

City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, July 3, 2017

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, July 3, 2017, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Gene Miller, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk and Ashley Huntley were absent. Also attending: Shirley Whisler, Harold & Joann Shipman, Deputy Katlynn Fisher, Sheriff Terese Amazi, Rose Erie, Axel Gumbel, Dave Perkins, Jim Gronwoldt, and Jason Boynton. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

- Motion by Whisler, second Miller to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2017, city council meeting. Motion carried 3-0.
- Some questions were posed on the bills payable. Thiel questioned Jones on how often the city parks and cemetery are being mowed. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to approve the current bills. Motion carried 3-0.
- Council reviewed the written reports of the maintenance department, city clerk, and EDA, and the past due water bills. A question was posed about the tube slide at South Park. Jones noted the slide is broken. White has contacted the playground company and is waiting for information on repairing or replacing the slide. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to approve the written reports and past due bills. Motion carried 3-0.

During Public Input Time:

- Jim Gronwoldt approached council to request the closing of South Broadway between Main Street and the South Business Alley from the evening of July 13 through the evening of July 16 for Summerfest. Council consensus to allow the closure of this part of South Broadway for the indicated dates.
- Dave Perkins thanked the maintenance department for getting electricity installed to one of the power poles at South Park.

The police report was given by Deputy Katlynn Fisher.

- Deputy Fisher handed out the Police Activity Report for June. Council posed a few questions to Deputy Fisher and thanked her for this report.
- Sheriff Amazi commended Deputy Fisher on her work performance. Amazi reported Deputy Fisher started her law enforcement career as a jailer at the Mower County Jail.
- Amazi reported the Mower County Sheriff's Office is a union shop. When a new deputy begins duty, they can post for job openings within the sheriff's department. Movements within the department are based on seniority, so the new deputy is assigned to duty in LeRoy.
- Whisler questioned about citizen ride-alongs. Amazi noted a deputy must be on the department for a year before having a rider. Arrangements could be made with another deputy if Whisler would like to participate in a ride-along. Amazi reported she does not see any changes coming from the Sheriff's Department or County Commissioners with the City of LeRoy and their contract for law enforcement.
- Miller questioned how coverage is handled for Mower County communities that don't have their own police departments. Amazi reported the Sheriff's Department won't enforce those city ordinances; they do enforce LeRoy's ordinances to a point. Amazi noted that animal issues are a problem all over the county.
- Thiel questioned about city-wide security cameras and if they would be of value to the sheriff's office. Amazi noted these could be useful to review footage if crimes had occurred.
- Council thanked Sheriff Amazi and Deputy Fisher for their time and service.

During Standing Committee Reports:

- Thiel noted the Technology Committee has received an invitation for membership in Next Century Cities. There is no fee associated with membership; a letter of interest needs to be submitted for membership. Council consensus to register the city's interest in this.

In Old Business:

- White questioned if 'Technology Committee Appointments' should stay on the agenda. Council consensus to remove this item and add it to the agenda when someone expresses interest in serving on this committee.
- White reported Jaguar has installed the fiber cable up to city hall, but there has been nothing installed inside. Jaguar fiber has been installed to the LeRoy Public Library and is connected.

Council discussed several equipment items that would be beneficial for the maintenance department to better do their job.

- The 1994 Ford pickup is in very poor repair. Jones noted he will not use this pickup to drive outside of town; it is only used for in-town jobs. A 2010 Dodge Ram 2500 4 x 4 has been spotted. The pickup has a plow blade on the front with a hydraulic dump box. This could be used to plow snow from the parking lots, alleys, etc. This vehicle is listed at \$25,995, but it has been on the market for a few months.
- A welder could be very beneficial to the maintenance department. Maintenance Worker Nick Sweeney would be consulted to see what type of welder would best serve the City's needs.
- Thiel has researched driveway/alley graders that could attach to the city tractor. He has found an 8.5' Cat II TR3 Rake from ABI Attachments that can be shipped to the City, used by the City for 30 days, and either paid for then or returned if it didn't work as expected. Shipping is free. The cost for this is \$5,395.00.
- Motion by Whisler to proceed with getting the 8.5' Cat II TR3 Rake from ABI Attachments and take the full 30 days to see how it works, to proceed with a pickup purchase with a not-to-exceed price of \$25,000, and to proceed with the purchase of welder. Second by Miller. On a roll call of votes, all members voted aye. The motion carried 3-0.

Council reviewed one land-use permit.

- 809 N Broadway, S 73' 8" Lots 1 & 2, Block 13, Caswell & Lewis-build a deck

Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to approve said permit. Motion carried 3-0.

Council reviewed the Communications File. Items included:

- The invitation to the July 31 SEMLM meeting to be held in Lake City was presented.
- A request for funding for L-O Schools Forever was considered. Council could not make a donation to this endeavor as it is not considered a legal public purpose expenditure.
- Council reviewed a newsletter from the Mower County Humane Society. The humane society offers spay and neuter clinics for stray cats & dogs. White had checked on upcoming dates for these clinics, but the clinics were already full.

Street Maintenance & Repair for 2017:

- The city has received a bill from Four Season Maintenance for \$7,950 for the various pothole patching that has been completed. Council was reminded that a not-to-exceed figure of \$20,000 had been appropriated for street maintenance and repair.
- Whisler reported that J.C. Nerstad of Four Season Maintenance will be coming to LeRoy to look at other problem areas to determine which areas to fix with the remaining funding.

White updated council on the Mower County 56 project. The milling machine is scheduled to arrive on July 24. The crew will begin the milling on the county portions of Broadway Street and Cabot Street before beginning the milling on County 56.

Jason Boynton of Smith Schafer introduced himself to council and those in attendance and gave the 2016 audit report. Mr. Boynton noted the city received an unmodified “clean” opinion for the 2016 audit. Mr. Boynton presented a power point presentation and highlighted the city’s general fund balance of \$978,000. Mr. Boynton noted this puts the city in a very strong and healthy position. Council posed a few questions and thanked Mr. Boynton for his time. The complete audit report is available for review at City Hall. Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to accept the 2016 audit report. Motion carried 3-0.

Jones reported the city has not received the water tower inspection report yet.

Community Center Kitchen Renovation:

- Shirley Whisler reported the committee is still working on plans for this project.
- The committee is leaning towards removing the stove from the kitchen and installing counters with more outlets to allow plugging in roasters. It was noted that Jim Gronwoldt from Travel Lanes may be interested in the stove.
- The committee is looking at the installation of a three-compartment sink.
- The committee will continue to work on plans.

Miller questioned about the proposed Personnel Policy. This will be addressed at the August council meeting.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Miller at 8:01 PM.

Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer