

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, August 31, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Gene Miller, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Ashley Huntley was absent. Others in attendance included Brian Thiel, Harold & Joann Shipman, Jan & Shirley Whisler, Don Olson, Axel Gumbel, Ginger Holm, Roger & Pauline Fister, Dave Perkins, and Deputy T.J. Lynch. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Miller, second by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

Council reviewed the letters of interest received from two people for the open council seat. The letters had been submitted by Brian Thiel and Jan Whisler. Gumbel noted that both candidates are well qualified. Gumbel questioned if anyone in the audience was interested in the seat. Hearing from no one, Gumbel asked the candidates if they had anything to add to their letters of interest. Mr. Thiel responded he was looking at what the city can do to better the community for future generations and spoke of his background. Mr. Whisler noted his previous service on the city council. Both candidates were thanked for their interest. Council decided to wait for Councilor Huntley's arrival before appointing one of the candidates to the open council seat.

No one in attendance had anything new to report during public input time.

Council had nothing new to report during standing committee reports. Gumbel noted the council had met for a work session on Saturday, August 29.

Deputy Lynch handed out the written police report and reviewed the report with council. Council posed some questions to Deputy Lynch. Deputy Lynch was thanked for his report and time.

Gumbel noted the burned house located at 107 East Lowell Street has been torn down and cleaned up.

Gumbel reported the council is monitoring the yard decor that is on display at 205 North East County Road. The noose had originally had a swing attached to it, but the swing has been taken down. Council will continue to monitor this decor to assess if a danger is posed that can be addressed through city ordinances.

Council reviewed the status of lack of reconstruction at the Jay Hardecopf house located at 314 East Main Street. It was noted the tarp was again placed on the roof of the house; the back wall of the house is still open to the elements. Council referred to the information received from the city attorney addressing this situation. Motion by Miller to move ahead and ask the court to enforce the order to repair or raze the building as addressed in Resolution 2014-05 and the letter sent to Mr. Hardecopf on July 6, 2015. Second by Gottschalk. The motion carried 3-0.

Jones reported the water tower inspection report has not been received yet. It was noted the report should arrive within the next few weeks.

Motion by Miller, second by Gottschalk to pass Resolution 2015-06, a Resolution of Thanks to Justin Brandau for his years of service to the City of LeRoy. Motion carried 3-0.

Councilor Ashley Huntley arrived at 7:01 PM.

Gumbel reported she had attended an informational session on August 14, 2015, to address canoe access to the Upper Iowa River here in LeRoy. DNR representative Joel Wager facilitated this informational session and noted the DNR could put in an access point with no funding required from the City within Lake Louise State Park below the dam. This would allow people canoeing on the lake a portage point to the river below the dam. Other access points discussed included by the Shooting Star Trail Trailhead and near where the Old Town Bridge used to cross the river. The Trailhead location is more favorable due to the parking area that is already there. An access point near where the Old Town Bridge used to cross the river would require a financial partnership from the City to provide a parking area. The DNR would also be able to clean up the main channel of the river of downed trees and other debris. Motion by Gumbel to direct whoever is responsible for signing this cooperative agreement to allow signage. Further discussion about this agreement and possibly having this agreement reviewed by the city attorney ensued. Gumbel withdrew this motion. Council also discussed a south access point, but

the council and DNR would have to work with private landowners to get this point. It was noted the north access locations are either owned by the city, state, or county. Miller noted that county GIS maps shows the city owns three different parcels just south of the dam. The ownership of these parcels would have to be investigated. Motion by Gumbel to authorize signing of this cooperative agreement pending legal review by the city attorney. Second by Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

Council further discussed the interested candidates and their qualifications for the open council seat. Motion by Miller to appoint Jan Whisler to the unexpired term of Justin Brandau. Both Gumbel and Gottschalk commented this is a difficult decision to make with two very qualified candidates interested. Miller commented he chose to appoint Mr. Whisler for his previous council experience. Second by Huntley. On a roll call of votes, all council members voted aye. The motion carried 4-0. White administered the oath of office to Mr. Whisler and welcomed him to the city council.

White reviewed the information she had gathered on dog licensing. Only 31 dogs have been licensed so far in 2015. Since LeRoy does not have a pound, the assigned deputy can be called to address a dog running at large. The deputy would then try to find the owner of the dog or someone to house the dog until the owner can be found. White noted that Adams and Grand Meadow also have problems in getting people to license their dogs. Council also discussed leash laws, dangerous dogs, and people that walk their dogs and don't clean up after them. White noted the dogs would still have to be vaccinated, wear a dog tag with the dog's name and owner's name and telephone number, or be microchipped. It was council consensus to direct White to prepare paperwork for an ordinance change for council to review at their October meeting.

Council reviewed the proposed 2016 budget and levy. Motion by Miller to zero out the library deficit as was noted in the 2014 audit report. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0. White explained the budget and levy figures and answered any questions. Motion by Gumbel, second by Gottschalk to pass Resolution 2015-07, a Resolution Adopting the Preliminary Levy at \$500,000. The motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed one land use permit.

1. Lots 4 & 5, Block 39, Original Village-build deck not attached to house
Motion by Gottschalk, second by Miller to approve said permit. Motion carried 5-0.

The communications file was reviewed. (1) Items included an invitation to a Journey to Growth presentation in Stewartville. A Journey to Growth presentation will also be facilitated by Heather Holmes at the September 21 LeRoy EDA meeting at 6:30 PM. (2) An invitation to the Mower County League of Cities meeting to be held in Mapleview on September 17 was also reviewed. (3) White presented a community proclamation to declare September 16 as American Legion Day. Motion by Miller, second by Gottschalk to approve the proclamation. Motion carried 5-0. (4) White presented a Notice of Assignment from Interstate Power and Light Company, an Iowa corporation, assigning the electric franchise granted by the City Council of the City of LeRoy, County of Mower, State of Minnesota, approved on June 2, 2014, by Ordinance No. 236 and effective June 19, 2014 upon publication, to Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative. White was directed to sign this notice of assignment. (5) Council reviewed a letter from the League of Minnesota Cities introducing their new executive director.

Jones updated council on the sign retroreflectivity policy and mandate that all street signs be replaced by January, 2018, to be in compliance. Jones noted there approximately 65 street corners in town that will need new signs. Jones is gathering pricing information from different companies for the cost of the signs. Funds have been appropriated in both the 2015 and 2016 budgets. Jones will bring more information to the October council meeting.

White reported she had talked to Kurt Bill at Classic Carpets to get a quote on cleaning the Community Center carpet. Mr. Bill does not recommend cleaning the carpeting due to the poor condition the carpet is in.

It was noted that one property that had been sent a letter for zoning enforcement will be fined due to lack of cleanup. This situation will continue to be monitored.

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

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Miller at 7:54 PM. The next regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council will be held on Monday, October 5, 2015.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer