

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, August 1, 2016, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Jan Whisler, Gene Miller, Ashley Huntley, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Kathleen Gottschalk was absent. Others in attendance included Deputy Tom Brogan, Ginger Holm, Axel Gumbel, Jake Wilder, Diane Whalen, Dave Perkins, and Deputy Brady Mulken. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Council posed a few questions on some of the bills presented for payment. After receiving answers, a motion was made by Huntley and seconded by Miller to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

During Public Input Time, (1) Diane Whalen is trying to organize a "Light up the Night" benefit for cancer by doing a candlelight walk with luminaries. She has already received contributions to go towards the purchase of the candles, bags, etc. Funds from this benefit would be designated for the Eagles Cancer Telethon. She would like to hold this somewhere on a city street where it would be accessible to all people. The luminaries would be on display from 5:30 PM until 10:00 PM on Saturday, October 1. A fellowship time will be held from 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with a Luminary Ceremony at 7:00 PM. Council discussed areas that could be used for this benefit. Suggestions included South Park, the sidewalk along Main Street just west of the Community Center, and the bike trailhead area. Council thanked Ms. Whalen and would work with her in providing "no parking" signs for this benefit. (2) Jake Wilder met with council to discuss his neighbor and his neighbor's tinting business that at times has cars lined up in the alley for hours at a time. Mr. Wilder has contacted law enforcement many times with these issues, but he continues to have issues with cars parked in the alley. It was noted this property is zoned residential; a notification can be sent to him addressing his home business. Deputy Mulken and Deputy Brogan told Mr. Wilder to continue to call law enforcement about these issues. Gumbel noted you will always have some people that try to push the limit of the law; he could possibly be in violation of a city ordinance. Mr. Wilder also reported his neighbor also uses the city property next to his property to park vehicles. Deputies Mulken and Brogan noted they should be involved prior to a vehicle being towed. (3) A question was posed to council if golf carts can be driven by a minor. Council thought the driver either has to be 14 years of age or older or have a driver's license. White reported this issue had been brought to her attention and a letter has been sent to the party in question. (4) Whisler read a statement pertaining to the safety at the intersection of Main Street and South Broadway. Whisler noted he has interviewed people that live on South Broadway and to business people in this area. He proposed some different options including marking the east side of South Broadway in the one block between Main Street and the South Business Alley as no parking from 6:00 AM until 6:00 PM; paint the yellow curb further south on the east side of South Broadway; or changing the parking on the east side of South Broadway to parallel parking. Dave Perkins noted that angle parking on the east side of South Broadway does not really cause that much of an issue with semi traffic. Mr. Perkins questioned if installing "compact car parking" in the first two parking spots on the east side of South Broadway could be done. Huntley commented the need to accommodate the businesses, too. By limiting the parking on this portion of South Broadway would put more cars parked on Main Street. Gumbel commented that maybe the sidewalk should be fixed and raise the curb. Mr. Perkins expressed concern with that suggestion due to the cost that he probably would have to bear since he owns the property abutting this area. Miller felt the best solution would be to change the east side of South Broadway to parallel parking and leave the west of South Broadway as diagonal parking. This will be further discussed at upcoming council meetings.

Gumbel read the due call for the public hearing for a conditional use permit on that property located at 307 South Mather Street and opened the hearing at 7:25 PM. Council discussed signage, business hours, and parking. No one present had any concerns to bring to the council pertaining to the issuance of a conditional use permit. Motion by Huntley to issue a Conditional Use Permit to the LeRoy Area Historical Society with the following conditions: (1) a sign no larger than 4' x 8', not to exceed 10'

in height, and not an LED flashing sign, and (2) the museum must be closed from midnight to 6:00 AM every day. Second by Miller. On a roll call of votes, all members voted aye. The Conditional Use Permit was approved. The public hearing was closed at 7:42 PM.

Deputy Brady Mulken introduced Deputy Tom Brogan. Deputy Brogan has been in training and will be assigned as the LeRoy assigned deputy. Deputy Mulken reported the call volume has been low. They will continue to follow-through on issues discussed earlier in the meeting. Huntley questioned if they were aware of the vandalism spree that occurred a few weeks ago. Council welcomed Deputy Brogan and thanked both deputies for time and report.

Gumbel would like council to hold a work session to work on a capital improvement plan and/or a plan for street repairs and maintenance. Jones noted that some streets should be redone due to the condition of the infrastructure beneath the street; some streets could be repaired with a mill and overlay. Council will review their calendars with available dates and get this information to White. Gumbel would like to see a work session convened sometime in September or October.

White updated council on an article she had read in the Austin Daily Herald about county road projects pertaining to the County 56 project.

Council reviewed information provided by Mower County on the proposed tax abatement program. Council discussed the pros and cons of offering this program. Council would like to see the amount of taxes a homeowner would pay on the value of a new home to better understand the dollars associated with this program. Council will further discuss this program at upcoming meetings.

Council reviewed the information on temporary health care dwellings. Council expressed concern that this program may not fit the needs here and that there are healthcare housing options already available here in LeRoy. Motion by Gumbel to call for a public hearing to consider amending the zoning ordinance at the next regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council. Second by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

Council reviewed three land use permits:

1. Lots 1 & 2, Block 1, River's Edge Addition-install fence in backyard
2. W 150' Lot 6 & adj. 40' RR, Lewis Addition-build deck
3. W 70' Lot 2, Block 9, Caswell & Lewis Addition-build two-stall garage

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

Council reviewed the Communications File. Items included a letter from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, a brochure from ElanCity for their electronic speed signs, and a letter from Representative Jeanne Poppe.

White updated council on the time line for the painting and flooring to be completed at the Community Center.

Council discussed zoning enforcement and if city code allows living in a travel trailer as a permanent housing option. Gumbel noted the DNR has LeRoy on its list of places to come to see if the Upper Iowa River is canoe able.

Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day, council consensus to hold the September council on Monday, August 29. Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Huntley, second by Whisler at 8:34 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer