

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held on Monday, October 5, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Ashley Huntley, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Gene Miller arrived at 6:32 PM. Others in attendance included Ginger Holm, Harold & Joann Shipman, Dan Feather, Scott Osmundson, Tim Freerksen, Brian Thiel, Dave Perkins, Axel Gumbel, Deputy T. J. Lynch, and Shirley Whisler. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

During Public Input time, it was brought to the council's attention about two holes in the concrete in the back part of the building located at 131 West Main Street. Jones will address these with the owner of record. A question was also posed if businesses could use a sandwich board to advertise their business and hours. Council had no issue with the use of sandwich boards in front of the business places as long as they don't hamper pedestrian travel. Brian Thiel questioned about an after-hours emergency contact telephone number for the city. Gumbel commented this topic could be discussed at a council work session.

Gumbel reported she and two council members attended a DMC/J2G informational gathering in Stewartville. Gumbel noted there will be growth in the area due to DMC and questioned how we will handle the growth. J2G came about due to DMC. It is a marketing strategy for the southeastern counties of Minnesota. A representative from J2G also spoke at the last EDA meeting.

Deputy Lynch reviewed the written police report. Council thanked Deputy Lynch for the report.

White reported the court date of December 28, 2015, has been set for the hearing pertaining to the Jay Hardecopf property.

Council reviewed the summary of the water tower inspection report. Shawn Mulhern, principal associate with KLM Engineering, had met with Jones and White and reviewed the written report. The report stated the tower could be good for another five to fifteen years with regular maintenance. Whisler commented the need to make the water tower a high-priority item. Gumbel noted that minimal repairs could be made and continue to put funds away for a tower project. Jones noted the city engineer needs to be involved to determine the size of tank needed. Miller also noted this needs to be made a high-priority item. Council agreed it doesn't make sense to completely refurbish the tank due to its age and the cost associated with a project such as this. Council consensus to have Jones contact the city engineer to get their input on a water tower replacement and to check into doing the minor repairs that are needed.

Gumbel noted she has not heard anything from Joel Wager, Minnesota DNR, about a canoe access on the Upper Iowa River.

Council reviewed the current city code for dog licensing and the proposed ordinance change for dog identification. Gumbel noted the city does have an enforcement mechanism, but it is not cost feasible to invest in an animal pound. Gumbel also noted there are provisions already in the ordinance that list barking, running at large, and other issues as a misdemeanor. She would not mind paying someone to show up in court to battle a misdemeanor ticket if one were issued for a continuing issue with a dog. Council further discussed the licensing issue. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to amend Title IX, Chapter 92 of the LeRoy Code of Ordinances relating to Animals; Licensing. Motion carried 5-0.

Miller questioned if funding should be appropriated in the 2016 budget for the water tower. White noted that \$53,255 is already being appropriated in the 2016 levy for water department capital outlay. Council had no further questions or comments about the proposed 2016 budget and levy.

Council was reminded the fall city-wide cleanup will be held this Saturday, October 10, 2015, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM across the alley from the fire hall.

Axel Gumbel, representing the LeRoy Community Theater, reported the Radio Theater will be presented on November 7 & 8 and a larger play will be presented on December 12 & 13. The Theater would like to serve wine and desserts at the December productions. White had contacted the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Division, for direction on this venture. The Theater would need to

request a temporary on-sale liquor license. Council discussed if the Theater group would need liquor liability insurance for this venture. Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to approve a two-day temporary on-sale liquor license for the LeRoy Community Theater. Motion carried 5-0. Miller questioned what fee is charged for this license. White noted there is nothing listed in the fee schedule pertaining to a temporary license. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to charge \$20 for this license. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Tim Freerksen presented information on a Jr. Firefighter Program. This program is sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America; the general liability for this program comes through the BSA, and any injuries would be covered by each person's individual health insurance. Interested persons must be in the ninth grade or older. These students would not go into any fires, but they could provide assistance at the scene of a fire. Freerksen noted there are currently 21 firefighters now on the roster. This program could provide some additional help at the scene of a daytime fire. Freerksen has talked to Principal Aaron Hungerholt; Mr. Hungerholt is in favor of this program. This has not been presented to the school board yet. Freerksen would like to limit the number of people allowed into this program at ten. This could be a mentoring program with two to three members of the department being in charge of this program. This program could possibly provide some firefighters in the future. Freerksen noted some gear would need to be purchased for this program including helmets, some type of protective gear, and shoes. The cost for gear could be anywhere from \$400 to \$900 per student. They would also be carrying pagers to alert them to a call. Some type of fundraising would need to be done to help cover the cost of equipment and gear. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve the Jr. Firefighter Program. Motion carried 5-0. Freerksen also noted Grand Meadow is hosting a county-wide FEMA grant for 800 megahertz radios; each entity would need to provide 10% matching funds for this grant. The department is also looking to purchase two sets of turnout gear yet this year. This purchase will be split 50/50 with the MN/IA Fire Assn. board.

Council discussed the possible sale of railroad property adjacent to the property located at 447 West Main Street. Council discussed whether to sell the 40' of the railroad property or the entire 100' as has been requested. The sale of the entire 100' will not affect the water flow or waterway next to this property. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to approve the sale of 60' x 100' of the railroad property adjacent to the property located at 447 West Main Street to the owner of record of this property. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed one land use permit.

1. Lots 1, 2 & 3 & NETRLY 46' NWTRLY 125' Old RR Rtwy Adj, Block 13, Original Village-install fence

Motion by Huntley, second by Miller to approve said permit. Motion carried 5-0.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included the minutes from the past two library board meetings and a thank you from Elizabeth Richer for the Pangborn Scholarship she received. Council reviewed a letter from Mower County; the County would like the city to enter into a written agreement for assessing services. White contacted County Coordinator Craig Oscarson and was told the rates quoted for services are the same as is being charged at the present time. Motion by Miller, second by Gottschalk to enter into the assessment agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Jones noted he has received quotes from four different companies for the replacement of the street signs. All the quotes are for an all-aluminum double-sided sign. Miller questioned if all the needed signs would be purchased in one year or spread over two years. Council felt that if the total purchase is less than \$5000 to purchase all the signs at once. There is \$5000 appropriated in the budget for street signs. Council will further discuss this at the November meeting.

Council discussed some type of city hall improvements. Miller noted this has been talked about at work sessions. He would like to see some type of reception area and separate work area. Gumbel suggested a committee to work on plans for this. Miller and Huntley offered to serve on this committee. Whisler questioned if there is a plan in place if something happened to White. Gumbel noted the personnel committee has addressed this. She also noted there are companies that contract for these types of services. Motion by Gumbel, second by Gottschalk to appoint a city hall improvement committee of

Miller, Huntley, and White and delegate them with the authority to look at the building, devise a plan, and possible going out for bids for the changes. Motion carried 5-0.

Jones noted the gutters on the north side of the Community Center are bowed down. He has contacted Ben Mensink of Jacobsen Enterprises to get his recommendation for correcting this problem.

Council noted a fine has been sent out to one commercial property owner for a zoning enforcement violation. Additional fines will be issued if the property isn't cleaned up. Gumbel felt the only way to get this property cleaned up is to have a change in ownership or to invest a large sum of money to get this cleaned up. Council will continue to monitor this situation. Miller commented there will always be some property owners that won't comply with the ordinance; council just needs to continue to monitor these.

Huntley reported she had contacted White about sending a letter to a dog owner that consistently does not clean up after their dog. Dog feces have been left at the city park and on private property.

Council discussed the Minnesota Basic Code. Council could consider hiring someone to review this.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk at 8:34 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer