

City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2017

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, May 1, 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, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White.

Also attending: Axel Gumbel, Dave Perkins, Jennifer Gumbel, Deputy T.J. Lynch, Pastor John Kerr, and Bill Foster. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

- Miller posed questions on some of the bills including the bill for unemployment benefits and the bond interest payment.

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

During Public Input Time:

- Bill Foster questioned who is maintaining the business alley between Mather and West Streets. Mr. Foster noted the alley is nearly impassable due to potholes. Jones reported the alley will be graded within the coming week. Mr. Foster also questioned why this alley is not improved with blacktop. Whisler noted this alley was proposed to be blacktopped some years ago, but the seated council at that time hit resistance from the abutting property owners; those property owners did not want to be assessed for the improvements to the alley. Thiel questioned if this alley could be earmarked as to one area to get graded first when grading is done. Jones will address this with the person that does the grading.

With council approval, Item 7A ‘Rural Child Care Innovation Program’ was moved up on the agenda to be discussed at this point. Jennifer Gumbel spoke on the research she has done since the failed school referendum last fall pertaining to childcare. She has spent time with representatives with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) discussing childcare and the needs of the community. First Children’s Finance offers a Rural Child Care Innovation Program. First Children’s Finance provides financial and business development assistance to child care businesses and hopes to build partnerships to connect these businesses with the resources of the public and private sectors. The Rural Child Care Innovation Program would include a study of census data to determine the difference in numbers between the availability of licensed daycare spots in our area and the number of spots we actually need. The program would also collaborate with local daycare providers to do business evaluations. First Children’s Finance will only select four communities in Minnesota to take part in the program. Gumbel is not requesting any funding or manpower from the city; she would like to see what the city can provide for the application to First Children’s Finance. Gumbel noted the application to First Children’s Finance is due this Friday, May 5. Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to pass Resolution 2017-02, a resolution in support of efforts to address child care. On a roll call of votes, all members voted aye. The motion carried 5-0.

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

- Deputy Fisher is still in training; she may be introduced at the June council meeting.
- LeRoy dog issues have been addressed with the dispatch center; the dispatch center is to forward dog calls to the on-duty deputy.
- Miller questioned if the city could pay in their contract with Mower County to keep Deputy Lynch here in LeRoy for at least a year. Lynch noted this would have to be discussed with Sheriff Amazi.

During Standing Committee Reports:

- Huntley reported Lindsay Milks has been hired as the new swimming pool manager.

- Miller reported the EDA has sold off two separate parcels to the adjoining property owners of the Truman Property (East Atkins Street).
- Miller also reported the EDA may consider removing some of the back storage area of the Bergan Building (131 West Main Street).
- Gottschalk reported the Personnel Committee has been meeting; the committee is working on updating the Personnel Policies Manual and is providing new forms to be used in evaluations of non-exempt employees.

In Old Business:

- Thiel reported no one has expressed interest in serving on the Technology Committee. Thiel and Dave Perkins will continue to meet and report any findings to the city council.

In New Business:

- Thiel presented a proposal from Jaguar Communications to bring fiber optics to City Hall. This proposal includes telephone and internet service. These services are currently being provided by Mediacom for a monthly cost of \$92.78. The monthly cost to provide these services by Jaguar would be \$115. Thiel felt in the long-term interest of the city the switch to Jaguar should still be done even though the city will not see a cost savings at this time. Miller questioned if Jaguar is still considering installing fiber down the two blocks of the north and south business alleys. Motion by Miller to approve the Jaguar installation to city hall contingent on Jaguar installing fiber along the two blocks of the north and south business alleys (between Mather Street and Everett Street). Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.
- Thiel reported he has been researching the possibility of having city-wide security cameras installed. These could be installed on street light poles. The company Thiel had contacted has declined this project; the company declined to make any proposal because it did not suit their business plans to get involved in LeRoy. Jennifer Gumbel addressed the issue with privacy and needing a policy addressing the length of time the data from the cameras would need to be kept if the council were to proceed with this.

Council reviewed three land-use permits.

- 183 Penny Lane, Lot 14, Block 2, Olson Addition-build a deck
- 215 E Read Street, Lot 6, Block 22, Original Village-install a fence
- 437 W Main Street, W ½ Lot 8 & E 30' Lot 9, Lewis Addition-build a deck

Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to approve said permits. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed the Communications File. Items included:

- A notice of application for a livestock feedlot permit for Jim Koenigs to construct a new feedlot with a total capacity of 250 animal units in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 32 in LeRoy Township.
- Information from Representative Jeanne Poppe that she had handed out at the town hall meeting she held here in LeRoy on Saturday, April 22.

Whisler reported he has been in contact with J.C. Nerstad pertaining to city street repairs. Mr. Nerstad wants to come back to LeRoy to plan where to begin with the street maintenance and repairs. Jones reiterated the gravel streets and alleys will be graded in the upcoming week.

White presented information from Mike Hanson, Mower County Highway Engineer, pertaining to the County 56 project.

Council reviewed the water tower inspection report that had been completed in June, 2015.

- Thiel noted from this inspection the present tower, with minimal maintenance, may be satisfactory for an additional five to fifteen years of continued service provided that it is inspected regularly and maintained in accordance with the recommendations.

- Thiel presented two bids for painting the exterior of the tower. Bid #1 from Maguire Iron was in the amount of \$34,350, with a verbal notation they would inspect the interior of the tank when it is painted for no additional charge. Bid #2 from Central Tank Coatings was in the amount of \$27,000; this bid included the interior inspection of the tank.
- Motion by Huntley to accept the bid from Central Tank Coatings for \$27,000. Miller questioned if the cardinal logo should also be painted on the tower when it is repainted. Council felt this would look nice. Whisler noted he doesn't want the painting of the present tower to mean the council will not continue to look into replacing the present tower in the future. Miller seconded the motion with the addition of the cardinal logo on the tower. The motion carried 5-0.

Thiel reported a considered change to the contract awarded to John O'Byrne that was approved at the April council meeting pertaining to the sidewalk repairs and installation of a hand rail at the Library.

- Thiel had done further inspection of the sidewalk in front of the Library and noted there are more sections of the sidewalk that should be replaced. Council consensus to rescind the contract to John O'Byrne in the amount of \$950 that had been approved at the April 3, 2017, council meeting.
- Jones and Sweeney have the pipe for the hand railing; the city guys will install the hand railing.
- Twenty-two feet of sidewalk in front of the Library is in poor repair; this could be replaced along with the 8' x 12' section by John O'Byrne for a cost of \$1200.
- Motion by Huntley to approve having the city guys install the hand rail and John O'Byrne will install an additional 22' of sidewalk along with the 8' x 12' section for a cost of \$1200. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.

Whisler had nothing new to report on the Community Center Kitchen Renovation.

The basketball back board has been installed at the North Baumbach Park court. The tennis net is up, and the restrooms are open. Huntley offered to make contact with Aaron Hungerholt to see if a school class would be interested in painting the tennis and basketball courts again.

Council was reminded the city-wide cleanup will be held this Saturday, May 6, from 8:30 to 10:30 AM.

Being no further business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk at 8:11 PM.

Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer