

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, August 12, 2013, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Linda Sanders, Vickie Lidtke, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk and Justin Brandau were absent. Others in attendance included Bob Jacobsen, Deputy Jeremy Meyers, Sheriff Terese Amazi, Harold & Joann Shipman, Axel Gumbel, Jan & Shirley Whisler, Roger & Pauline Fister, and Steve Winter. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

During Public Input time, Bob Jacobsen addressed the council with building issues with the Dave Perkins building. He noted part of the east wall of the Perkins building which is adjacent to the Jacobsen building is brick and was stuccoed over. Part of this wall has let loose; Mr. Jacobsen is looking for the wall to be stabilized. Mr. Jacobsen is concerned the wall will fall onto his building and damage his roof. Mr. Jacobsen noted he has been in contact with a contractor that could stabilize this wall, but the cost to do this would be Mr. Perkins. Mayor Gumbel recused herself from this part of the meeting since she had represented Mr. Perkins in the original real estate transaction. Gumbel did note the city's attorney had been contacted pertaining to this matter; the city attorney had advised the council to not get in the middle of private property owner issues. Gumbel commented that if Mr. Jacobsen's attorney feels the city should be involved that his attorney should forward a letter to the city's attorney. Mr. Jacobsen gave his opinion that the city could face liability.

During Standing Committee Reports, Gumbel noted the personnel committee has not formally met; she has been spending much time on the administrative fine ordinance. Gumbel directed White to send a letter to the members of the personnel committee; she would like to convene an organizational meeting of the personnel committee sometime in November. Sanders reported from the EDA meeting that the Advent calendar promotion is proceeding; the two entrance signs will be installed as soon as time allows.

White updated council on the community survey that had been discussed at the July meeting pertaining to possible funding from the Small Cities Development Program. White reported she had contacted Dan Ehrke from SEH; he compiled financial information from the city's water department and reviewed the numbers obtained from this information. He noted the city would not qualify for any funding through this program due to the parameters of the funding program. Due to this information, it is not necessary to proceed with the community survey. White noted other funding programs are being reviewed.

Deputy Meyer gave a written police report for July. Items included 3 domestic calls, 1 burglary call, 1 warrant, 2 probation violations, 1 house party call, 1 harassment call, 19 traffic stops, 2 citations written, 1 DWI, 1 motorist assist, and 2 suspicious vehicles. He also checked the parks 5 times, 12 door checks, 2 barking dog issues, and 2 fireworks calls. He responded to 2 medical calls and arrested 6 persons. Council thanked Deputy Meyer for the thorough report.

Gumbel updated council and those present on the administrative fine ordinance and the work done on this ordinance. She noted that with the passage of this ordinance the city does not give up any right to the abatement process. She reported an ordinance violation board consisting of three members of the public with one alternate, completely separate from the council, would need to be set up. Gumbel noted she wants to remove any stumbling blocks from this ordinance and has a few items to review with the city attorney. Sheriff Amazi suggested having a citation book for the assigned deputy; the assigned deputy could then write a citation based on previous information he would have received from the city. It was noted this would be the initial option in enforcement of cleaning up nuisance areas; if needed the other ordinances could also be used. Motion by Lidtke, second by Sanders to continue to proceed with the administrative fine ordinance and to advertise for persons interested in serving on the ordinance violation board consisting of three members and one alternate. Motion carried 3-0.

One letter of interest has been on file for the open seat on the EDA board. White had contacted Craig Jacobson to see if he was still interested in serving on the EDA. Mr. Jacobson reported that he was. Gumbel recommended the appointment of Mr. Jacobson to the EDA. Motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke to appoint Craig Jacobson to the unexpired term on Allison Asfahl; this term will run through December 31, 2015. Motion carried 3-0.

White and Jones requested a dehumidifier for the basement at city hall. Water testing equipment and city records are stored in the basement. It was council consensus to allow the purchase of a dehumidifier from Koppen Hardware.

Gumbel reported that Dr. Richard Schindler has donated a large projection screen for the community center. The screen has been delivered; it just needs to be installed. Motion by Gumbel, second by Sanders to pass Resolution 2013-08, a resolution of thanks for this donation of the projection screen. Motion carried 3-0.

White updated council on tax forfeited properties located at 105 East Main Street and 102 East Main Street. Council also discussed the status of the burned house at 314 East Main Street. White was directed to get a cost estimate for the demolition and removal of this house and include that figure in the 2014 budget. Council consensus to send a letter to the record of owner for the property at 314 East Main Street to pursue cleanup of this property. Motion by Sanders to pass Resolution 2013-09, a resolution initiating condemnation proceedings on the properties located at 105 East Main Street and 102 East Main Street. This resolution will be forwarded to the Mower County auditor/treasurer and commissioners. Second by Lidtke. Motion carried 3-0.

Council reviewed three building/zoning permits:

1. Lot 7 & E 25' Lot 8, Block 9, Original Village-build deck
2. Lot 1 & Lot 2 exc W 70', Block 9, Caswell & Lewis-build double garage & wrap-around porch
3. Outlot 3 & .25 acre Outlot 2 adj on east-build wood privacy fence

Motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke to approve said permits. Motion carried 3-0.

White updated council on findings she has gathered from area cities that have like water towers to the City of LeRoy. She will continue to gather more information and report back at the September meeting.

Jones reported he had talked to Dave Miller from Miller Grain about the roof at the emergency services building. Miller Grain constructed the Chief building. Mr. Miller noted the building is out of warranty. Mr. Miller would like to further investigate this when his time allows. Jones will try to get an estimate of what it would cost to replace the screws in the roof from Mr. Miller and have available at the September meeting.

Council reviewed the proposed 2014 budget. White noted the council needs to approve the preliminary levy by September 15. The budget will be further discussed at upcoming meetings. White questioned about the remaining two lease payments for the maintenance building. The city is currently paying 7.6893% interest with this lease; White noted there are funds available in the street capital outlay fund to pay off the lease. White was directed to gather more information on this and report back at the September meeting.

Due to the Labor Day holiday falling on the first Monday in September, council consensus to hold the September council meeting on the second Monday, Monday September 9, 2013, at 6:30 PM. Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke at 8:06 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer