

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, June 2, 2014, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Vickie Lidtke, Justin Brandau, Linda Sanders, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Others attending the meeting included Jan & Shirley Whisler, Ken Brownlow, Joann Shipman, Deloryce Johnson, Louise Monson, Ginger Holm, Roger & Pauline Fister, Dave Perkins, Deputy Brady Muelken, Deputy T. J. Lynch, Rose Erie, and Jay Hardecopf. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

During Public Input time, (1) Ken Brownlow reported that approximately seven years ago he had granted the council a utility easement on property he owns on the north edge of LeRoy. This property entails the old creamery property, the cartway north of the property located at 911 North Everett Street, and other lands located between the river and the north city limits. He granted this easement so he would have access to water and sewer to this property. It was his understanding at the time he granted the easement that a water main and sanitary sewer lift station would be installed to service this area. Instead a private water service line and small lift pump were installed. He also commented he would prefer that the city not trim the trees along his cartway. Jones responded that the city crews did not trim these trees. Mr. Brownlow is considering having some of his property annexed into the system and would like to access water and sewer utilities at that time. He questioned how this could be done or retro-fitted for this purpose. He noted he and the city would have to work with the city engineer and could consider the looping of water lines. Gumbel noted the council relied on previous information and made their decisions based on that information with the ownership of the water line that serves the Dayne Olson property. (2) Pauline Fister commented that after the city-wide cleanup that some people drove around and noticed that some landowners did not utilize the cleanup. Fister also commented about the fences that have been installed this year; she questioned if the council could limit the number of fences or the type of fences that have been installed. Gumbel noted that the council has to balance the rights of property owners and the rights that people accept to live in a city.

During Standing Committee Reports, Sanders noted there was no EDA meeting due to not having a quorum. The library minutes were included in the council packets. Brandau reported he had attended the Mower County League of Cities meeting in March. Justin Hanson of Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District spoke about water issues within the county. Mr. Hanson singled out LeRoy for their wellhead protection plan and the measures that have been taken to comply with this plan. Brandau noted that Mr. Hanson was looking for an elected official to serve on the SWCD board, and he had volunteered to serve on this board. Gumbel noted she will try to convene a personnel committee meeting in July.

Deputy Muelken introduced the new assigned deputy, T. J. Lynch. Deputy Muelken gave the written police report. The council thanked both deputies for the report and for their time serving this community.

White reported eight letters have been sent out for ordinance violation. These letters were sent out by certified mail; three of the letters were returned as unclaimed. White posed questions that have been asked of her as to how those in violation will know if what they have done is sufficient for cleanup. More questions and concerns were voiced by those present at the meeting. Gumbel noted she would address some of these issues in the next "Mayor's Corner" column in the newspaper.

Jay Hardecopf met with council to discuss the status of his property at 314 East Main Street. June 1 was the deadline for getting this property cleaned up or repaired to a livable condition. Mr. Hardecopf noted he did not receive a letter from the city attorney until close to May 1. Gumbel noted this issue will go to the city attorney to file papers with District Court. Mr. Hardecopf will then receive more information from the city attorney.

It was noted that 7500 pounds of refuse was collected in the two dumpsters from Veit Disposal from the city-wide cleanup. A good number of appliances were dropped off at Appliance Recyclers of LeRoy, and iron and other recyclables were taken to Behr Iron and Metal.

Council will try to get a date set within the next month or two for a work session to discuss capital improvement planning.

White presented information for an electric franchise from Alliant Energy. This proposed franchise is identical to the last franchise agreement that is now over 25 years old. Motion by Brandau to pass Ordinance #236, an ordinance of the City of LeRoy, County of Mower, State of Minnesota, granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, permission to erect, install, construct, reconstruct, repair, own, operate, maintain, manage and control an electric plant within the corporate limits of said city and an electric distribution system consisting of poles, wires, conduits, pipes, conductors and other fixtures in, under, over, along and across the streets, lanes, avenues, sidewalks, alleys, bridges and public grounds of said city for the purpose of producing and furnishing electric energy for light, heat and power purposes to the inhabitants of said city for a period of twenty-five (25) years from and after the passage, approval, and publication of this ordinance according to law. Second by Lidtke. Said ordinance is approved on a vote of 5-0 and will become effective after publication as is required by law.

White presented a letter of resignation from City Attorney Jeff Kritzer as the city's attorney. Mr. Kritzer has been named as a District Court Judge. Mr. Kritzer recommended naming Tom Baudler as the city attorney. Mr. Kritzer and Mr. Baudler work for the Baudler, Maus, Forman, Kritzer & Wagner law firm. Motion by Brandau, second by Lidtke to accept Mr. Kritzer's resignation with thanks for his years of service. On a roll call of votes Sanders, Lidtke, Gottschalk, and Brandau voted aye. Gumbel abstained. Motion carried. Motion by Sanders, second by Gottschalk to appoint Tom Baudler as city attorney. On a roll call of votes Sanders, Lidtke, Gottschalk, and Brandau voted aye. Gumbel abstained. Motion carried.

It was noted there is one opening on the EDA board. Gumbel read a letter of interest from Dave Perkins. Gumbel recommended the appointment of Mr. Perkins to the unexpired term of Kay McCloud. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to accept the recommendation of Gumbel and appoint Dave Perkins to the EDA board to fulfill the unexpired term of Kay McCloud. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed six building/zoning permits.

1. Lot 12, Block 1, Olson Addition-install concrete driveway
2. Lots 23 & 24 exc W 15' Lot 23, Block 1, Original Village-install chain link fence and concrete patio slab
3. Lot 10, Block 2, Olson Addition-install concrete driveway
4. Lot 1, Block 1, Hickock 3rd Addition-install chain link fence
5. Lots 6, 7, 8 & 9 & N 25' St. adj on SW, Block 17, Original Village-install chain link fence
6. Lot 24, Block 1, River's Edge Addition-build storage shed

Motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke to approve said permits. Motion carried 5-0.

The Communications File was reviewed. Items included a request from St. Croix Hospice requesting a proclamation. This will be further reviewed at the July meeting. A letter from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation was read requesting funding. Council consensus to deny funding. A letter from Mediacom with an updated channel listing was reviewed.

Jones spoke with Pearson Brothers about the sealcoating proposal. It was agreed to remove the streets in the River's Edge Addition and proceed with sealcoating of the other streets and alleys in the proposal. This will save approximately \$12,000 from the proposal.

Sanders reported she and White had met with the architects working on the Community Center renovations. The furnace that serves the lower banquet room and senior room is in poor repair. The ductwork that comes from this furnace is also in poor repair. The two furnaces in the upper banquet room are in good working order. Sanders felt the first priority is the furnace and ductwork in the lower banquet and senior room area. Other improvements being proposed include new ductwork in the upper banquet room, new ceiling tiles, lighting, wall coverings, and flooring.

Gumbel updated council and those present about the DMC (Destination Medical Center) initiative. She reported this was also discussed at the SEMLM meeting. It was discussed if cities want to grow because of DMC and what does this mean to the city as far as infrastructure, building lots, housing,

etc. Another topic discussed is what effect this growth has on the school district, etc. Gumbel suggesting hosting an informational session with the elected officials of the cities of LeRoy and Ostrander, the elected officials of the townships that comprise the L-O School District, fraternal organizations and clubs, church representatives, and interested citizens to further discuss this initiative. Another session could also be held addressing tourism issues and groups. Brandau thought this was a good idea to also bring these groups together and see what resources are available.

Under On-Going Items, it was noted that a letter has been sent to the record of owner of the property at 102 East Main Street to see what her intentions are for the building. White has not received a response yet. Dave Perkins is working on acquiring the property located at 105 East Main Street. He would like to acquire the property, demolish the building, and leave the area as a gravel lot.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Lidtke, second by Sanders at 7:48 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer