

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, June 3, 2013, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Linda Sanders, Justin Brandau, Kathleen Gottschalk, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council member Vickie Lidtke was absent. Others in attendance included Jean Knight, Roger & Pauline Fister, Phyllis Jacobson, Deloryce Johnson, Eileen Hutchins, Harold & Joanne Shipman, Rose Erie, Mary Speer, Deputy Jaime Meyers, Shirley & Jan Whisler, Axel Gumbel, and Steve Mattson. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2013, regular meeting, and the minutes of the May 29, 2013, special meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to approve current bills for payment. Motion carried 4-0. The council reviewed the written reports of the maintenance department, city clerk, and EDA. Motion by Brandau, second by Sanders to approve the written reports. Motion carried 4-0. The council also reviewed the past due bills report. Motion by Brandau, second by Sanders to approve the past due bills report. Motion carried 4-0.

Steve Mattson from Northland Securities introduced himself to the council and presented information about the possible refinancing of the Wildwood Grove/EDA bonds. He noted the bonds have already been refinanced once and can be refinanced again by December 1, 2013. The bonds would be refinanced to capture a better (lesser) interest rate. Mr. Mattson noted all the documents need to be prepared now so they can be submitted to the rating agency. Typically a trigger resolution is passed by the EDA to allow Mr. Mattson, Jerry Barber (president of the EDA), and Clerk White to decide when the best time is to sell this new bond issue to capture the best interest rates. Council was favorable to this discussion about the possible refinancing of these bonds. This information will now be forwarded to the EDA to review at their next meeting.

During public input time, Harold Shipman thanked Jones for the early morning wakeup call when the river was starting to flood once again. Mr. Shipman noted that with the early call no one got water in their basements. Deputy Meyers introduced himself to council and gave the police report. He noted there is an on-going investigation being worked on, he responded to a harassment call, and to another harassment/domestic call. He noted he has been quite busy since coming to LeRoy. Joanne Shipman questioned about the ceiling in the Community Center large room. White updated those present about some water issues around the door. She also stated that Mike King of LeRoy Lumber was looking into possibilities for ceiling repair or replacement. Gumbel noted that Eileen Evans is looking into what needs to be done and finding any funding that may be available to address these issues.

During Standing Committee Reports, Gottschalk noted that Prairie Visions is working on requisition of land to extend the Shooting Star Bike Trail to Austin. She also noted that trail cameras have been put up; these will help in determining how much the trail is being used.

White updated those present on financing options for the water treatment facility upgrades. She reported that paperwork has been filed for placement on the public facilities funding list; she had also contacted Steve Mattson from Northland Securities for their input.

Letters of interest to serve on the personnel committee were reviewed. Letters were received from Sharon Thiel, Jan Whisler, Harold Shipman, and Rita Miller. Gumbel recommended appointing Thiel and Miller to the personnel committee. Motion by Sanders to accept Gumbel's recommendation for the appointments of Sharon Thiel and Rita Miller to the personnel committee. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 4-0.

White reported she had contacted the City of Morristown about using administrative fines to enforce their nuisance ordinance. The City of Morristown uses administrative fines. Gumbel reported she had contacted the city attorney about using administrative fines. He felt the council can use the process of issuing a criminal citation for the offenders of the nuisance ordinance, but this can take one to two years to get through the court system. He also noted the council could use abatement, but this also takes time. Gumbel further noted that by using the administrative procedures that a separate committee would serve as oversight of this procedure. A big problem is identifying problem properties because what

one person sees as junk or unsightly may not be according to ordinance. Gumbel would like to see this more as an automatic process to proceed with sending out letters to get corrective action taken prior to fines being assessed.

Gumbel thanked Brandau and Gottschalk for taking the lead on filling the open maintenance worker position. Interviews will proceed with seven of the seventeen applicants garnering an interview.

It was noted that Allison Asfahl has tendered her resignation from the EDA board. Motion by Gumbel to accept Ms. Asfahl's resignation with regret and with thanks for the time she spent on the EDA board. Second by Brandau. Motion carried 4-0. An advertisement will be placed for people interested in serving on the EDA to submit a letter of interest to White.

Council reviewed the sample FEMA Floodplain Ordinance. Council will further review this ordinance at their July meeting.

Council reviewed four building/zoning permits:

1. Lot 16, Block 1, Olson Addition-installation of backyard fence
2. Lot 11, Block 1, Olson Addition-installation of backyard fence
3. Lots 16, 17, & 18, Block 29, Original Village-build addition to existing house
4. Lots 17 & E ½ Lot 16, Block 1, Original Village-installation of privacy fence

Motion by Sanders, second by Gottschalk to approve said permits. Motion carried 4-0.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included a letter from FEMA, a letter from Senator Dan Sparks pertaining to the increase in LGA for 2014, and a letter from the Emergency Management Services Regulatory Board (no action was taken). Membership in MAOSC was denied as was funding for the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. A Certificate of Commendation was awarded to the City of LeRoy and its wastewater treatment facility staff from MPCA for recognizing the exemplary effort expended in the year 2012. Jones was commended and thanked for his efforts.

Jones reported that the city will forego any crackfilling and sealcoating this year on the city streets. The funds are not available in the budget to proceed with any of these maintenance items. He noted potholes will be filled as soon as the weather permits. It was questioned who takes care of cleaning the bike trail. It was noted the DNR takes care of clearing the trails from weather related debris; local people have also volunteered to clear the trail.

The water tower inspection has been completed, but a written report was not received. Contact with the company doing the inspection will be made. Council can review this at the July meeting.

Jones reported that Dave Miller of Miller Grain has looked at the roof on the Emergency Services Building. Mr. Miller will contact Chief (the company that built the building) to have them look at this and give any recommendations.

Jones updated council on issues encountered at the wellhouse following heavy rain. The rain followed the Mediacom cable into the building (this cable is for the telephone service) and entered the control panel for the watertower. One of the computer panels was shorted out. This has been replaced and the emergency dialer system has been reprogrammed.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk at 7:52 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer