

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, February 3, 2014, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Linda Sanders, Kathleen Gottschalk, Justin Brandau, Vickie Lidtke, and City Clerk Patty White. Maintenance Supervisor John Jones was absent. Others in attendance included Harold & Joann Shipman, Jan Whisler, Doug & Eileen Hutchins, Roger & Pauline Fister, Rose Erie, Judy Jasper, Ginger Holm, Carol Richardson, Axel Gumbel, and Deputy Jaime Meyer. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

During Public Input Time, Jan Whisler questioned if any letters have been sent out for nuisance enforcement. Gumbel noted that council has not received any signed, written complaints to initiate the sending of letters. Brandau also noted that the weather has not been conducive for cleaning up at this time. Gumbel reiterated the process can be started by citizens, city officials, or elected officials. She reminded those present that any letters submitted to the council must be signed to be acted upon; she also noted that everyone has the opportunity to make a complaint. Brandau also commented these nuisance issues didn't just begin with this seated council, these issues have been on-going. Gumbel commented that cleanup was a main issue brought up to her prior to her becoming mayor. This was the first issue this seated council addressed. She felt that those that feel passionately about cleanup can write a letter and deliver it to a council member or city staff. White reiterated to those present that names of complainants are considered as private information.

During Standing Committee Reports, Gumbel noted the Personnel Committee has met; they are reviewing the personnel policy for any changes or updates that should be made. This information will be brought to council for their review and/or action. Gottschalk reported that Prairie Visions rescheduled their meeting to noon today; she was not able to attend. She also attended the Pool Board meeting; they are reviewing the "Thrive for Five" campaign and discussing Summerfest activities. Sanders reported the Library Board is short a member; this will be addressed at their upcoming meeting. It was noted the EDA did not meet in regular session due to the weather.

Deputy Meyer gave the January police report. Deputy Meyer reported another deputy has been hired and is being trained to take over the LeRoy coverage. He also noted another deputy will be hired within the next couple of months.

Council reviewed the proposed 2014 wage increases. A 3% increase in wages was factored into the 2014 budget. Gumbel noted that any previous wage increases were done due to pay equity; wages were frozen in 2012 and 2013. She reported that the private market has been increasing wages. Gumbel noted she is in favor of the proposed wage increases. Lidtke commented the full-time employees are still getting their insurance premiums paid for. Brandau commented, and Lidtke concurred, that he would like to see the wages remain the same; he felt the employees are being paid a decent wage for working in LeRoy along with the benefit package. Motion by Brandau to maintain pay rates at the current rate. Second by Lidtke. On a roll call of votes Sanders, Gottschalk, Brandau, and Lidtke voted aye. Gumbel cast a nay vote. Motion carried 4-1.

White reported LeRoy has been chosen as a host city for the Bicycling Around Minnesota (BAM) bike ride. The bike riders will spend Friday, August 15, 2014, here in LeRoy. More information will be brought to council as it becomes available. Eileen Hutchins encouraged the council in supporting Prairie Visions by paying their 2014 dues. She reported Mike Hanson, Mower County Engineer, presented information on the extension of the Shooting Star Trail from Rose Creek to Austin at the Prairie Visions meeting held earlier today.

It was reported the EDA will be hosting a Destination Medical Center (DMC) Forum on Tuesday, February 11. Axel Gumbel was thanked for igniting this idea with the EDA. Mr. Gumbel reported he had spoken to the presenter recently. The comment made was how the community can leverage DMC, not what can the DMC can do for us.

There were no building/zoning permits for council review.

The Communications File was reviewed. Items included the Taste of Mower County being sponsored by the ARC of Mower County. The LMC Legislative Conference will be held February 27. Council reviewed information from Mediacom and the LeRoy Community Pool year-end financial statement. The Mower County Open Book Meeting will be held on April 17, 2014, at 9:00 AM at the Mower County Courthouse. Gumbel reviewed the SEMLM Legislative Policies. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to support these policy positions. Motion carried 5-0.

A representative with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will meet with the council at their March meeting.

Council reviewed information from Brunton Architects pertaining to the Community Center renovations. Sanders noted that to put this project out for bids, an architect would need to be involved to write the specifications. Brunton Architects came to LeRoy pro-bono to look at the proposed renovations. At first the architect didn't feel the city needed their services, but with further review, he felt the city could benefit from their services. Eileen Hutchins gave a brief history of the community center. Mrs. Hutchins and Harold Shipman both questioned how much the city was willing to contribute to this project. Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to approve the proposal from Brunton Architects. Motion carried 5-0.

Under On-going Items, White was directed to contact the city attorney to get the procedure for demolition of a property at 314 East Main Street if the property isn't fixed up. White also updated council on the tax-forfeited property located at 105 East Main Street.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sanders, second by Brandau at 7:57 PM.

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Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

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Patty A. White, City Clerk/Treasurer