

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, May 2, 2016, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Jan Whisler, Gene Miller, Ashley Huntley, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Others in attendance included Ginger Holm, Tim Freerksen, Dave Perkins, Kris Hanson, Tony Arndorfer, Dick Winfield, Mike Chicos, Monica Jensen, Axel Gumbel, Jay Hardecopf and his lady friend, Margarita Heidemann, Alice Kempe, John & Sharon Grass, Norm & Jan Hanson, Janet Mayer, Donna Johnson, and Deputy Brady Muelken. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

During Public Input Time, (1) Axel Gumbel, on behalf of the LeRoy Lions Club, offered assistance of some of the Lions at the city-wide cleanup. Council thanked Mr. Gumbel for this offer from the Lions and would accept three or four volunteers to help with the cleanup. (2) Dave Perkins noted the City of Cresco is installing solar panels on their city hall roof and on two wells. (3) Huntley reported the LeRoy Head Start will not be in operation next school year. She expressed a concern with the lack of childcare and the discontinuance of this program. She had a petition available for signatures. Ginger Holm stated this program is being discontinued due to a state decision based on funding; the program is not being discontinued due to lack of students. (4) Mike Chicos questioned about the status of County Road 56. White read a reply from Commissioner Polly Glynn stating before the county will consider moving this project up (repairing County Road 56), County Engineer Mike Hanson and Commissioner Glynn would be interested to know if the City of LeRoy would be willing to take ownership of it (after it has been fixed). Approval for this transfer of ownership would still need to come before the county board. Council was in agreement that the City would be interested in taking over this road, but the council would want to know to what degree the road will be fixed, and the time line involved with this.

During Standing Committee Reports, (1) Gumbel noted the personnel committee will be meeting in the near future to review the applications received for the maintenance worker position. It is hoped to have a recommendation for council review at the June meeting or before. If needed, a special meeting could be called for this purpose. (2) Members of the LeRoy Area Ambulance Board were in attendance. Gumbel noted the timing was poor for the increase in cost for the board seat; the 2016 budget was already in place when this increase was received. It makes it more difficult to appropriate more funds after the budget is adopted. Dick Winfield noted the ambulance board voted a few years ago to up the amount for a board seat from \$200 per year to \$600 per year. Council was not aware of this and were not informed of the change; the letter the city receives each year still showed the \$2.50 per capita plus \$200 per year for a board seat. Mr. Winfield also expressed unhappiness with the news story that was published in the Mower County Independent. He also questioned if the council representative to the ambulance board should be paid as a member of the board, since other council members serve on other boards for no pay. It was also noted the \$2.50 per capita the City of LeRoy pays is half of what is charged to the City of Chester; Chester pays \$5.00 per capita. The City of LeRoy pays less due to the city maintaining the building and paying all the utilities. Miller questioned about a possible increase in the per capita figure for the coming year; he would like to see an explanation of the increase and not have it just reflect what other cities pay for these types of services. Mr. Winfield and Tim Freerksen noted the ambulance crew is small; the ambulance board may need to hire some full-time EMT's to help cover the hours. Gumbel questioned if the proposed increase is for planning purposes for the upcoming time when the ambulance board may need to address staffing levels. Members of the board confirmed Gumbel's question. This will be further discussed at the July council meeting.

Gumbel read the due call for the public hearing stating that notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held before the City Council on the 2nd day of May, 2016, at the LeRoy Community Center, 204 West Main Street, at 7:00 PM to consider assessing the demolition costs of the home located at 314 East Main Street. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed assessment will be heard at this meeting. The hearing was opened at 7:07 PM. Jay Hardecopf commented he feels the city council

owes him a building. Mr. Hardecopf's friend posed some questions as to how the fire was handled and extinguished and why the court hearings weren't done properly. Gumbel noted the city is not in position to evaluate how the fire scene was handled; she also noted Mr. Hardecopf could have contacted an attorney or the court if he had questions or concerns about these proceedings. Council discussed the term to assess the demolition costs and the interest rate to be charged. Motion by Miller to pass Resolution 2016-05, a Resolution Adopting Assessment. Second by Gumbel. On a roll call of votes, all council members voted aye. The motion carried 5-0. The public hearing was closed at 7:13 PM.

Gumbel read the due call for the public hearing stating that notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held before the City Council on the 2nd day of May, 2016, at the LeRoy Community Center, 204 West Main street, at 7:15 PM to consider a zoning classification change from Residential to Commercial on the parcel of land legally described as follows: Lots 11 through 15 and the south 10' of the alley adjacent on the northeast, Block 28 of the Original Village of the City of LeRoy. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed zoning change will be heard at this meeting. The hearing was opened at 7:15 PM. Council reviewed a map of this area. White noted letters were sent to the owners of record in a 350' radius of the center of lot 13. Miller questioned if the LeRoy History Museum Committee was still interested in this property. It was noted the owner of record of this property was not in attendance. Gumbel expressed concern that by changing the actual zoning on this parcel would then allow any commercial use in that area, but by changing the ordinance to allow non-profit museums in the residential district would alleviate commercial use. This would also alleviate spot zoning. Council discussed their options. Motion by Gumbel to amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 150 Zoning, Subdivision 151.21 R-1 Single and Multi-Family Residential District (B) *Permitted uses and structures* (d) Churches, public and private schools, publicly-owned buildings and facilities, and non-profit museums. Second by Miller. On a roll call of votes, all council members voted aye. The motion carried 5-0. This ordinance change shall take effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication according to law. The public hearing was closed at 7:29 PM.

White read the information received from the city engineer on timing for a water tower. Miller would like to set a long-range plan on when to look at a new water tower and maintain other city infrastructure. White suggested a capital improvement plan. This would entail working with a financial advisor and engineer. White was directed to get more information on the formation of a capital improvement plan from Northland Securities. This information and the water tower inspection report will be further reviewed at the June council meeting.

White reported there is one opening on the EDA board due to a resignation. There is currently one person with a letter of interest to serve on the EDA. Council discussed whether they should advertise for letters of interest or if they should appoint the person already with a letter of interest. Gumbel recommended the appointment of Brian Thiel. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to appoint Brian Thiel to the unexpired term of Jerry Barber. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Gumbel, second by Gottschalk to pass Resolution 2016-06, a Resolution Adopting the Mower County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

White reported the two cardboard dumpsters that are located near the water tower have been provided free of charge by Sunshine Sanitation. Due to the cardboard market having dropped drastically, Sunshine Sanitation can no longer provide these two dumpsters for the deposit of cardboard free of charge. Sunshine Sanitation has proposed charging \$150 per month for these dumpsters. Council discussed this service; they felt this is a good service to provide and would like to continue with it. They would like to see more space offered or more frequent emptying of the dumpsters. Motion by Miller, second by Huntley to authorize Sunshine Sanitation to continue with the cardboard dumpsters at \$150 per month but would request either a third dumpster or more frequent pickups. Motion carried 5-0.

White reported Mower County has offered to host a one-day household hazardous waste collection day on Thursday, June 2, 2016, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM here in LeRoy. Mower County Recycling is requesting one to two volunteers to help with the collection and a suitable location on a blacktop or concrete surface. Mower County will provide the advertising for the event and some handouts. Council consensus to accept this offer for the household hazardous waste collection day.

Council reviewed three land use permits.

1. Lot 3, Block 13, Caswell & Lewis Addition-install vinyl fence
2. Lot 1, Block 2, Hickock Addition-install fence
3. Lot 12, Block 1, Olson Addition-install chain link fence

Motion by Whisler, second by Gottschalk to approve said land use permits. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed the Communications File. Items included (1) two letters from Mediacom discussing programming, (2) a thank you from the family of Marion McRoberts, and (3) an invitation from Freeborn-Mower Cooperative to participate in their Green Touch program at Lake Louise State Park on Saturday, May 7. White reported receiving a notice of pay equity compliance.

Jones reported that a crew has not been lined up yet to start hanging sheetrock in the upper banquet room at the Community Center. Council discussed having another tack strip installed at the top of the walls to allow renters to pin decorations to instead of pinning these items directly to the new sheetrock walls. It was council consensus to have this additional tack strip installed when the walls are finished.

Jones had two quotes for a new steel roof on the city garage. A quote from Rustn Loverink was for a grand total of \$4500; this would include materials and labor. It was noted the materials would not be purchased locally. A quote from LeRoy Lumber was for a grand total of \$4700; this would also include materials and labor with the labor being provided by Jim Olson and his crew. It was noted that Mr. Olson has not measured the roof yet, so the labor portion of the LeRoy Lumber quote could decrease. It was the consensus of the council to go with the quote from LeRoy Lumber and Jim Olson and request a certificate of insurance from Mr. Olson.

Deputy Brady Muelken updated council on the police coverage for LeRoy. Coverage for LeRoy is being provided by a number of deputies at this time; the county will be hiring a new deputy in the near future. When this deputy is trained, he will be assigned to LeRoy as our assigned deputy. Council thanked Deputy Muelken for the update.

Under Ongoing Items, letters for violators of zoning enforcement, Administrative Fines Ordinance, will be delivered by a deputy in the near future. Violators will be reminded of the upcoming City-Wide Cleanup day. White continues to work on the Basic Code of Ordinances. Gumbel reported she had emailed Joel Wager from the Minnesota DNR inviting him or a representative to the June city council meeting to further discuss canoe access points on the Upper Iowa River.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler and seconded by Gottschalk at 8:16 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer