

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, June 1, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Justin Brandau, Ashley Huntley, Gene Miller, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Kathleen Gottschalk was absent. Others in attendance included Jan & Shirley Whisler, Scott Osmundson, Rose Erie, Harold & Joann Shipman, Roger & Pauline Fister, Deputy T. J. Lynch, Ken Brownlow, Dave Perkins, Axel Gumbel, and Ginger Holm. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Huntley, second by Brandau to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

During Public Input Time, Ken Brownlow introduced himself to council and noted he had approached the council last year about the easement he signed to grant utilities to the Dayne Olson property located at 915 North Everett Street. Mr. Brownlow's concern with this easement is that the easement was for public use for the utilities, but the lift station and service lines are privately owned. He also believes part of his property was annexed into the city at the time when Mr. Olson's property was annexed into the city. Mr. Brownlow would like to sit down and discuss this with the council. He questioned if these utilities had been designed by the city engineer. Gumbel noted that decisions made by a previous council cannot be changed, but they can be reviewed. Mr. Brownlow noted he may be interested in developing some of his property. Gumbel suggested having a work session to further discuss this; the work session could be held yet in June and any issues could be resolved at the July council meeting. Mr. Brownlow concurred with this suggestion.

During Standing Committee Reports, it was noted the Prairie Visions meeting minutes had been included in the council packets; the library board meeting minutes were handed out prior to the meeting. Huntley questioned what council would like to see from the ambulance meetings. Huntley will prepare a summary of those meetings for council information.

Deputy Lynch reviewed the written police report from May. He reminded those present to dial 911 in the case of an emergency or to call 507-437-9400 for non-emergencies. Huntley noted there have been coyotes sighted in the North Baumbach Park.

White reported the city attorney has received a copy of the inspection report for the property located at 314 East Main Street. Council requested the city attorney to attend the July council meeting and have a proposed petition available for council review. White will include a copy of the inspection report in the July council packets. Council also questioned if letters had been sent out for possible property ordinance violations. White reported ten letters had been sent out; Gumbel and White will need to drive around to see if these violations have been brought into compliance. Council questioned about properties that have not been mowed yet. White reported that letters have been sent out; if the properties are not mowed by June 5, 2015, the city maintenance department will mow the properties. A bill for mowing will be sent to the owner of record.

Jones reported the water tower inspection was to have been completed on June 2, but the inspection has been postponed by KLM until later in June.

Gumbel noted concern for a bright pink full-sized noose that is hanging from a tree at 205 North East County Road. A ladder is leaning against the tree near where the noose is hanging. Gumbel expressed concern for what this portrays. White had sent a letter to the property owner inviting him to this meeting, but he is not in attendance. Gumbel noted this could pose a hazard. She has researched what the city can do in controlling this type of activity/speech. Council members expressed more concern with the safety issues of this noose than with an issue of free speech. Miller and Brandau volunteered to visit with the property owner to discuss this. Council will revisit this at their July meeting.

Council reviewed three land use permits:

1. Lot 18, Lot 19 exc E 8', S70' & W22' N 48.86' Lot 20, Block 1, Original Village-pour cement patio slab
2. Lot 6, Block 2, Olson Addition-build 3-stall garage
3. Lot 6, Block 2, Olson Addition-build sandbox canopy

Motion by Brandau, second by Miller to approve said permits. Motion carried 4-0.

The Communications File was reviewed. Items included (a) a request for funding from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. The request was denied. (b) An invitation for the city to become a member of the Minnesota Association of Small Cities was reviewed. Membership was denied. (c) Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota is hosting the 23rd Annual Habitat 500, a 7-day, 500-mile bicycle ride fundraiser which takes place July 12-18. The ride will make a rest stop at the LeRoy Trailhead on July 13. No police escort or other special services are needed. White had confirmed with the organizers of this ride that we would welcome them on their bicycle ride fundraiser. (d) Minnesota Rural Water Association sponsors an annual water week poster contest. Angie Kennedy's fourth grade class participated in the poster contest. Lindsay Bergan's poster garnered honorable mention from the Minnesota Rural Water Association. Motion by Huntley to pass Resolution 2015-04, a resolution honoring and congratulating Lindsay for her poster. Second by Brandau. Motion carried 4-0. White was directed to prepare the resolution and get it to Lindsay.

Jones noted the pickup box on the 2002 Ford is in poor repair. The rear fender has rusted through and the box has numerous dents in it. The box doesn't look good and doesn't portray favorably for a city vehicle to look like that. Jones had researched the cost for a replacement box. He could get a box from Texas for \$1200; he did not have an estimate for what it would cost to put the box on. Motion by Miller, second by Brandau to approve the purchase of a pickup box. Motion carried 4-0.

Jones reported one fire hydrant is not in working order; it cannot be used for fire suppression. This hydrant was built in 1936. He noted at least five hydrants could be replaced due to age; he would like to see at least one hydrant replaced each year. Motion by Miller, second by Brandau to proceed with changing out this one hydrant. Motion carried 4-0.

Council discussed the repair of the north wall and shingling of the storage room at the Community Center. Gumbel questioned about proceeding with new wall coverings and flooring. Miller suggested to wait until 2016 to proceed with any future projects at the Center. Joann Shipman and Rose Erie questioned about some of the kitchen faucets that don't work properly. Gumbel suggested having the people that use the kitchen the most make a list of needed repairs in the kitchen and submit the list to White or Jones. Jones will look into the faucets to see if they can be repaired or need to be replaced.

Council reviewed an article that had been published in the March/April 2014 edition of the Minnesota Cities magazine entitled "Parks & Rec for All!" A question about the surfacing under the play structures was posed. Other alternatives to the pea rock could be rubber mulch, rubber mats, or wood mulch. White will do further research into cost estimates for these different types of surfacing. White also commented that it would not be too difficult to backfill in around the park shelters to make the shelter floor level with the ground, but this project shouldn't be done until fall due to the increased usage of the parks during the summer time.

Gumbel proposed the idea of finding an area for a canoe launch for the Upper Iowa River below the dam in Lake Louise State Park. Gumbel has talked to the DNR about this possibility; she reported the route does not have to be a designated state water trail. A group of interested people could meet with the DNR and set up a location for a canoe launch. A concern was raised that the water level is almost too low to make it to Chester; there is also the issue of downed trees in the river. It was noted that Chester does have a canoe launch. Possible locations for a canoe launch were further discussed. Gumbel will further pursue this and report back to council.

Gumbel reported the Fire Department Personnel Committee has met. The Fire Department currently has two openings. One applicant was recommended for one of the openings. Motion by Miller, second by Brandau to appoint Bob Drees to the Fire Department. Motion carried 4-0.

Council reviewed the on-going items. It was decided to remove the e-cigarette discussion from future agendas.

Brandau reported he will be stepping down from the council in the near future; he noted he would be on the council through September. An appointment can be made to fill his position at that time. Council won't be able to declare the seat vacant until written notice is received and accepted.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Brandau, seconded by Miller at 7:54 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer