

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, November 2, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Ashley Huntley, Gene Miller, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Others attending included: Sharon & Brian Thiel, Ginger Holm, Dave Perkins, Axel Gumbel, and Deputy T.J. Lynch. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Council reviewed the items under the consent agenda. Miller questioned if the holes on the property located at 131 West Main Street had been filled in. Jones reported he has not been in contact with the owner of record. White was directed to send a letter addressing this situation to the owner of record. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

No one had anything to report during Public Input Time.

During Standing Committee Reports, council reviewed a letter of resignation from Ashley Huntley from her seat on the EDA. Motion by Gumbel, second by Miller to accept her resignation with regret. Motion carried. It was noted that Councilor Whisler had expressed an interest in filling this seat on the EDA. Motion by Miller, second by Gottschalk to appoint Whisler to this council seat on the EDA. Motion carried 5-0. Gottschalk reported Prairie Visions met on October 26. They discussed the trail construction progression and dedication of the Norwegian Church shelter. Gottschalk also noted that she has been selected as the new secretary of Prairie Visions. Gumbel reported she had attended the LMC/SEMLM Regional Meeting last week in Austin.

Sharon Thiel, representative of LeRoy Farmers Market, met with council to discuss the picnic table usage at the Farmers Market. The Farmers Market group would like to negotiate a better rate for the picnic table for the weekly market for the 2016 season. They are looking at the market to operate 22 weeks in 2016 and are trying to get a food vendor or vendors to commit to coming to the weekly market. The group would like to propose a rate of \$15 per week for the 2016 season and make that rate retroactive to the eight weeks the table was used during the 2015 season. The regular rental rate for a table is \$25 per time of usage. Miller questioned if the table would be needed every week of the 2016 season. Thiel first replied they would only need a table when they have a food vendor present, but with further discussion felt that the table could be used every week as many people come to the market to shop and make this a social outing. Thiel noted that the Farmers Market group is not asking to get the table for nothing. Miller felt the \$15 per week would cover the city's cost in delivering and picking up the table. Miller recommended the council to accept the proposal of \$15 per week. Gumbel expressed concern that this could be looked at as a donation, and governmental entities are limited on who they can make donations to. Whisler felt that anything that brings a benefit to the community should be looked into. Huntley expressed concern to keep things simple. Motion by Miller to offer a table to the LeRoy Farmer Market at \$15 per week for the 2016 season and make the rate retroactive for the 2015 season with a minimum of \$250 for the 2016 season. Gumbel expressed concern with the legality of allowing a lower cost to this group; this could run afoul with the law and could make a bigger issue to clean up later. Further discussion ensued. Gumbel will do some checking on this, report to White, and will be further discussed at the December meeting. Miller withdrew his motion.

Deputy T.J. Lynch gave an oral police report. Council thanked Deputy Lynch for his time and report. Huntley reported that two dogs have been running loose around town for a few days; these dogs are presently being housed by a Good Samaritan here in town. Deputy Lynch will check into this. Whisler questioned about the no U-turn signs that are installed at the intersections, but people still make U-turns there and in the middle of the street. Deputy Lynch said he would monitor this situation.

Council was reminded of the upcoming hearing on the Jay Hardecopf property located at 314 East Main Street. The hearing will be held on December 28, 2015.

There was nothing new to report on the water tower inspection report.

Gumbel has not heard anything on the canoe access launch site; she will make contact with the Minnesota DNR on this issue.

Council had no questions pertaining to the 2016 budget. Council was reminded the December 7 meeting will begin with the Truth in Taxation hearing at 6:00 PM with the council meeting to begin immediately following the close of the hearing.

Jones presented four quotes for the replacement of the street name signs. Jones noted that a sales representative from Earl F. Anderson (EFA) was here and looked at the present signs, posts, and brackets. The city has purchased other signs from EFA in the past. There is currently \$5000 in the budget for street signs. Motion by Gumbel, second by Miller to proceed with the purchase of new street name signs from EFA. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed the Mediacom Franchise Agreement. It was noted this is a non-exclusive franchise agreement. Brian Thiel questioned if the franchise agreement could be worded to include high-speed internet access at different public locations here in LeRoy. Miller questioned if any other city had negotiated getting high-speed internet service provided to city hall and other public spots in the respective community. Council directed White to check with other cities to see if they have negotiated the inclusion of free high-speed internet in their franchise agreement and to negotiate with Mediacom to see if this is a possibility for them to provide high-speed internet to city hall and the emergency services building. This will be further discussed at the December meeting.

There were no land use permits for council review.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included a thank you from the L-O FFA for the use of barricades and cones for their 5K run/walk, the charitable gambling reports from the LeRoy Community Foundation, the invitation to the Prairie Visions Pat on the Back dinner, and an invitation to the SE Minnesota Together group that is hosting sessions in Owatonna and Winona to address labor shortages in the area.

There were no snow removal bids to review, but Jones had received an offer from Koch, Inc. for the city to lease their equipment and person for \$160 per hour for the winter season from December 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016. Motion by Huntley, second by Gumbel to approve this lease agreement with Koch, Inc. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Gumbel, second by Miller to pass Resolution 2015-08, a resolution entering into cooperative agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for snow removal from Trunk Highway 56. Motion carried 5-0.

Jones reported the annual lift station checks have been completed on all three lift stations. Mr. Braun recommended installing new motor starters at the three lift stations plus a new sump pump in the east lift station and a new lock assembly in the north station. The motor starters were quoted at approximately \$300 each; the quote received was for much more than was originally quoted. Jones would like to contact Mr. Braun to get this checked out. Council will review this information at their December meeting.

Miller and Huntley met with White to discuss possible renovations to the clerk's office. It is being recommended to install a reception counter with storage in it. A portable wall is also being considered. A bid has been received for the construction of the counter from LeRoy Lumber in the amount of \$1000 plus labor and installation. LeRoy Lumber had also furnished a bid for the counter using pre-built cupboards, built on a base, with a countertop; this bid was almost twice as much as the other bid. Motion by Miller to proceed with the bid from LeRoy Lumber for the construction of a reception counter. Second by Gumbel. Motion carried 5-0.

It was reported there is one property that has received a fine for violation of the administrative fine ordinance. White reported she has reviewed the first three chapters of the new basic code of ordinances. She will continue reviewing chapters as time allows.

Miller questioned if anything had been done for providing for an after-hours number for the city. He also questioned if there was a way to have after-hours telephone calls either forwarded to Jones personal cell phone or if the city should get a separate cell phone for city related calls. Jones and White will gather information on getting a cell phone for city related calls and report back at the December meeting.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Huntley, second by Gumbel at 7:59 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer