

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was held Monday, December 7, 2015, at 6:00 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Acting Mayor Kathleen Gottschalk, Council Members Gene Miller, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Mayor Jennifer Gumbel and Council Member Ashley Huntley were absent. Others in attendance included Josh Whalen, Deputy T.J. Lynch, Dave Perkins, Axel Gumbel, Jay Hardecopf, and Ginger Holm. Acting Mayor Gottschalk called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

Gottschalk read the due call for the truth in taxation hearing and opened the hearing at 6:17 PM. Hearing no comments or questions from those in attendance, the hearing was closed on a motion by Whisler, second by Miller at 6:18 PM. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

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

No council member had anything to report under Standing Committee Reports.

Deputy Lynch handed out the written police report. He summarized the report and answered any questions posed. Council thanked Deputy Lynch for his time and report.

Jay Hardecopf addressed the council pertaining to the repairs he is making to his house located at 314 East Main Street. Council was reminded the court hearing pertaining to repairs, or lack thereof, is scheduled for December 28, 2015.

There was nothing new to report on the water treatment facility, water tower, or backup well.

Council reviewed the proposed 2016 budget and levy. Dave Perkins questioned why there is anything budgeted for dog licensing since the city will no longer be licensing dogs in 2016. The \$60 in expenses budgeted for dog licensing was moved to unallocated expense, increasing this amount to \$8,476. The \$150 in revenue budgeted for animal licenses was moved to miscellaneous revenues, increasing this amount to \$2150. These adjustments had a zero net effect of the proposed budget and levy. White reported she had checked with a different carrier for life and dental insurance for the four eligible employees. Premium savings for both life and dental could be seen if the change in carriers is approved. Miller questioned if the plans were comparable. White reported the benefit amount for basic life insurance could be increased by \$10,000 per employee and still cost less than what is being paid now. Motion by Miller to authorize the change in life and dental insurance carriers if the city can realize some savings in premium payments. Second by Whisler. The motion carried 3-0. The tree removal budget was discussed. White noted a 3% increase in wages has been factored into the budget. Council will review wages at their January council meeting. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to approve the 2016 budget. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to pass Resolution 2015-09, a resolution adopting the proposed 2016 levy at \$500,000. The motion carried 3-0.

Axel Gumbel and Dave Perkins, representatives of the LeRoy Farmers Market, met with council to review the request made for a discounted rate on the use of a picnic table at the weekly market for 2016 and to request this discounted rate retroactively for the use of the picnic table in 2015. Both Gumbel and Perkins noted the Farmers Market attracted visitors from around the area and has attracted out of state traffic to stop in town. The picnic table helped provide a welcoming spot for folks to sit, chat, and enjoy the products they purchased, which made it welcoming for newcomers to stop, too. Essentially, the use of the table at the Market promoted tourism. Motion by Whisler that finding the city is obtaining a benefit in promoting tourism, a discounted rate of \$15 per week for the use of a picnic table both retroactively for the 2015 season and in the upcoming 2016 year is in the best interest of the city. Second by Miller. The motion carried 3-0.

White reported she had contacted the government relations manager at Mediacom to request high-speed internet to be provided at LeRoy City Hall and LeRoy Emergency Services Building free of charge as part of the Mediacom franchise agreement. The reply received was the franchise agreement is a video franchise agreement, so only the TV portion is given as a courtesy to these two facilities, if needed. It was reiterated this is a non-exclusive franchise agreement. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to approve the Mediacom Franchise Agreement as written. Motion carried 3-0.

Josh Whalen met with council to request zoning authorization to open a gun smithing business out of the home he lives in at 704 North Broadway. Miller questioned if Mr. Whalen intends to sell any guns from this site. Whalen noted he plans on repairing guns and would initially only sell guns through a mail order site. Whalen noted agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms would come to inspect the property and certify the property once the zoning authorization was granted. Council discussed options they could take including issuing a conditional use permit or interim use permit. Miller noted there would be a cost involved with the issuance of either permit. Mailings of notice for a public hearing, publication requirements, and recording fees would be passed onto the applicant. Miller questioned Mr. Whalen if he had considered locating this business in a downtown business building. By being located in a commercially zoned district, the conditional use permit or interim use permit would not be necessary. Whalen noted he will contact the ATF to get more information. Council will review this request when more information becomes available.

It was noted members of the LeRoy History Museum committee have toured several downtown buildings. No representation was present to discuss their findings.

White and Jones did not have any information of the cost of a city-owned cell phone.

Council reviewed the 2016 liquor licenses. The licenses include on-sale liquor licenses for Travel Lanes and Supper Club, Inc. and Sweet's HRB; Sunday liquor licenses for Travel Lanes and Supper Club, Inc. and Sweet's HRB; an off-sale liquor license for Travel Lanes and Supper Club, Inc.; and 3.2% off-sale liquor licenses for Amoco Food Shop and K & H Classic Stop. Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to approve said licenses. Motion carried 3-0.

The communications file was reviewed. Items included the LeRoy Library Board meeting minutes and the charitable gambling reports from the LeRoy Community Foundation.

Jones reported the sump pump in the north lift station no longer works. A new sump pump would cost \$1650; this would include the installation of the pump. Jones noted the motor starters for each lift station would cost \$1600, not the \$300 that was originally quoted. Jones works with Dan Braun for lift station maintenance repairs and upkeep. The motor starters are good and operating at this time. Mr. Braun recommended getting the sump pump installed. Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to authorize the purchase and installation of the sump pump in the north lift station. Motion carried 3-0.

There was nothing new to report on zoning enforcement-administrative fines ordinance, Minnesota basic code, or canoe access update.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Miller at 6:58 PM.

Kathleen Gottschalk, Acting Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer