

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, December 2, 2013, at 6:00 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Jennifer Gumbel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Linda Sanders, Vickie Lidtke, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Brandau arrived at 6:23 PM. Others in attendance included Harold & Joann Shipman, Axel Gumbel, Roger & Pauline Fister, and Jan & Shirley Whisler. Mayor Gumbel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

No one was present to discuss the effect of the city proposed levy on their property taxes. White noted that cities in Minnesota will become tax exempt in 2014. She had to submit the figure of sales taxes that were paid in 2012; the figure reported was \$3,767.00.

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

During Standing Committee Reports, Sanders reported the basement windows at the library are in poor condition and are rotting. They will need to be replaced; this project will not happen until spring. It was also noted that since the library is listed on the National Registry that they will also need to be contacted for direction on this. Gottschalk reported that pool memberships are down; the 5K Run/Walk and breakfast held during Summerfest generated a profit for the pool. The pool board is also looking to reintroduce the Thrive for 5 campaign. Some maintenance issues are also being addressed. Gumbel noted the personnel committee has met; they have received a copy of the personnel policy and have been introduced to the information available on the League of Minnesota Cities website. The committee plans to review the personnel policy during the first half of 2014 and will do personnel evaluations beginning in the second half of 2014. Lidtke questioned if anything would change concerning benefits in 2014 for current employees. Gumbel noted that what is in place now will be in place for 2014. She commented that since the personnel committee was abolished in previous years that it will take time to review the information.

White updated council on the information received from Briggs and Morgan, the bond attorneys. Briggs and Morgan recommended having the council adopt a formal policy addressing Post-Issuance Compliance Policies and Procedures. Following issuance by the City of tax-exempt governmental bonds, the City must continue to take certain actions with respect to the bonds in order that they retain their tax-exempt status. Motion by Sanders, second by Brandau to adopt said policies. Motion carried 5-0.

White explained to council the information she had received from the city's health insurance agent pertaining to the need for a flex plan. The city currently has a flexible benefits plan document in place. She was told this policy is outdated. White had contacted the city attorney for further guidance, but she hasn't received a reply from him yet. Council tabled this until more information is available.

During Public Input Time, (1) Harold Shipman questioned about health insurance premiums; he commented that individual premiums for private citizens have increased. Lidtke questioned how the council can adopt a budget for 2014 without exact information. White explained the budgeting process. Gumbel also noted that the budget can be adjusted when exact numbers are received. White also noted that the city will not receive health insurance renewal information until mid December. She noted that the city's health insurance policy year begins February 1 of each year. White was directed to forward that information to Gumbel when it is received. (2) Shirley Whisler questioned why there wasn't more funding placed in the capital outlay for water facilities. It was explained that \$10,000 that could have been set aside in this account was put in place to address possible cleanup of properties. (3) Pauline Fister questioned if Jay Hardecopf had moved from town. Council did not have any information on this. (4) Jan Whisler questioned if any letters had been sent out for zoning enforcement/cleanup. Gumbel noted the city has not received any letters from citizens warranting letters being sent. It was also questioned about the vehicles and trailers parked at the intersection of Everett and Luella. White will relay this information to the assigned deputy.

Council reviewed the proposed 2014 budget and levy. Sanders questioned about the amount listed for the maintenance building fund. White explained that funds to pay off the maintenance building came from the street department capital outlay account; this amount would be used to repay those capital

outlay funds. Gumbel noted she has looked at other like-sized cities budgets and reported that LeRoy's budget is not out of line. Gumbel also noted she has been wrestling with pay increases for employees. Pay has not been increased for a few years except for pay equity issues. Gumbel noted she would be in favor of pay increases. Sanders and Gottschalk concurred. Lidtke and Brandau were not in favor of pay increases. Council will further discuss pay increases at their January meeting. Motion by Gumbel, second by Sanders to adopt the proposed 2014 budget as written in the amount of \$490,000. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Gumbel, second by Brandau to pass Resolution 2013-15, a resolution adopting the levy for 2014 in the amount of \$500,000. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no building/zoning permits for council review.

Council reviewed the present snowmobile ordinance, Chapter 72. White will get a copy of this ordinance to the assigned deputy.

The Communications File was reviewed. Items included a letter from the Minnesota Department of Health regarding the reduction of lead in drinking water act reminder and a letter from Mediacom addressing cable rate increases.

Sanders reported that she, Gottschalk, and White have met to discuss and review proposed renovations to the Community Center. Sanders noted the group would like to put the project out for bids; White reported she had contacted the city engineer to seek his advice on this project. He recommended using an architect if the project is put out for bids. Items to be addressed in the renovation include the ceiling, lighting, walls, flooring, and possibly the roof.

Gumbel noted that under On-Going Items, packets have been made for the people serving on the ordinance enforcement board. She reminded those present that this board is completely independent of the council. White reported she has met with Polly Glynn, our county commissioner, and discussed options for getting the two tax-forfeited buildings taken down. Glynn may attend the January council meeting to further discuss this item.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Brandau and seconded by Lidtke at 7:20 PM.

Jennifer Gumbel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer