

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, February 2, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Justin Brandau, Gene Miller, Ashley Huntley, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Kathleen Gottschalk was absent. Others in attendance included Jan & Shirley Whisler, Harold & Joann Shipman, Scott Osmundson, Tim Freerksen, Rita Miller, Deputy T. J. Lynch, Dave Perkins, Axel Gumbel, Al Hodgdon, and Ginger Holm. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Appointments to the standing committees for 2015 were made as follows:

Kathleen Gottschalk-Cemetery, Library Board, Prairie Visions Rep, Personnel Committee,
Acting Mayor

Gene Miller-Public Buildings, Parks & Recreation, Tree Board, EDA

Ashley Huntley-EDA, Swimming Pool Rep, Ambulance Board

Justin Brandau-Water & Sewer, Streets and Alleys

Jennifer Gumbel-Legal Affairs, Police Department, Personnel Committee

Motion by Huntley, second by Miller to approve the appointments to the standing committees. Motion carried 4-0. Council authorized Mayor Gumbel, Acting Mayor Gottschalk, and Clerk White as official signers for the city accounts.

Appointments to the balance of the appointed committees for 2015 were made as follows:

Fire Relief Assn. Board Representatives-Mayor Gumbel, Clerk White

LeRoy Tree Board-Gene Miller, Jerry Barber, Patty White

Library Board-Kathleen Gottschalk, council representative; Gladys Kasel, Barb Payne, Dianne Ahrens, Carrol Cartney, Jan Hanson, Pat Utz, Ben Reburn

Fire Department Personnel Committee-Mayor Gumbel, Councilor Brandau, Tim Freerksen, Dan Feather, Clerk White

City Personnel Committee-Mayor Gumbel, Councilor Gottschalk, Sharon Thiel, Rita Miller, Clerk White, ex-officio

Administrative Fine Board-Gerald Payne, James Loven, Roger Dietrich, Shirley Whisler-alternate

LeRoy EDA-Jerry Barber, Jody Morrow, Craig Jacobson, Dave Perkins, Axel Gumbel, Councilor Huntley, Councilor Miller

Motion by Miller, second by Huntley to approve the appointments to the appointed committees. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Brandau, second by Huntley to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

During Public Input Time, Dave Perkins commented he likes the table arrangement as set for the council meeting.

During Standing Committee Reports, Gumbel noted the personnel committee has met and reviewed the total compensation package; they discussed the pay and benefits and employee evaluations. This will be further discussed later in the meeting.

Deputy Lynch reviewed the written police report. He noted that vacation checks are done once per shift. Council thanked Deputy Lynch for his time and report.

Council reviewed the email received from the city attorney pertaining to the Jay Hardecopf property located at 314 East Main Street. Gumbel requested White to contact the State Fire Marshall to see if he could inspect the structure. Mr. Hardecopf could have to consent to an inspection, unless the inspection could be done completely from the outside. If Mr. Hardecopf does not consent to an inspection, the council could apply to the court to get an administrative search warrant to conduct an inspection. Gumbel commented the council needs to follow all procedures to accomplish the goals with this property. White was directed to contact the city attorney to have him come to LeRoy to do a visual inspection of the property. Miller also suggested having the attorney look at the commercial property owned by Mr. Hardecopf for cleanup there, too. White was directed to send a notice to Mr. Hardecopf pertaining to the state of the lack of cleanup at the commercial property.

Council reviewed the information discussed at the council work session held on Saturday, January 17. Council discussed different options for water storage, whether to pursue a new, larger water tower or to pursue additional underground storage for water. Council also discussed drilling a second, backup well and the condition of the water filter. Jones and White are compiling information from water tower companies and making contacts pertaining to drilling a second well.

Fire Chief Tim Freerksen reported the LeRoy Volunteer Fire Department responded to seven rural fires, seven city fires, six mutual aid calls, and three Mayo 1 landings in 2014. He noted that in another five years, the present radios being used by firefighters and the radios in the fire trucks will be obsolete. Mower County is working towards an 800 megawatt radio system. The cost of these radios is \$14,000 for the handhelds and \$24,000 for the truck radios. Grand Meadow is considering sponsoring a regional FEMA grant next year for radio purchases. The current SCBA units are 12 years old; these units have a 15-year life span. He also reported four sets of turn-out gear are purchased each year; two sets are paid for from city funds and two sets are paid for from rural fire funds. There were no purchases of turn-out gear made in 2014; this will be another purchase to consider. He reported that in the last five years the fire department relief association has purchased approximately \$35,000 worth of equipment with funds from donations and fundraisers. He also noted the state has funds for training; these funds have helped off-set training costs. He questioned about funding another training/safety officer position for the department. This additional position would help with getting all the training and documentation completed. Council thanked Chief Freerksen for this report.

Gumbel reported the personnel committee is recommending the budgeted 3% pay increases to all city employees. She noted the city currently pays the full premium for employee and dependent health coverage. The city also pays the premium for employee dental insurance and employee life insurance. Dependent dental coverage can be purchased by the employee. The committee is recommending discontinuing dependent health coverage; this change would affect White and Heimer. Dependent health coverage could be purchased by the employee. If this recommendation is approved, an amendment to the personnel policy will also have to be made. Council questioned when this change should become effective. Motion by Miller to approve the 3% pay increase retroactive to January 1, 2015, for all employees. Second by Brandau. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Miller, second by Brandau to discontinue dependent health coverage effective April 1, 2015. On a roll call of votes, Gumbel, Brandau, and Miller voted aye. Huntley did not cast a vote. The motion carried. Motion by Gumbel to amend page 13 of the City of LeRoy Personnel Policy to read, "The City will contribute a monthly amount toward group health, dental, and life insurance benefits for each eligible employee. The city pays for health, dental, and life for the employee; the employee is responsible for dependent health and dental coverage." Second by Brandau. On a roll call of votes, Gumbel, Brandau, and Miller voted aye. Huntley did not cast a vote. The motion carried.

Al Hodgdon, representative of the LeRoy Pool Board, was present to answer any questions the council had about the pool and the Board's request for additional funding for the operations of the pool. It was questioned if the pool manager is a full-time or part-time position. Hodgdon noted this is a part-time position; he did not know how many hours per week are to be worked. Gumbel was concerned that if this a part-time position at either 20 or 30 hours per week, that the manager could be making more in pay than the city maintenance supervisor and city clerk. Council would like to see a job description for the pool manager before committing more funds to the pool. Miller commented the pool board needs to find a way to get more people into the pool. Huntley would like to see what the pool board has in plans for increasing the funding by more usage of the pool; these could include more flexibility with the times of the aerobic classes or winter swim lessons. Miller requested financial information for the last seven to ten years for the pool. Gumbel noted she is comfortable with the city contributing more funds for something like this. She commented the budget for 2015 is already set; funds would need to be found elsewhere in the budget if the city is to increase their contribution for 2015. Council also commented they would like to know how the pool board will prevent each year from being an "emergency" situation for funding. This will be discussed at pool board meetings. Hodgdon reported it appears the pool will be short \$4000 from their goal for 2015; they would continue to be the \$4000 short in the coming years for

what has been committed from various entities so far. Gumbel recommended calling for a special meeting of the city council and inviting members of the pool board and pool manager to further discuss these items when the information requested becomes available.

Gumbel reported she will be attending the LeRoy Garden Club meeting to be held this Thursday, February 5. She will be requesting a telephone number of a garden club member who can be called if the city maintenance personnel is not able to water the flower baskets during a weekend.

There were no building/zoning permits for council review.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included the minutes from the Prairie Visions meeting, the charitable gambling reports from the LeRoy Community Foundation, an invitation to submit priority concerns for Root River One Watershed One Plan from the Fillmore Soil & Water Conservation District, and a letter from the Minnesota Department of Health noting that the City of LeRoy has satisfactorily passed the public water supply audit for the city's wellhead protection plan.

Council reviewed two quotes received for the furnace, air conditioning, and duct work for the LeRoy Community Center. Council also reviewed one bid for the removal and replacement of the ceiling in the lower banquet area in the center. Council discussed funding for this project. Options include requesting funds from the LeRoy Community Foundation and/or capital outlay funds. Council questioned what it would cost to also remove and replace the ceiling in the upper banquet area of the center. White was directed to get a bid for the upper banquet area ceiling. Gumbel would like to take all four quotes/bids to the next LeRoy Community Foundation meeting to request funding for this project.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Brandau and seconded by Huntley at 8:12 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer