

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, March 3, 2014, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Linda Sanders, Vickie Lidtke, Justin Brandau, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Others in attendance included Harold & Joann Shipman, Deloryce Johnson, Shirley & Jan Whisler, Roger & Pauline Fister, Axel Gumbel, Dayne Olson, Phyllis Jacobson, Rose Erie, Deputy Jaime Meyer, Dave Perkins, Ginger Holm, and Kevin Janssen. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

Deputy Meyer gave the February police report. Council thanked Deputy Meyer for the report.

Randy Bradt, Area Hydrologist from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological and Water Resources, introduced himself to council. Mr. Bradt works with groundwater issues. He can assist the city with groundwater monitoring and water supply monitoring. He can also assist with a water supply plan. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to pass Resolution 2014-01, a resolution approving working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on Water Supply Planning and Groundwater Monitoring. Motion carried 5-0. Council thanked Mr. Bradt for his presentation and time.

During Public Input Time, Harold Shipman questioned about the amount of health insurance premiums for 2014. Sanders replied they are less than 2013. Mr. Shipman also commented that someone came to him and told him that he and his wife had submitted signed letters of complaint last fall pertaining to three properties. Gumbel requested that these letters be resubmitted. Shipman also voiced a concern about the amount of so-called junk being brought into town. Brandau questioned about the length of time or if vehicles can be parked in the front yards. Comments made included that with the amount of snow, parking on the front yards may be the lesser of two evils if the vehicles were left on the streets with snow removal. Shipman also commented he didn't feel the council should lower the water/sewer bills or give a credit for those running their water to alleviate freezing pipes due to the condition of the well, water tower, and filter.

During Standing Committee Reports, Gottschalk reported she had attended the Prairie Visions meeting. She noted Prairie Visions did not receive a grant for a bridge project; they also discussed the extension of the Shooting Star Trail, the upcoming Day on the Hill, and the booth at the LeRoy Farm & Home Show. Sanders reported that Dianne Ahrens has volunteered to serve on the Library Board. Motion by Gumbel, second by Sanders to approve Dianne Ahrens to the Library Board. Motion carried 5-0. Lidtke reported about door opener issues on the door for the ambulance at the Emergency Services building. She also noted there is an issue with the north door. Jones will check into these issues. Gumbel reported the personnel committee was to have met, but the meeting was postponed due to the weather. Another meeting will be scheduled within the next week or so. Gumbel also noted the DMC Forum, hosted by the LeRoy EDA, was fantastic. She noted the DMC is targeting two groups of people; the future employees of Mayo and the patients and their families that visit Mayo for care. Brandau noted this was also discussed at the EDA meeting; he reported that the EDA may check into having some of the DMC planning sessions streamed live through ITV at the school. Axel Gumbel was again thanked for bringing the DMC Forum to LeRoy.

White explained about the two recently tax-forfeited properties here in LeRoy. The council either needs to pass a resolution authorizing the sale of these two properties or complete paperwork requesting either of these properties for a public purpose. Council didn't see a public purpose for either property. Motion by Sanders to pass Resolution 2014-02, a Resolution Approving County Board Classification of Forfeited Tax Property, Public Sale of Said Property, and Declaring the City's Intention to Reassess Unpaid Assessments. Second by Lidtke. Motion carried 5-0.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included a letter from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission giving notice of the comment period on the proposed sale of Interstate Power and Light Company's Minnesota gas distribution system and assets to Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation. Other items included the invitation to the Mower County League of Cities meeting to be held in Grand Meadow on March 13. Gumbel read the award from the Minnesota Department of Health for the 2012 Water Fluoridation Quality Award. Council commended Jones for this award.

Jones reported one set of the split rims on the back duals of the dump truck has been replaced. The rims had corroded; the tires also needed to be replaced. The other set should be replaced. Council consensus to proceed with these repairs.

Gumbel reviewed the information from the mayor's list serve and the information compiled from White about what other cities are doing for extra water running to alleviate frozen water service lines. It was noted that quite a few households here in town are running water to alleviate frozen water service lines. It was also noted that this additional usage also puts more strain on the city's system. Brandau felt this is a homeowner consideration and the homeowner's responsibility to keep from having frozen pipes. Axel Gumbel noted he can see both sides of this issue; one concern would be for those people that don't want to run the extra water to keep from freezing or not wanting to pay for the extra water usage or for those that have had frozen service lines, have had them thawed out, and don't have any extra money for extra spending due to the plumbing bill. Dave Perkins commented that the difference in usage based on when the water meters are read could be rebated back based on this previous usage. Brandau commented the people will have to pay more, but the city is also paying more through additional electricity and chemicals to treat the water. Motion by Brandau to not make any adjustments or rebates to the water bills. Second by Gumbel. Motion carried 5-0.

Dayne Olson met with council about his two-inch water line that serves his residence. He doesn't believe he owns this line; the council minutes from 2001 show that he does own this line. He also questioned how two other properties can be attached to this line if he owns the line. The two-inch water line is frozen. The question to be answered is if this is a city line, the city would pay to get it fixed; if it is a service line, it would Mr. Olson's responsibility to get it fixed. Gumbel felt the council needs more information before a decision can be made on this issue. It was noted the Nathan McCloud property had water service to it before Mr. Olson built his house. Council still came back to who owns this line. Jones noted he has talked to numerous plumbers to try to help Mr. Olson out. A plumber can go through the flushing hydrant instead of digging the line up. Mr. Olson again commented he was not aware that he owned this line; he also commented that he didn't authorize anyone to connect to the line. More information will be gathered.

White reported that Mel Johnson, the gentleman that has mowed the city parks and cemetery for the past few years, had contacted her about mowing for the 2014 season. He is willing to stand by his bid from 2013 at \$75 per time for each park and \$300 per time for the cemetery. He would reduce the bill by \$40 if he got the job to mow all three parcels and would increase his bill by \$25 if the price of gas goes over \$3.70 per gallon. Council can accept Mr. Johnson's offer, or they can put the mowing out for bid. Motion by Lidtke, second by Brandau to accept Mr. Johnson's offer based on the rates from 2013 for lawn mowing the two city parks and the city cemetery for 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

White had printed off the LMC memo on Dangerous Properties for council review. White commented the council could draft a letter or have the city attorney draft a letter with firm dates for their expected cleanup or reconstruction of the house at 314 East Main Street. Council discussed this idea and questioned a date for substantial completion of the reconstruction or demolition. Council agreed on June 1, 2014. Council felt the attorney should send the letter stating substantial completion including a secured permanent roof by June 1, 2014. Motion by Brandau to have the city attorney draft a letter for the owner of record for the property located at 314 East Main Street here in LeRoy for completion of the outside permanent structure by June 1, 2014, or the city will take further legal action. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke at 8:12 PM.

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Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

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Patty A. White, City Clerk/Treasurer