noted that a water main break at the intersection of Atkins Street and West County Road was repaired this morning.

Council reviewed the contact information and discussed protocol for emails.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sanders, second by Gumbel at 8:02 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer