

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, April 7, 2014, 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, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Justin Brandau was absent. Others in attendance included Dave Streit, Roger & Pauline Fister, Rhonda Newton, Jan & Shirley Whisler, Harold & Joann Shipman, Gerald & Barb Payne, Dayne Olson, Phyllis Jacobson, Deputy Jaime Meyer, Deputy Brady Muelken, Rose Erie, Ginger Holm, Dave Perkins, Axel Gumbel, Dan Feather, and Tim Freerksen. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Sanders, second by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

During Public Input Time, Harold Shipman again questioned the amount the city is paying for health insurance premiums for city employees. Sanders replied the bill is approximately \$4400 per month which is approximately \$150 less per month than what was being paid in 2013. Mr. Shipman also questioned about the personnel committee. Gumbel noted the committee has been meeting; they are reviewing the personnel policy and are about two-thirds of the way through the policy. The committee is also addressing the vacation leave policy and personnel reviews. Any proposed changes to the personnel policy will be brought to the council for approval prior to implementation. Gerald Payne questioned if the ordinance violation board would be holding a meeting to discuss protocol or direction. Gumbel noted the board would not be meeting unless someone brings a complaint about a letter sent out for possible ordinance violations.

During Standing Committee Reports, Sanders reported the Library conducted "food for fines" during March. This was well received by library patrons. Lidtke reported Ambulance Director Kris Hanson had contacted her about a bill from Redman Construction for snow removal at the Emergency Services Building. White noted this is a city bill. She also reported the ambulance service is down four EMT's due to these people moving from the community. The service is trying to recruit new members. She also noted the ambulance service is paying for CPR classes and certification cards for school students that signed up for the classes.

Deputy Meyer gave the March police report. He introduced Deputy Brady Muelken to the council. Deputy Muelken will become our new assigned deputy. Deputy Muelken was welcomed. Deputy Meyer noted he had tagged the vehicles parked in front yards; all these vehicles have been moved. Council thanked Deputy Meyer for his report and his work here in LeRoy.

There was nothing new to report on the DNR.

City-Wide cleanup was discussed. It was council consensus to schedule the cleanup day for Saturday, May 17. Information will be published in the newspaper; flyers will be hung up. Gumbel suggested taking out a full-page ad to explain what constitutes a nuisance, the fines involved, and to advertise the city-wide cleanup. The funds for this could come from funds set aside to address ordinance violations. Sanders commented something should be publicized in the fall for snowmobile usage. Council also discussed publishing information on golf cart and ATV usage. Dogs, licensing of dogs, and the number of dogs allowed per household should also be published in this ad. A question arose about what to do with dogs running loose. Deputy Meyer noted individual people can take dogs or cats running loose to the Mower County Humane Society, but the deputies are not allowed to transport the animals to Austin. Deputy Meyer suggested working with a local veterinarian to house dogs or cats running loose. Since LeRoy does not have a local veterinarian to work with, other suggestions were made such as finding someone who would house these animals for the specified period of time. Gumbel will address this issue in her newspaper column. Deputy Meyer told those present to contact the LEC if there are issues with barking dogs or with people burning garbage. Deputy Meyer would then be notified and follow through on these issues.

Council reviewed five building/zoning permits:

1. Lots 8, 9, & 10, Block 32, Original Village-move garage to this property
2. Lot 12, Block 11, Caswell & Lewis-install 6' tall wood fence

3. Lots 5, 6, 7, & 8, Block 16, Original Village-install chain link fence
4. Outlot 4, Original Village-install chain link fence
5. Lots 8 & 9, Block 10, Caswell & Lewis-build 30' x 48' garage

Motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke to approve said permits. Motion carried 4-0.

Council reviewed the Communications File. Items included the invitation to the quarterly SEMLM dinner meeting, a letter from Mediacom, a list of achievements in 2013 for the Mower County Water & Soil Conservation District, a thank you for the use of the LeRoy Community Center for the School Career Fair, an invitation to the County Conversations to be held at the L-O School Commons, and a letter from Impact 7G, Inc. pertaining to the proposed telecommunications facility to be located at 12490 131st Avenue, LeRoy.

Gumbel reported some cities are doing long-term financial planning for projects. She noted there are computer programs that would show the effect of project costs on tax rates, etc. She would like to work on this in the coming year. Council would need to put together a list of upcoming city needs and wants; this would give a planning tool to future councils. Gumbel also noted she has been asked about paving the alleys. Lidtke commented this had been discussed in the past and that it is costly to the homeowners abutting the alley.

Dayne Olson was present to further discuss the ownership of the water service line to his property. Mr. Olson had no new information for council review. Sanders commented she was on the city council when Mr. Olson approached the council about extending water and sewer to his property. In reviewing the LeRoy Independent article written by Dan Evans from the May 7, 2001, city council meeting, Sanders commented that the article was correct in that Mr. Olson agreed to the installation of and ownership of the water service line to his property. Dave Streit reported that both the water service line and sanitary sewer service line are in the same trench in the gravel street. These lines are in the gravel street to the edge of the city; easements were put in place to have the lines cross private property. Gumbel noted she is not in favor of overturning what a previous council did, as long as what was done was not done erroneously. Mr. Streit also had cost figures for the installation of a regular water main and sanitary sewer main plus a full lift station to this property. At that time, Mr. Olson did not want to sustain these costs; he wanted to get the services installed to his home in the most cost-efficient way. Other affected property owners would have had to share in the cost of the installation of regular water and sewer mains and lift station. Mr. Olson again questioned how other property owners could tie into his line if he paid for it; he also questioned if this is how other lines were handled. Mr. Streit noted some other service lines have more than one service tied into it; if there are problems on these lines it is the homeowners' responsibility for repairing these lines. Gumbel again noted she could not see what the previous council did was done erroneously. Gumbel questioned if there was any other information for the council to consider on this issue. Hearing none, Gumbel entertained for a motion for the city to take over ownership of the service lines. No motion was made; the service line will remain Mr. Olson's to repair and maintain.

White reported the furnace at city hall has a cracked heat exchanger in it. The furnace has been checked by Jeff Bauer of Bauer Plumbing & Heating. Mr. Bauer reported the furnace may run for another heating season; he did note the furnace should be replaced prior to something major happening. White noted there funds available in capital outlay for this purchase. Motion by Sanders to get a new furnace for city hall. Second by Gumbel. Motion carried 4-0.

White reported the city hall computer runs on Windows XP; Windows XP will no longer be supported by Microsoft after midnight on April 8, 2014. White had contacted On-Site Computers in Grand Meadow; On-Site has serviced the city computer for many years. White had also checked with Banyon (the city software company) for their input; they recommended using Windows 7 or 8. White also noted a new office suite of programs would need to be purchased and installed to enable filing of reports to the State of Minnesota. The salesman at On-Site suggested three different options for the council to consider. Option #1 would be to reinstall Windows Vista for the operating system and install new office software for a cost of \$545. Option #2 would be to install Windows 7 or 8 for the operating system and install new office software for a cost of \$570. Option #3 would be to purchase a new tower

(the existing tower is four years old; usual life span is six to seven years), install Windows 7 or 8 for the operating system and install new office software for a cost of \$1000. White reported there are funds in capital outlay for this purchase. Council discussed these options. Lidkte commented Option #3 seemed the most cost-effective; Gumbel was leaning towards Option #1. Motion by Lidkte, second by Gottschalk to proceed with Option #3. On a roll call of votes, Lidkte, Gottschalk, and Sanders voted aye. Gumbel cast a nay vote. The motion carried 3-1.

Under On-Going Items, Gumbel questioned about the Emergency Services Building Roof. Jones commented Mr. Streit had compiled information about total replacement of the roof and other repair options that have not been acted upon. Gumbel would like to convene a work session to further discuss the direction to take with the Emergency Services Building Roof, Water Tower Inspection, Water Treatment Facility, and other long-range items council would like to discuss or to put into place for capital planning. White reported the letter to Jay Hardecopf has been sent to him. White also updated council on the public auction of two tax-forfeited properties located at 102 East Main and 206 South West County Road. Both properties were sold at the auction. The property located at 102 East Main was sold to a private party; White has met with this person. They hope to have plans, either for redevelopment or demolition, for council review at the May meeting.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Gumbel, second by Lidkte at 8:01 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk/Treasurer