

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, April 1, 2013, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Vickie Lidtke, Linda Sanders, Justin Brandau, Maintenance Supervisor Dave Streit, and City Clerk Patty White. Others in attendance included Jan & Shirley Whisler, Roger & Pauline Fister, Doug Hutchins, Ben & Sarah Mensink, Deputy Pete Hillman, Phyllis Jacobson, Rose Erie, Harold & Joann Shipman, Don Olson, Ginger Holm, and Jim Gronwoldt. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2013, council meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Brandau, second by Lidtke to approve current bills for payment. Motion carried 5-0. Council reviewed the written reports of the maintenance department, city clerk, and EDA. It was noted the new entrance sign project is progressing. Council also discussed the occurrence of illegally dumped garbage into a city dumpster. Council also reviewed the past due bills in the water/sewer department.

During Public Input Time, Deputy Pete Hillman gave the monthly police report. He reported there has been a rash of burglaries and thefts throughout the county, including in and near LeRoy. He stressed that these incidents need to be reported to law enforcement; he also reminded those in attendance to keep their property properly secured and locked. He also noted that vehicle traffic is picking up with the nicer weather. Gumbel questioned about enforcing ordinance violations. Deputy Hillman said these can be forwarded to law enforcement, but any violations would probably have to be prosecuted by the city attorney. Jan Whisler presented a "gift" to the city council, a framed printout of state statute #471.6169; this statute pertains to the publication of a summary budget. White informed those present that the summary budget had been filed with the State Auditor's office, but she apologized that the summary budget had not been published in the local newspaper. Pauline Fister expressed concern about the state of twenty or so homes here in LeRoy with the outside appearance of these homes. Gumbel informed those present that the city council will be meeting for a work session on Saturday, April 13, 2013, to review the zoning ordinances, so the council will be better prepared to address these types of issues. Don Olson commented about the possible tax forfeiture of the property at 102 East Main Street. White will further check into this. Harold Shipman commented that the city ordinances aren't that old and wondered what had to be done with the ordinances. Gumbel commented the purpose of the work session is to review the ordinance to know what is in it and to review it for the understanding of enforcing the ordinances. Gumbel suggested getting the community involved by sending a list of potential problem properties or what they think needs to be cleaned up. Gumbel noted that people have different opinions of what needs to be done and what one person may think needs to be cleaned up may already comply with the ordinance guidelines. Gumbel further noted that the council will have to address the cost against the benefit. Gumbel reiterated the work session is open, but it is for the benefit of the council to discuss the ordinance and would not necessarily include any public comment time.

Council consensus to move agenda items 6A and 6B up on the agenda. (6A) Jim Gronwoldt informed council that his tenth anniversary of Travel Lanes will be celebrated on the weekend of May 17, 18, & 19. He is planning on booking a band for this ten-year anniversary; this dance would be open and free to the public with no one under 21 being allowed at the dance. He would like to close South Broadway east of his establishment for the dance, weather permitting. This would be the same area as is used for the annual Basket Social. Mr. Gronwoldt also requested to block this same area of South Broadway the entire weekend of Summerfest, July 19, 20, & 21. He would like to host a beer garden for Summerfest weekend along with the beanbag tournament on July 20 and some outside music. He noted he will not have outside music the same night at the main street dance for Summerfest; this is to be held on Friday, July 19, and hosted by Sweet's Hotel. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to approve May 17, 18, and 19, June 7, and July 19, 20, and 21 as city celebrations and allow the closure of South Broadway for these events. Motion carried 5-0. Security was also discussed for these events with Deputy Hillman. (6B) Ben Mensink met with council about Jacobsen Enterprises proposal in opening an

appliance recycling business in the back garage area behind the former laundromat. The plan is to have all appliances and equipment housed inside the building. Council reviewed the MPCA form. Council thought this was a good idea. Council did question if there would be any chance of any fluids entering the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Mensink said this recycling business would be in the part of the building where there is no drain, but he said there would be no issue with any fluids entering the sanitary sewer system. Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to approve the Solid Waste Recycling Facility PBR Notification Form. Motion carried 5-0.

During Standing Committee Reports, Lidtke reported the LeRoy Area Ambulance Service board had opted to return four 800 megahertz radios. Gottschalk reported she had not been able to attend the Prairie Visions meeting due to another conflict. It was noted the organizing documents from the ambulance and Prairie Visions have not been received yet.

A picture of the proposed used water tower was presented for council review. Doug Hutchins questioned about the maintenance agreement that used to be on the water tower. Streit updated those present about these previous maintenance agreements, about the present maintenance agreement, and the present findings from the water tower company and the council decisions on maintenance. Location of a new/used tower was discussed. Streit suggested just east of the present tower; soil sampling would have to be done to make sure the ground can hold a tank. It would cost approximately \$2000 to do this and \$10,000 to take down and remove the old water tower. White discussed some potential funding sources. Streit commented that council should set some goals to either refurbish the old tower, pursue a used tower, or pursue a new tower. Gumbel felt the best way to proceed would be to pursue a used tower, but she expressed concern about funding. White will continue to pursue funding options.

Only one member from the public has expressed interest in serving on the personnel committee. White commented only one member of the present seated council was on the council when the present personnel policy was adopted. Council consensus to wait another month to see if there is any other interest from the public to serve on this committee.

Zoning enforcement and joint powers agreements was already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Council reviewed the proposed resolution of support for the Destination Medical Center legislation as prepared by the Southeastern Minnesota League of Municipalities. They discussed the pros and cons of this proposed legislation. Motion by Brandau, second by Gumbel to pass Resolution 2013-05, a Resolution in Support of the Destination Medical Center Proposal for Southeastern Minnesota. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no building/zoning permits for council review.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included information from FEMA on updating the current flood plain ordinance, the invitation for the annual League of Minnesota Cities conference June 19-21, the invitation to the quarterly SEMLM dinner meeting, the invitation to the semi-annual Mower County League of Cities dinner meeting, the Prairie Visions meeting minutes, and the charitable gambling reports from the LeRoy Community Foundation.

Council reviewed the proposed resolution compiled by LMC addressing the creation of municipal street improvement districts. Council discussed the pros and cons of this legislation. Motion by Brandau, second by Sanders to pass Resolution 2013-06, a Resolution Supporting Legislation Authorizing the Establishment of Municipal Street Improvement Districts. Motion carried 5-0.

Streit would like to proceed with filling potholes when the weather is better. He and Brandau will look at other street maintenance that may need to be done. Streit and Tim Koch looked at the condition of the parking lot by the recycling dumpster. The best solution to fix this would be to dig out at least six inches of the existing material and refill with new rock. This would cost approximately \$5000. It was council consensus to get a couple loads of rock put down in this area.

Two mowing bids were received for the city mowing of the two city parks and city cemetery. Mel Johnson of Johnson Lawn Care bid \$300 for the cemetery mowing and \$75 plus tax for each park mowing; these bids include trimming. He also bid to deduct \$25 from the total bid if he receives all three mowing jobs. His bid also noted that if the price of gas raises to over \$3.70 per gallon that \$40 will be added to the total bid. Joe Saterdalen of Aces Outdoor Services bid \$80 plus tax for each park; these bids

include trimming. This bid did not include a bid for the cemetery. Motion by Sanders, second by Gottschalk to award the bid for lawn mowing for 2013 to Mel Johnson of Johnson Lawn Care. Motion carried 5-0.

Under Other Items, White presented information on four 800 megahertz radios that are available and already programmed. The master plan for radio communications in Mower County includes a public works channel for each Mower County community. These radios could be used for communication in case of a natural disaster as cell phones may not work in that situation. These could also be used for contact between the clerk's office and maintenance department personnel. The radios would be strictly used for city business. The radios cost \$5503. Council discussed these radios and where funding would come from. White commented there are funds available in an office equipment capital outlay fund and in the street department capital outlay fund. Motion by Brandau to purchase these four radios for city use with funding from the two capital outlay funds. Gumbel seconded the motion. On a roll call of votes, Gumbel, Brandau, and Gottschalk voted aye. Sanders and Lidtke cast nay votes. Motion carried 3-2.

Gumbel read a letter of resignation from Dave Streit effective May 31, 2013. Gumbel thanked Streit for all he has done, especially for the new council members and all his experience he has brought to the city. Council members also thanked Streit for his time. Motion by Brandau, second by Gumbel to accept Streit's letter of resignation with regret and to pass Resolution 2013-07, a Resolution of Thanks to Dave Streit for his Years of Service to the City of LeRoy. Motion carried 5-0.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sanders, second by Brandau at 8:23 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer