

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, July 6, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Ashley Huntley, Gene Miller, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk and Justin Brandau were absent. Also attending were Gene & Glenda Schwemmer, Harold & Joann Shipman, Ginger Holm, Roger & Pauline Fister, Brian Thiel, Dave Perkins, Jan Whisler, Axel Gumbel, Jim Gronwoldt, Deputy T.J. Lynch, and Jason Boynton of Smith Schafer. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk and Justin Brandau arrived at 6:33 PM.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Gumbel noted she has received some concerns from library board members that the library budget may at times look out of balance; Gumbel reported these concerns have to do with the timing of funding and transfers. Motion by Huntley, second by Brandau to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

During Public Input Time (1) Pauline Fister expressed concern with how Main Street looks. She commented that Main Street looks poor whether you come into town from the east or west. Gumbel reiterated that a signed written complaint must be filed at city hall to address these issues. (2) Brian Thiel questioned if a complaint should address a safety issue or if unkempt properties falls into this category. Gumbel noted that both issues can be addressed. (3) Jan Whisler questioned how many years it takes to get some of these issues taken care of. Gumbel reiterated the process and the time line involved with correcting some of these issues.

Under Standing Committee Reports, Gumbel noted the Personnel Committee has met and will begin annual reviews of the four full-time employees. The committee is researching how best to relay information from the reviews back to the council to stay in compliance with the data practices act.

Deputy Lynch handed out the written police report and reviewed the report. He noted it has been busier with the Highway 63 detour. Gumbel questioned about dog barking complaints. Lynch noted he talks to the dog owner and tries to work with them to correct these types of issues. Council thanked Deputy Lynch for the report.

White paraphrased a letter the city attorney had sent to Jay Hardecopf. The letter set August 1, 2015, as the final deadline for him to repair, remove, or raze his home located at 314 East Main Street. If the home is not repaired, removed, or razed by August 1, 2015, the City will commence legal action under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 463 and immediately seek a court order for the razing of the home. Gumbel noted she would like to see a court filing on August 3 for the razing of this home.

Jones noted that KLM Engineering completed the water tower inspection on June 30. The written inspection report has not been received yet.

Gumbel reported the noose that had been hanging from a tree at 205 North East County Road has been converted into a swing. It does not seem to impose a risk hazard at this time. Council will continue to monitor this situation.

Jason Boynton of Smith Schafer presented the 2014 audit report. The City received an unqualified clean opinion for 2014. Mr. Boynton noted the City was inadequately collateralized during 2014; this has been corrected for 2015. Mr. Boynton suggested making a one-time transfer of \$53,359 from the General Fund to the Library Fund to correct the deficit in the Library Fund. He also suggested the council could consider a one-time transfer for the East Y Project. He noted the goal with Wildwood Grove is for the facility to continue to operate at a positive point to continue to lower the dependence on city levy dollars to meet their debt service. Motion by Brandau, second by Huntley to accept the 2014 audit report. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Miller to pass a resolution in 2015 to correct the deficit in the Library Fund. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0. Further research will be done to determine the correct deficit figure for the Library Fund, based on timing issues with the receipt of tax funds. Council thanked Mr. Boynton for his time.

Council reviewed the schedule of events for Summerfest. Jim Gronwoldt requested closing South Broadway for the block adjacent to Travel Lanes for the Summerfest weekend. Motion by Brandau,

second by Gottschalk to allow this closure. Motion carried 5-0. Gronwoldt questioned what it would take to do a fireworks display in 2016. White will check into this and keep Gronwoldt and the council informed.

Council discussed the lack of demolition of the burned house located at 107 East Lowell Street. Gumbel had visited with the owner of record; he stated that he was getting an asbestos inspection completed and the house would be torn down. White was directed to send another letter if no progress is made in tearing down the house.

No one was present to address the zoning change request for the property located at 424 West Main Street. White reported she had been contacted by the property owners; the owners currently have this property for sale and have questioned if a prospective buyer could have horses or other farm animals at this location. Council reviewed current city ordinance. According to the ordinance farm animals shall only be kept in an agricultural district of the city, or on a residential lot of at least ten acres in size provided that no animal shelter shall be within 300 feet of an adjoining piece of property. White noted she had also contacted the Mower County Environmental Services Director for guidance on possible feedlot issues. She had not received a response from the County in time for the meeting. Council took no action, but directed White to send this ordinance information to the owner of record.

Council reviewed four land use permits.

1. Lot 11, Lewis Addition-build an addition onto the north end of the church
2. Lot 14, Block 2, Olson Addition-pour cement driveway
3. Lots 3 & 4 exc E 10' Lot 3, Block 29, Original Village-build garage
4. S ½ OL 5 & S 48' N ½ OL 5, Original Village-build single story home with 3-car attached garage

Motion by Gumbel, second by Brandau to approve permits 2, 3, & 4. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Gumbel, second by Gottschalk to approve permit #1. On a roll call of votes, Gumbel, Gottschalk, Brandau, and Huntley voted aye. Miller abstained. Motion carried.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included two letters from Mediacom, the charitable gambling reports from the LeRoy Community Foundation, and the invitation to the next quarterly meeting of the Southeast Minnesota League of Municipalities.

Miller reported he is working on refurbishing the old fire department alarm bell that used to be located about halfway up on the water tower. He would like to install the bell on a ten foot tower in the grassy area between City Hall and Mr. Miller's residence. The bell has been stored for many, many years in the city garage. Motion by Brandau, second by Gottschalk to allow Miller to install the bell on city property next to City Hall. On a roll call of votes, Gumbel, Gottschalk, Brandau, and Huntley voted aye. Miller abstained. The motion carried.

Under zoning enforcement, council discussed dogs running at large and licensing of dogs. White reported she has issued 30 dog licenses for 2015; council commented there are more than 30 dogs in the city limits. White was directed to see what other cities do for dog licensing. Council will continue to review this.

There was nothing new to report on the Minnesota Basic Code.

Miller questioned how Councilor Brandau's seat will be filled when he resigns from council. An appointment can be made to fill this vacancy. Brandau noted he will have his letter of resignation at the August council meeting. Council can then decide how to proceed with filling this vacancy.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Brandau, second by Miller at 7:58 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer