

City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, March 6, 2017

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

Also attending: Deputy T.J. Lynch, Axel Gumbel, Marshall Keeton, James Loven, and Dave Perkins.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

- Miller reported on LeRoy EDA activities. The EDA had a booth at the Farm & Home Show showcasing the LeRoy City Lines commuter service. He noted he heard many good responses from people about this service.
- He also noted the Bergan Building interior has been stripped to the bare walls; the end building has been demolished. He noted the Bergan Building could be eligible for small cities grant money if the building is privately owned.
- The EDA has decided to sell the lots measuring 210' x 110' along Atkins Street. He has had conversation with both adjacent property owners about any interest in this land.

Motion by Huntley, second by Miller to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

During Public Input Time:

- James Loven met with council to address concerns he has with snow removal. He noted he had gone to the LeRoy Public Library following one of the snowfalls; there was snow piled on the boulevard leaving him the option to lower his ramp either directly onto the main sidewalk, and thus blocking this walkway, or parking on the other side of the street and lowering his ramp into the lane of traffic on the street. He reported he needs an eight foot width to lower his ramp.
- He also noted the Senior Center outside door is a narrow door and does not have an accessible threshold. Mr. Loven noted he can fit through the Senior Center door, but Marshall Keeton cannot. Thiel questioned if either of them could access the Senior Center through one of the doors in the Community Center. Thiel noted that both the front door and kitchen door of the Community Center are wider and have panic hardware that someone else can open for them to gain access to the Senior Center room.
- Marshall Keeton noted he tries to use the sidewalks whenever possible; he reported that some sidewalks aren't cleared of ice and snow as well as other sidewalks are. Council questioned who is responsible for clearing sidewalks of snow & ice.
- White reported sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Thiel questioned how the ordinances are written. Whisler questioned where the council would like to go with this. There is an ordinance addressing sidewalks and clearing them of snow, dirt, and ice. Miller noted there is no policy in place to research which sidewalks are in poor repair or not cleared of snow and ice. Council also discussed winter parking and cars that are not moved when snow removal is in progress.

During Standing Committee Reports:

- White reported she had received a written resignation from the swimming pool manager; the resignation is effective March 31, 2017. The swimming pool manager wanted to make sure the city council was aware of this resignation since the City contributes funds to the pool.
- Thiel reported that Steve Carlin has accepted his appointment to the Personnel Committee.
- Huntley reported the Fire Department Personnel Committee met; they agreed to appoint Todd Betts to the Fire Department. Two other applicants are being further interviewed prior to their possible appointment to the Fire Department.

Deputy Lynch had to leave prior to giving his report.

In Old Business:

- Thiel requested removing the item Water Treatment Facility, Water Tower, Backup Well-Capital Improvement Plan from the agenda. These items will be discussed in the future, but with nothing new to report each month, it is better to remove them from the agenda.
- Council discussed Technology Committee appointments. Dave Perkins has expressed interest in serving on this committee, but Thiel would like to see more than two people on this committee. Council agreed to put an ad in the newspaper requesting interested individuals to contact Mayor Thiel. Dave Perkins would like to see a mission statement stating what is expected of this committee. Motion by Gottschalk, second by Huntley to appoint Dave Perkins to the Technology Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

In New Business:

- Council discussed offering another city-wide cleanup day this spring. Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to set the cleanup day for Saturday, May 13. Motion carried 5-0. It was council consensus to do a quarter page ad in the newspaper and send out letters to residents that may be in violation of the nuisance ordinance to let them know about the cleanup day.
- White reported the city dump is now being locked due to having items dumped illegally that don't belong in the city compost dump. Huntley questioned if a sign could be installed by the dump stating what can and cannot be dropped off there. White will see what can be done for signage.

There were no land use permits for council review.

There was nothing in the Communications File for council review.

Motion by Whisler to go forward with J.C. Nerstad of Four Season Maintenance to give the city a written assessment of street conditions and a quote on the cost for this maintenance. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0. Thiel noted that any project costing over \$25,000 up to \$100,000 will need to have at least two comparable quotes. Any project over the price of \$100,000 will need to be put out for bids.

Council reviewed a letter from Rhonda Barnes pertaining to street access during a water main break repair. Motion by Miller to send a letter of apology to Rhonda Barnes. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0.

Thiel presented information for an LED sign to replace the present Community Center marquee. The LED sign would cost between \$3000 and \$4000 for a four-line, two-sided sign. This could be installed using the existing sign posts. The signage would be changed with using either a laptop computer or a thumb drive. The case to mount the sign would cost extra. Thiel figured the entire sign with everything included could cost between \$5000 to \$6000 with the city doing the installation. This would include the software and program for changing the signage. Thiel reported he had talked to different sign companies; all these companies quoted much higher priced signs. Miller questioned if a maintenance agreement could be purchased for one to four years for a decent price. Thiel will check into this option. Motion by Miller to proceed with the purchase of this LED sign, look into an extended warranty/maintenance plan, and use Community Center Capital Outlay Funds for the purchase. Second by Whisler. Motion carried 5-0. Council discussed what can be put on the sign; they also discussed if one of these signs could be installed at the school. Council will pass this information to school personnel to let them know the cost and where the sign was purchased.

Council looked at the flooring in the upper banquet room at the Community Center. Council expressed concern with how the floor is showing scratch marks and cuts. White will talk to Kurt Bill at Classic Carpets about these issues. It was noted there was a roof leak caused by an ice jam. This situation will be monitored.

Council was in agreement to remove the item 'Zoning Enforcement-Administrative Fines Ordinance' from the agenda. Thiel questioned about the Hardecopf properties. Miller gave a summary of actions. White was directed to send a letter addressing issues on both properties of Mr. Hardecopf's.

Miller questioned about a water tower. He felt the city should research what is available and possibly purchase one if it would fit the needs of the City. He felt this would show progress on these projects. He would like to see a new water tower and second well drilled within ten years. Council discussed the possibility of holding a work session to address these issues. Whisler felt more research needs to be done before the council meets for a work session.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Miller, second by Whisler at 8:36 PM.

Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer