

City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2017

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Thiel on Monday, April 3, 2017, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Jan Whisler, Gene Miller, Ashley Huntley, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Kathleen Gottschalk arrived at 6:41 PM.

Also attending: Deputy T.J. Lynch, Axel Gumbel, Shirley Whisler, Barb Payne, Pastor John & Leslie Kerr, Rose Erie and Dave Perkins. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

- Miller reported on LeRoy EDA activities. Wi-Fi is now available on the LeRoy City Lines bus.
- He noted the Bergan Building has been shown, but no one has shown any real interest in the property yet. The roof leaks in a couple of areas; this will need to be addressed to help preserve the building.
- Miller has talked to the adjacent property owners of the Truman Property. Both parties have expressed interest in the lots adjoining their respective properties.
- White gave a general update on the Highway 56 project.

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

During Public Input Time:

- Thiel reported from a concerned citizen about weed growth in the North Baumbach Park.

With council approval, Item 10A ‘LeRoy Public Library-Hand Railing’ was moved up on the agenda to be discussed at this point. Barb Payne, a member of the LeRoy Public Library board, reported the library board was in favor of the installation of a hand rail along the main sidewalk to the library. The board would like the railing to look like the railing by the old front door to keep the aesthetic appearance of the library. The council was reminded the library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thiel presented a proposal from John O’Byrne. His proposal included:

- removing the existing sidewalk between the north/south sidewalk out from the original front door and the boulevard and replace it with an 8’ x 12’ x 4” concrete slab
- to install a metal hand rail into the main entrance along the sidewalk with the rail to be painted white
- Mr. O’Byrne’s proposal was in the amount of \$950.00.

Motion by Miller to approve the John O’Byrne quote and have Maintenance Supervisor Jones and Maintenance Worker Sweeney work with Mr. O’Byrne on the strength and type of railing. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.

During Standing Committee Reports:

- Huntley reported the LeRoy Community Swimming Pool is open. Elaine Mills last day working at the pool was March 31, 2017. The Pool Board did receive a variance to keep the pool open while three people are working on becoming Certified Pool Operators. The pool manager job will be divided up among three people; Gene Shaffer will take care of pool maintenance, Crystal Souhrada will take care of swimming lessons, and Jody Lunning will handle the balance of the duties.
- Thiel noted the Personnel Committee will be meeting within the next week to formulate reviews for city employees.

The police report was given by Deputy T.J. Lynch.

- Deputy Lynch reported a brown pit-bull dog was found north of LeRoy; it is currently being housed at the Austin City Pound.

- Whisler questioned Deputy Lynch if he is assigned as LeRoy's deputy. Deputy Lynch noted that he is not the assigned deputy. A new deputy has been hired and is in training. The hours of coverage for LeRoy are being handled by various deputies at this time.

In Old Business:

- Thiel reported an ad was placed in the Mower County Independent for anyone interested in serving on the Technology Committee. No one has stepped forward from this most recent advertising. Thiel did note the Technology Committee, consisting of Thiel and Dave Perkins, has been meeting. They are working on bringing fiber to the community. Jaguar, through SELCO, is bringing fiber to the Public Library. Thiel noted it may then be possible to bring fiber to the city buildings when the fiber gets north of Main Street. Miller suggested the Technology Committee making contact with Mediacom to let them know what the city is looking into and see if Mediacom can provide this type of service. Thiel and Perkins will continue to meet and report any findings to the city council.
- In the absence of the fire chief, White updated council on the radio grant. She noted the grant was approved; cost of the radios and installation of the radios has not been received yet. More information will be available at the May council meeting.

In New Business:

- White noted she had been contacted by Brady O'Connor, the gentleman that was contracted to mow the two city parks and city cemetery last year. Mr. O'Connor was willing to stand by his price of mowing last year. Those prices were \$75 per time for each park and \$350 per time for the cemetery. White noted the council can either accept Mr. O'Connor's offer for mowing for the 2017 mowing season, or the council can choose to put this mowing out for bid. Huntley noted that Mr. O'Connor has done a good job, he had offered a competitive bid last year, and no complaints were received regarding the job he did mowing. Motion by Huntley to accept the offer of Brady O'Connor for the 2017 mowing season in the amount of \$350 per time for the LeRoy Cemetery, \$75 per time for the South Park, and \$75 per time for the North Baumbach Park. Second by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no land use permits for council review.

There was nothing in the Communications File for council review.

Whisler read the following prepared statement, "With no major street repairs having been done in several years we find ourselves trying to play catchup and it's not in just one part of LeRoy, it's all over town. Just for the record, we might be looking at \$250,000 to make the part we drive on fixed. That does not take care of the infrastructure, sewer, water and storm sewers. The city council is faced with many issues and they all cost money. At this time I make the motion we hire J.C. Nerstad to do a temporary fix with another patch job for up to \$20,000 to make our streets more usable while we as a council work on how to improve LeRoy. Our City!" Thiel questioned which streets are in the poorest repair. Whisler and Miller both noted that each street, except for the newest ones, each has their own problems in different areas. Thiel commented a prioritization, or inventory, would be the best way to fix the streets. Whisler felt the time spent with Mr. Nerstad has been quite beneficial; Mr. Nerstad has been very helpful in assessing the street conditions. Miller seconded Whisler's motion. Motion carried 5-0.

White updated council on the Mower County 56 project. It is believed that bids will be let by late April for this project. Included at that time will be some resurfacing of North Broadway and West Cabot Street. These streets are county streets. Miller commented when the County transfers ownership of Mower County 56 to the City, he would like to make sure the City also receives the land where the Old-Town Bridge used to go across the Upper Iowa River. This land could be used for a bridge crossing connecting the west side of LeRoy to the bike trail.

Thiel noted one company has presented information for radio read water meters. Jones noted another company will be giving a presentation sometime in April. This information will then be brought to the council for their review.

Rose Erie presented a quote from LeRoy Lumber for new cabinets and stainless steel counter tops for the Community Center kitchen in the amount of \$21,355. Mrs. Erie noted other improvements have been made at the Community Center, but the kitchen has remained untouched. Council discussed how to proceed with kitchen renovations. Different options were discussed including whether the kitchen should be renovated to be a fully compliant commercial kitchen. Council questioned if there are any state regulations they should be aware of when renovating the kitchen. Pastor John Kerr commented that usage patterns of the Community Center should be looked at so the kitchen isn't renovated for just one group. Other suggestions included renovating the kitchen to a warming kitchen or a cleanup kitchen instead of being able to cook in the kitchen. Whisler volunteered to serve on a committee to address possible renovations. More research will be done and reported back at future council meetings.

Huntley had received a request to make sure the basketball hoops are in good repair at North Baumbach Park. Jones noted one hoop is down right now to be repaired. It was also noted the paint on the courts may need to be addressed. Miller questioned if the city would be agreeable to provide the paint if the school provided the labor to do the painting. Council was in consensus with this offer. Council noted there is a basketball hoop lying on the ground at the house owned by the school. Jones will check with school personnel to see if this hoop would be available for use at the park. Dave Perkins also requested having electrical power extended to a pole in South Park. Jones is working this project.

Thiel noted he sometimes gets requests or questions about the city ordinances. He had a pamphlet that was done a few years ago. This will be further discussed at future meetings.

Due to a scheduling conflict with the appliance guy, the city-wide cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017, instead of Saturday, May 13.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Huntley at 7:56 PM.

Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer