

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held on Monday, October 6, 2014, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Justin Brandau, Vickie Lidtke, Linda Sanders, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Others in attendance included Harold & Joann Shipman, Ashley Huntley, Jan & Shirley Whisler, Deputy T.J. Lynch, Axel Gumbel, Dave Perkins, Ginger Holm, Roger & Pauline Fister, and Gene & Rita Miller. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Sanders, second by Lidtke to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

During Public Input Time, Harold Shipman had questions about the personnel committee. His questions will be addressed when that item is discussed on the agenda. Jan Whisler questioned about the Jay Hardecopf residential property and his commercial property. Brandau and Gumbel both commented that progress is being made on the reconstruction of his house; both noted that, on advice of the city attorney, that this is the less expensive route to take than taking this issue to court. A question also arose about Mr. Hardecopf's use of old building materials. Gumbel noted LeRoy is not able to afford a building inspector, and she was not aware there were any guidelines in city code that would regulate this. Joann Shipman commented LeRoy is the only town that has all these issues. Gumbel noted that her contacts with the other mayors of Mower County cities and mayors on the LMC List Serve all have the same issues that LeRoy does and are all looking for the same answers. Brandau commented the council can spend more taxpayer money to clean up the town, but didn't feel that raising taxes would correct the problems. Brandau also commented that he is tired of having the same issues brought to the council by the same people each month; the council is well aware of the issues and are working on correcting them. Gumbel brought council and the public back on task and made her own comments to the previous bantering. She noted the comments made that our town is a dump offends her; this town is not a dump. Many new residents have chosen to move to LeRoy for the various amenities this community offers to its residents and to those passing through. She noted she is very proud of the accomplishments of this seated council in passing the administrative fine ordinance and following through with it. Gumbel and Brandau received applause from the rest of the council and some of those in the audience.

During Standing Committee Reports, Sanders noted the summary of the EDA meeting and library board minutes were in the council packets for council review. No other council members had anything else to add.

Deputy Lynch reviewed the written September police report. Council thanked Deputy Lynch for his time in serving LeRoy and its residents.

Gumbel reminded council that the city attorney is being kept apprised of the progress Jay Hardecopf is making on his property at 314 East Main Street.

White reported she has not heard anything back from the Public Facilities Authority if the projects LeRoy has on the intended use plan have been awarded any funding. This information should be available prior to the November council meeting.

White presented the asbestos inspection survey report from Enviro-Tech Services of Austin that was conducted on the property located at 102 East Main. Council reviewed the findings and report. Asbestrol, Inc. of Austin will now be contacted for the abatement of the asbestos from this property. White will keep council informed of the progress of this.

Gumbel reported the Personnel Committee has been meeting; they have made some proposed changes to the current personnel policy. These proposed changes have been sent to the city attorney for his review. White noted she received a telephone call from the city attorney just prior to the meeting. He concurred with the changes being proposed. Gumbel noted the personnel committee has addressed vacation accrual; this and the other changes will be reviewed by the city council for their approval. Gumbel also noted the council will need to decide how to pay out accrued vacation time to relieve the city of this liability issue. The personnel committee is proposing a cap on vacation time; this had not been in place in previous policies. Lidtke questioned if no employee takes any vacation time. Both Jones and White commented on this statement. Mr. Shipman questioned if the city will continue to pay full health insurance benefits. Gumbel noted the personnel committee will also address this and bring their recommendations to the council.

There was nothing new to address with the proposed 2015 budget.

Council discussed the hours for trick or treating. Motion by Gumbel, second by Brandau to set trick-or-treating hours for October 31, 2014, from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

Council reviewed the proposed resolution of support for Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services in the purchase of Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) electric service territory. Council was not comfortable with the wording of this proposed resolution. Council declined any further action on this resolution.

Council reviewed one building/zoning permit.

1. Lot 25 & E 2' Lot 24, Block 11, Original Village-build 20' x 20' addition
Motion by Sanders, second by Gottschalk to approve said permit. Motion carried 5-0.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included the minutes from the September Prairie Visions meeting.

White updated council on the proposed community center renovations. She noted she was trying to write up bid specs for a new furnace and duct work for the center when she received a telephone call from Brunton Architects. The architects reported they planned for two furnaces in the lower dining area of the building; one furnace would serve the dining room area, the other furnace would serve the senior citizen's room. White also questioned if the ceiling tiles in the dining area were to be replaced or if the plumbers would work around the suspended ceiling grid to install the new duct work. Gene Miller suggested a two-zone system; this system would mean more duct work, but it could work. Dave Perkins noted that in his experience the two-zone system units don't work as well with differing sized rooms. White also commented the existing furnace could be used, but new duct work needs to be installed. Council discussed different options for proceeding with this project. Motion by Brandau to replace the furnace and duct work for the dining area including any accessory rooms, to put in a smaller air conditioner/furnace unit in the senior room, to replace the ceiling panels with 2 x 2 panels in the dining area, and to save as many of the existing 2 x 4 ceiling panels to replace some of the panels in the upper banquet room. The motion was seconded by Lidtke. Motion carried 5-0.

White reported the new Minnesota Basic Code has arrived, but it has not been reviewed yet. White noted additional ordinances passed by the city council will be included with the ordinances of the Basic Code. Lidtke questioned about leaf burning on city alleys. Law enforcement should be contacted with these issues. Deputy Lynch will address this incident and have the property owner clean up the mess.

Gumbel wants to make contact with County Commissioner Polly Glynn with issues with Mower County
14. She would like to arrange a meeting within the LeRoy-Ostrander area to show the livability of this area to help promote growth for potential residents associated with the DMC and others. It was also noted that Rochester City Lines will be discontinuing the bus service from LeRoy and Grand Meadow to Rochester effective November 7, 2014. Gumbel has been contacted by riders and has seen postings from Mayo employees about their disappointment with the discontinuance of the bus service. Gumbel has also contacted the Grand Meadow city clerk to make contact with the Grand Meadow mayor. Dave Perkins noted he contacted a gentleman that used to run a limousine service to see if he would be interested in providing some type of transportation service. This gentleman thought something could work, but the driver would be working a split shift unless the driver was also a Mayo employee. White noted she was contacted by Dan Holter of Rochester City Lines that the bus would no longer be housed in the city maintenance shed after November 7. White reported she has drafted a letter to be sent to Mr. Holter and will also compose a letter to the head of transportation services at Mayo Clinic.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Brandau, second by Lidtke at 7:39 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer