

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, October 3, 2016, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Jan Whisler, Gene Miller, Kathleen Gottschalk, Ashley Huntley, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Others Attending included Micah & Lori Zeiset, Deputy Brogan, Colleen Jennings, Brian Thiel, Dave Perkins, Axel Gumbel, and Henry & Richianne Burger. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Huntley, second by Miller to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

No one present had anything to bring to council during Public Input Time.

Huntley noted the LeRoy Pool Board is discussing the policy or practice of the swimming pool being closed on Friday evenings due to sporting events. This will continue to be researched. No one else had anything to present during Standing Committee Reports.

Deputy Brogan handed out the written police report for September. Deputy Brogan noted he has been busy. Council had no questions for Deputy Brogan and thanked him for the report.

Council set Saturday, October 15, 2016, as a date for a work session to discuss a capital improvement plan. Council will meet at 8:00 AM and keep this work session to two hours or less.

Council had no further questions or comments about the proposed 2017 budget. White reminded council the 2017 budget will be formally adopted at the December council meeting. The truth in taxation hearing will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016, at 6:00 PM with the December council meeting to convene following the conclusion of the truth in taxation hearing.

Council reviewed the information pertaining to the variance request to be able to house farm animals in a shelter located closer than the 300' distance from an adjoining property that is currently in city ordinance. Mr. Micah Zeiset would either like to request a variance or an ordinance change to allow only two farm animals, either horses, cows, goats, or sheep to be housed in the barn located at 424 West Main Street. Mr. Zeiset has contacted the adjoining property owners; none of them had any comments except one that requested that no pigs, alpacas, llamas, or ostriches be allowed. White explained the information she had gathered from Mower County addressing issues the council should be aware of. Gumbel suggested reviewing the ordinance to address the number of animals allowed; this could be reviewed at a future meeting or at the council work session. Miller commented the present ordinance allows farm animals on a ten-plus acre parcel of land with no limit on the number of animals one could have, but the ordinance limits the distance an animal shelter can be from an adjoining property. Council discussed different options and felt it best to allow the use of the barn already on this property for animals.

Gumbel read the due call for the public hearing on a tax abatement request and opened the hearing at 7:03 PM. Mr. and Mrs. Burger were in attendance and noted they had heard about the abatement through their lender and real estate agent. There was no public input from those in attendance. Motion by Whisler, second by Gottschalk to pass Resolution 2016-12, a resolution approving tax abatement for certain property pursuant to Minn. Stat. 469.1813. On a roll call of votes, Gumbel, Gottschalk, Huntley, and Whisler voted aye. Miller abstained. The motion carried. It was noted the county tax abatement hearing for this will be held on October 11. Being no further business to come before the public hearing, the hearing was closed at 7:08 PM.

Council returned to their discussion about the animal variance request at 424 West Main Street. Whisler noted he wants to make sure that all issues are addressed. Motion by Miller to pass Resolution 2016-13, a resolution adopting findings of fact and reasons for approval for variance application of Micah & Lori Zeiset at 424 West Main Street. Second by Whisler. Motion carried 5-0.

Gumbel left the meeting at 7:16 PM. Acting Mayor Gottschalk presided at the remainder of the meeting.

Miller noted the EDA has been trying to bring a shuttle/commuter bus service back to LeRoy. They would need either a private industry to do this or the EDA could purchase a bus and operate this service. The EDA has met with representatives from Rochester City Lines and Minnesota Coaches.

Neither entity is interested in providing a commuter service to LeRoy at this time. The EDA is contemplating purchasing a bus to provide this service. Miller noted the EDA would need the city's cooperation in allowing the bus on the city's insurance policy and having the bus drivers on the city's payroll. This would not cost the city anything as these costs would be reimbursed by the EDA through proceeds of operating the bus service. Miller noted the EDA has researched this extensively; they would need an annual commitment from at least 22 riders to make this service cash flow. Whisler commended Miller and Axel Gumbel for all their work on this venture; he felt it has been good to do this research. He felt carpooling is still the best answer for commuters, but he felt it is prudent to continue to research this. White noted she had done some number crunching with proposed wages, FICA and Medicare employer matches, in addition to a PERA match. Miller also noted the next discussion would be with the Mayo transportation people about a subsidy for Mayo employees. It was consensus of the council to have the EDA continue this discussion and research on bringing a commuter bus service to LeRoy.

Council reviewed the Mower County Election Plan and Cost Allocation. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to approve this plan. Motion carried 4-0.

Council reviewed two offers made on the two city-owned lots located at 505 East Main Street. One offer was received from Jon & Rita Hiller in the amount of \$2400 cash for both lots; the other offer was received from Dan Bartel in the amount of \$5000 contract for deed with payments of approximately \$100 per month. Council discussed their options. Council was reminded they could either accept one of the offers, make a counter offer, or reject both offers. Motion by Miller, second by Huntley to reject both offers. Motion carried 4-0. White was directed to make contact with both parties to get more information from them on their intention with this land.

Council reviewed the information contained in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, cities and municipalities are committing to create habitat and educate citizens about how they can make a difference at home in preserving the monarch butterfly. White noted the city already allows natural landscapes which can have habitat for monarch butterflies planted in them. Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to take this pledge. Motion carried 4-0.

Council reviewed one land-use permit.

1. N 75' Lot 5, Block 13, Caswell & Lewis-build addition to home

Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to approve said permit. Motion carried 4-0.

Council reviewed information on the L-O Forever fundraiser that will be held on Saturday, November 12 in the Communications File.

Council reviewed the letter from Sharon Bergan-Hodgdon requesting city water to the property she owns at 11008 765th Avenue. Mrs. Hodgdon had already talked to Gerald Truman about tapping into the service line that supplies city water to Mr. Truman's property. Mr. Truman is willing to allow this connection to his service line. Motion by Miller, second by Huntley to allow this water connection. Motion carried 4-0.

Council looked at the Community Center renovations. Some trim work still needs to be completed. When all the bills have been compiled, White will submit a request to the LeRoy Community Foundation for funding from the Chesebrough Fund.

The LeRoy Public Library has been gathering information and quotes for the replacement of the basement windows at the Library. The windows will be double hung windows; these will match what was originally in the Library when it was built. It was consensus of the council to allow these windows to be replaced.

Council had nothing to add to the on-going items on the agenda.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Huntley at 8:02 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Kathleen Gottschalk, Acting Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer