

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, May 6, 2013, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Acting Mayor Linda Sanders, Council Members Vickie Lidtke, Kathleen Gottschalk, Justin Brandau, Maintenance Supervisor Dave Streit, Maintenance Worker John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Mayor Jennifer Gumbel was absent. Also in attendance were Harold & Joann Shipman, Phyllis Jacobson, Rose Erie, Craig Elliott, Ginger Holm, Doug Hutchins, and Deputy Pete Hillman. Acting Mayor Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Lidtke, second by Brandau to approve the consent agenda with the correction to the regular meeting minutes of April 1, 2013. Motion carried 4-0. Brandau questioned if a second recycling dumpster would help alleviate the time spent by the maintenance department cleaning up the recycling mess. Streit and Jones responded that the recycling dumpster is abused by items being left that are not recyclable, boxes are not flattened, and recyclables are left in bags when the dumpster is full. It was the concern that if another dumpster was provided that more items that aren't recyclable would be left.

Those in attendance didn't have anything new for public input time; they were here to listen to what happened at the council work session addressing zoning and nuisance enforcement.

During standing committee reports, Gottschalk reported she had attended the Prairie Visions meeting; Prairie Visions is considering the installation of trail cameras on the Shooting Star Trail to gauge the usage of the trail. They also discussed placing more benches along the trail and discussed the placement of garbage cans along the trail and who would be responsible for emptying the containers. She also attended a pool board meeting; the pool received grant funds to repair the spa and filter system. The pool is making plans for Summerfest activities including a 5K run and possibly a breakfast. Brandau noted that he and Gumbel had attended the SEMLM meeting in St. Charles. Aaron Reeves from Cannon Falls had presented information on some type of budget/capital improvement spreadsheet; White will further investigate this program.

White and Streit noted that paperwork to have the city water tower and repairs to the water treatment plant filter has been submitted to get these projects placed on the project priority list and intended use plan through the Minnesota Department of Health. These plans are for possible funding for these projects.

There was nothing new to report on the Personnel Committee in the absence of Mayor Gumbel. Any appointments to the personnel committee would be made by the mayor.

Sanders noted the council had a very productive work session on April 13, 2013, dealing with zoning enforcement and nuisance enforcement. Sanders read the summary of the work session for those in attendance. Council addressed four major areas to be addressed. These included aesthetic appearance of buildings, hazardous conditions of properties, dangerous properties, and the conditions of some of the mobile homes in the mobile home park. It was noted from the work session that the enforcement mechanism in the current nuisance ordinance is set up to fail. Gumbel noted from the work session that she has worked with communities that use administrative fines to enforce ordinances. By using administrative fines, this would give the homeowner the incentive to keep their property up and give the city a better mechanism to enforce the ordinance. Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to direct White to explore setting up administrative fines, vacancy fees, and wording to establish these items. Motion carried 4-0. This will be further reviewed at upcoming meetings.

Deputy Pete Hillman gave the police report. He noted that with nicer weather vehicle traffic is increasing. He also noted there have been some burglaries in the community and the surrounding area. Lidtke questioned about the installation of stop signs at the intersection of East County Road and Lowell Street. These will be installed on the posts where yield signs have been. Doug Hutchins questioned about weekend coverage and the speed and age of people using four-wheelers and other motorized vehicles.

Sanders updated those present about the special council meeting held on April 13, 2013, pertaining to the upcoming retirement of Streit. John Jones has agreed to accept the maintenance supervisor position. The city is currently accepting applications for the maintenance worker position.

Craig Elliott questioned if applications were being accepted for part-time work. The maintenance worker position will be a full-time position, but Mr. Elliott was told that he could still fill out an application. Brandau, Gottschalk, Streit, and Jones will review the applications and schedule interviews for the maintenance worker position. Gottschalk offered to step down from this process if Gumbel wants to serve on this committee.

There were no building/zoning permits for council review.

The Communications File was reviewed. Items included the minutes from the Prairie Visions meeting, a letter from Mediacom, and an invitation from MnDOT for a Towards Zero Deaths seminar.

Streit reported he was contacted a week ago Friday from a DNR official; this official had been notified of some dead coot in the Upper Iowa River near the city pond discharge pipe. Streit reviewed the pond discharge process with him and noted the discharge samples were all within proper parameters. After numerous telephone calls and a meeting with DNR officials, Streit was told that everything was done as should be for a pond discharge.

Streit recommended to the council to have an inspection done of the water tower. This inspection is done every two years, and it has been two years since the last inspection. This inspection will give the council a better picture of the condition of the water tank. Council thought this would help them make a better decision about the status of the tower. Motion by Lidtke, second by Brandau to proceed with the water tower inspection. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Elliott questioned if it would be possible to get a street sign installed at West Cabot Street and Mower County 14. That street sign is missing. Streit was directed to get this sign installed.

Streit updated council on the status of the roof at the Emergency Services building. The roof is leaking; water is entering the electrical box. A representative from Smidt Companies was here and did an inspection of the roof. Some temporary repairs were done; these repairs could be considered a band-aid and will not correct the roof problems. Two recommendations were presented. One recommendation would leave the existing roofing in place and reroof with new material for the cost of \$36,351; the other recommendation would remove the existing roofing and flashings and reroof with new material for the cost of \$38,761. A 20-year warranty on materials and screws would be in place for either option. The council could also request a five-year warranty on workmanship. Council questioned if there was any warranty left on the present roof. Streit will check with Dave Miller of Miller Grain; they were the ones that built the building approximately 15 years ago. Council will further review this at the June meeting.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM on a motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke.

Linda Sanders, Acting Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk