

## City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, February 6, 2017

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Thiel on Monday, February 6, 2017, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Ashley Huntley and Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk and Gene Miller were absent.

Also attending: Deputy T.J. Lynch, Axel Gumbel, and Dave Perkins.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

During Public Input Time, Huntley reported that two in-home licensed daycares have opened or are in the process of opening. Each daycare will be able to accommodate 10 to 12 children. Council was pleased with this news.

During Standing Committee Reports, (1) Whisler noted the EDA has contracted with John McKenzie to completely gut the old NAPA building; this project should begin tomorrow and hope to be completed within a week with an estimated cost of \$2000 to \$3500. The EDA has accepted this quote with a not to exceed figure of \$3500. (2) Whisler also noted that J.C. Nerstad of Four Season Maintenance had met with Thiel, Whisler, Miller, Jones, White, and Dave Perkins to discuss street maintenance and repair. Mr. Nerstad plans to do another drive around in early spring (one drive around was done in fall, 2016) with Whisler and Jones to review the streets and come back with a plan for maintenance and repair. Whisler noted he has reviewed quality of work, service, and overall cost with different street maintenance companies. Thiel questioned if Mr. Nerstad should be hired as a consultant and give the city a report outlining short and long-term plans for the city streets. Whisler felt this will be accomplished with the drive around with Mr. Nerstad with no cost to the city. Whisler felt working with a company comes down to trust, not only trust in the company but trust in Councilor Whisler to do his job as was assigned with the council appointments. Huntley questioned if the city will receive a report to review and make decisions from. Thiel asked if there was a motion to proceed with hiring J.C. Nerstad of Four Season Maintenance for consultation of the city streets. No motion was made, but council will proceed with J.C. Nerstad of Four Season Maintenance with a drive around of the city streets to get a plan in place for street maintenance and repair. (3) Whisler noted the bus service is running smoothly and has been received positively. (4) Huntley reported the Pool Board has met; they are currently looking for a secretary for their board. Council reviewed the financial reports and proposed budget for 2017. Huntley noted the pool runs on a tight budget and relies on contributions and grants to assist with cash flow. Council expressed concern if the pool doesn't remain profitable if the pool board would come back to the school and/or city for additional funding. Council reminded those in attendance both the school and city contribute \$20,000 annually towards the swimming pool.

Deputy Lynch gave an oral police report. He reported there are multiple deputies covering the LeRoy area until a new deputy is trained and put on patrol here. The new deputy was just sworn in today and will begin training. Thiel questioned how many hours are being put in here in LeRoy. Lynch noted at least six hours per day are attributed to LeRoy, but he felt more than the six hours daily were being put in. Thiel also questioned about any use of radar. Lynch responded.

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

Thiel reported that Sharon Thiel has resigned her position on the Personnel Committee. Thiel recommended Steve Carlin for this opening. Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to appoint Steve Carlin to the Personnel Committee. He will be joined on the committee with Councilor Gottschalk, Mayor Thiel, Rita Miller, and Clerk White, ex-officio. Motion carried 3-0.

Thiel read a letter of interest from Josh Diemer for the open seat on the EDA and recommended his appointment. Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to appoint Josh Diemer to the unexpired term on the EDA board left vacant by the resignation of Brian Thiel. Motion carried 3-0.

The LeRoy Library Board has recommended appointing Leslie Kerr and Donna Johnson to the Library Board. Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to approve these appointments. Motion carried 3-0. Others serving on the Library Board include Barb Payne, Dianne Ahrens, Carrol Cartney, Pat Utz, Ben Reburn, and Councilor Gottschalk. The library board has also hired Carole Perkins as a part-time librarian.

Thiel reported the Personnel Committee had met and discussed personnel issues and the 3% proposed increase in pay for all city employees. It was the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to grant the 3% increase in pay to all city employees. Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to approve the 3% increase in pay to all city employees retroactive to January 1, 2017. Motion carried 3-0.

There were no land use permits for council review.

Council reviewed the Communications File. (1) LMC is hosting its 2017 Legislative Conference for Cities on March 23. Thiel expressed interest in attending. Motion by Whisler to pay for the registration for Thiel to attend this if Thiel covers the mileage and hotel costs. Second by Huntley. The motion carried 3-0. (2) Thiel reported he had attended the LMC Newly Elected Officials Conference in Mankato. He gained much information from this conference. Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to reimburse Thiel for the cost of the hotel to attend this. Motion carried 3-0. (3) White reported the Open Book Meetings for Mower County will be held at the Mower County Assessor's Office from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM from April 10 through June 9. (4) Council reviewed the information received from SE MN Historic Bluff Country for membership in their organization. Council consensus to deny membership in SE MN Historic Bluff Country.

Council further discussed street maintenance and repair for 2017. Council will receive a report from J.C. Nerstad from Four Season Maintenance and review it to determine the course of action to take. Council did commend Jones & Sweeney for snow and ice removal after the last heavy snowfall.

Whisler reported he had contacted Ben Reburn to see if he could transfer the VHS sewer tapes to DVD. Reburn can do this and would charge \$20 per VHS tape to do this. This would preserve what the city currently has provide a usable reference tool for council. Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to hire Ben Reburn to transfer the VHS tapes to DVD at a cost of \$20 per tape. Motion carried 3-0.

Thiel reported he had attended the SEMLM meeting in Rochester and had sat next to a representative from A & A Electric & Underground Construction. Discussion centered on installation of fiber networks. A meeting was set up with an owner of A & A. White & Thiel met with Joel Alberts; he reviewed the layout of the town including the streets and alleys. A rough estimate of bringing a fiber network to the City of LeRoy would cost \$2M. Thiel noted he is not recommending the city to do this, but it is good to have this information to know what potential costs could be. Dave Perkins noted that the city is currently served by LTD Broadband, Mediacom, Verizon, and Frontier to get services from. Thiel noted the State of Minnesota is recommending connections of at least 25 MHz for the entire state. Thiel noted his interest is to have the city the most modern in the field of technology. He would like to appoint a committee to deal with technology. He would like to see LeRoy remain ahead of the curve in this area.

The council discussed a new LED sign to replace the Community Center marquee. The EDA had also discussed this at their meeting. Thiel has looked at signs in Harmony and Austin. Riceville also has a LED sign. Axel Gumbel reminded those present that the L-O School had talked about a sign a few years ago; he suggested including the school in discussions. It was noted the EDA is in favor of this project. Funding was also discussed. Council and those present discussed what could be advertised

on the sign; the need for a policy was also discussed. Some discussion also centered on who would have access to programming the sign. Council agreed to have the EDA further research this.

There was nothing further to discuss with the ongoing items. Dave Perkins did express interest in serving on a Technology Committee if the committee gets formed.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Huntley, second by Whisler at 7:48 PM.

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Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer