

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held on Monday, April 4, 2016, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Ashley Huntley, Gene Miller, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Others attending included Ginger Holm, Brady O'Connor, Joe Saterdalen, Rory Lenton from Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation, Mike Chicos, Axel Gumbel, Julie Byrd, Elizabeth O'Byrne, Margarita Heidemann, Alice Kempe, Dave Perkins, Sharon Bergan-Hodgdon, Janet Mayer, John & Sharon Grass, Norm Hanson, and Donna Johnson. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Following a couple of questions, a motion was made by Huntley and seconded by Whisler to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

No one present had anything to bring forth during Public Input Time.

During Standing Committee Reports, (1) Huntley reported the \$600 that was billed from LeRoy Area Ambulance Service is for her to be a member of the board. The City had paid \$200 in the past and had been told to budget for that same amount for 2016. She noted the per capita of \$2.50 per resident will be increasing for 2017 of possibly up to \$7.00 per capita; she said council will have those figures before budget time. Gumbel felt that this change in the amount for a council person to be on the ambulance board and not being addressed through one of the officers of the ambulance board was not handled correctly. She would like to invite the president and ambulance director to the next council meeting to address this. In the meantime she felt a check should be drafted to the ambulance service for the \$2.50 per capita plus \$200 for the board member. These amounts are included in the 2016 budget. Miller further questioned about the proposed increase in the per-capita figure for 2017. This proposed increase would be more than double than what is currently being paid. He would like to see their budget and financials for the past few years. He felt the council needs to be responsible with the taxpayer dollar. Motion by Gumbel to pay the \$200 for the board seat as per the 2016 city budget and invite the ambulance board to the May council meeting. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0. (2) Council reviewed a spreadsheet of financial information for the past six years for the LeRoy Community Pool. (3) Also included for council review were the minutes from the last Mower County League of Cities meeting, the minutes from the Prairie Visions meeting, and the minutes from the Library board meeting.

The assigned deputy was not present to give the police report.

Rory Lenton, the External Relations Manager for Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC), introduced himself to council and noted that MERC took over the natural gas service from Alliant Energy in May, 2015. He presented to council a franchise agreement ordinance. This ordinance would grant MERC, a subsidiary of WEC Energy Group, a Wisconsin corporation, its successors and assigns, a natural gas franchise and the authority to construct, operate, maintain, and extend a natural gas distribution plant and system, and granting the right to use the streets, alleys, and other public places within the present or future corporate limits of the City of LeRoy, Minnesota. Mr. Lenton noted this is a non-exclusive franchise agreement for 25 years. He reported that you do not have to have a franchise to operate, but usually municipalities have a franchise agreement in place. Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to pass Ordinance 237. On a roll call of votes, all members voted aye. The motion carried 5-0. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication according to law.

Council noted the demolition of the burned house at 314 East Main Street has been completed. White noted that to be able to assess the cost of demolition to the owner of record, a public hearing needs to be called for. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to call for a public hearing on Monday, May 2, 2016, at 7:00 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Jones reported he and White will try to meet with the city engineer prior to the May council meeting to get a time line for the engineering aspect of installing a new water tower.

Sharon Bergan-Hodgdon reported to council that she owns the property located at 307 South Mather Street. She is under the understanding the LeRoy History Museum group is looking for land for the location of a museum. She would be willing to donate this land (Lots 11-15, Block 28, Original

Village) if the land could be rezoned to allow the construction and operation of a museum on it. Representatives of the LeRoy History Museum group that were in attendance noted they would be willing to accept this land if the council would consider the rezoning. Gumbel noted that spot zoning can become cumbersome, essentially special zoning cannot be done without a reason. White updated council on the process to rezone a piece of property. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to start the process to rezone this property and to call for a public hearing on Monday, May 2, 2016, at 7:15 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Gumbel opened two bids that were received for city lawn mowing for the 2016 mowing season. Bid #1 from Blades of Glory included Cemetery-\$350 per time, South Park-\$75 per time, North Park-\$75 per time. Bid #2 from Aces Outdoor Services included South Park-\$80 per time, North Park-\$80 per time, and no bid on the Cemetery. Huntley commented she likes the bundled package, Blades of Glory did the mowing last year and no complaints were heard, and why change something that isn't broken. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve Bid #1 from Blades of Glory for the city mowing for the 2016 mowing season. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed a proposed resolution to support reinstatement of tax reciprocity for Minnesota and Wisconsin. Passage of this resolution was suggested by the Southeastern Minnesota League of Municipalities. Motion by Miller, second by Gottschalk to pass Resolution 2016-04, A Resolution Supporting Reinstatement of Tax Reciprocity for Minnesota and Wisconsin. Motion carried 5-0.

Council discussed offering another city-wide cleanup this spring. Dates were suggested. It was council consensus to hold a city-wide cleanup on Saturday, May 14, 2016, from 8:30 to 10:30 AM.

Council reviewed one land use permit:

1. W 84.4' Lot 9, Block 8, Original Village-install privacy fence

Motion by Gumbel, second by Huntley to approve said permit. Motion carried 5-0.

The Communications File was reviewed. Items included a thank you from the family of Steve (Spike) Jones, and a letter from Mediacom updating council on their \$1B capital improvement plan.

White reported the carpet tiles for the lower banquet room in the Community Center have been ordered. She has talked to LeRoy Lumber to coordinate the installation of sheetrock on the upper banquet room walls. The flooring in the upper banquet room will be installed after the sheetrock and painting has been completed.

Jones reported the roof on the city garage is in poor repair. Shingles have been blowing off, but the building does not leak yet. Jones presented two estimates for roofing for this building. One estimate was for a steel roof in the amount of \$2500 for materials; the other estimate was for shingles in the amount of \$2000 for materials. Labor would be less for the steel roof. It was council consensus to go with the steel roof. Jones will get labor estimates and present them at the May council meeting.

Under On-Going Items, White suggested having the assigned deputy hand deliver any zoning enforcement/nuisance letters. Council discussed this option and decided to try this. There was nothing new to report on the Minnesota Basic Code. Gumbel noted she had a follow-up contact with Joel Wager, Minnesota DNR, about canoe access on the Upper Iowa River. Gumbel would like to invite Mr. Wager to the May council meeting to further discuss this.

Council moved to closed session at 7:41 PM to discuss a personnel matter. The council moved to open session at 8:10 PM. Gumbel reported that employee Mark Heimer will be terminated effective tomorrow morning, Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Miller at 8:18 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer