

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 - 7:00 PM**

**\*\* MINUTES \*\***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Mayor Wetzel, Emmett Krenik, Dorothy Dinwiddie, Josh Fredrickson, Jason Squires  
Absent: None

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A) Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Fredrickson, notes from July 30, 2010  
Budget Workshop Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Dinwiddie, minutes from August 2, 2010  
Special Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- C) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Squires, minutes from August 3, 2010  
Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- D) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Dinwiddie, notes from August 30, 2010  
Budget Workshop Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- E) Council changes to proposed Agenda: ADD: ADMIN. C) Le Sueur Co. Fair Assoc. letter,  
D) Approve 3.2% Beer License for bowling alley, E) Complaint about water shut off.

**III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID**

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson,  
to pay the bills listed and due. Approved unanimously.

**\*\* OPEN FORUM \*\***

Glen Gruenhagen, Candidate for District 25A State Representative was present to introduce  
himself to Council. Mr. Gruenhagen gave a brief review of his position on several issues.

**IV. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & DEPARTMENTS**

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Hayden reported: Welcome To Le Center sign digging to start next week/  
movie being filmed at Traxler Hunting Preserve may be using downtown area and  
courthouse park for filming that weekend.

- 1) Motion by Dinwiddie, Seconded by Krenik, to approve a "Revolving Loan Fund"  
loan request from Jim Weber/ Cornerstone Pizza for \$6,000 for five years @ prime  
+ .75% interest. Approved unanimously. EDA had recommended council approval.

## B) P &amp; Z Report

Zoning Administrator Block reported a possible public hearing for P & Z coming up.

## C) Municipal Liquor Store

On-Sale Mgr. Mike Nelson gave a brief August report: Sales were \$70,659.00; down \$2800 from July and down \$9700 from August 2009. Nelson reported: Off-Sale is really down; On-Sale is actually up for the year/ outdoor event not very successful/ one apartment now rented out starting Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

## D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of August: 206 calls/ 2,877 miles patrolled. Pfarr: explained some of the thefts during the month/ revealed County Fair parking violations netted 22 parking tickets/ In-vehicle camera was received, waiting for Schrader to install.

- 1) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson, to approve the sale of the confiscated vehicle to Factor Motors for \$13,250.00 for immediate vehicle disposal. Approved unanimously. Receipts \$ designated for police fund. Add separate line item to track.

## E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Superintendent Curt Roemhildt gave his monthly report:

- Streets- sealcoating is completed for those targeted streets/ aggressively doing fall sweeping. Flushing hydrants early October.
- Water- Aug. 13 lightning strike blew out scales and flow meters in the water treatment plant @ approx. \$10,000 repair bill covered by insurance. See pictures of cleaning the exterior of the water tower.
- Parks- still much vandalism at North Park and South Park bathrooms; both will be locked after citywide garage sales/ picnic tables painted by Sentence to Serve; Community Club purchased the paint/ West Park field lights will be replaced under warranty (10 year warranty) this fall.
- Wastewater- taking quotes to coat the main lift station at plant- concrete being eaten away by chemicals. Discussed Fredrickson Paint invoice: pay the \$18,000 balance due now and invite him to the October council meeting to explain the + \$3,415.25 overage.

## F) Bolton &amp; Menk Engineering

- 1) 2010-11 USDA Project- see the 8/02 minutes from the meeting with city council, city engineer, and USDA officials.
- 2) 2010 Minnesota Street Project- concrete to start next week: curb & gutter Cordova to Lexington Street/ bad soil between Montgomery & Waterville Streets had to be dug out and is very wet/ project is 2-3 weeks behind/ 2<sup>nd</sup> work crew promised has not shown.

## G) Pool Report

Pool Manager Dinwiddie gave the final pool report (see sheet): total sales were \$33,035.38; up slightly from previous year/ total attendance count was 15,324 kids thru the door/ 11 rescues performed & 2 active drownings saved. Dinwiddie pointed out several comparisons to New Prague pool favorable to us. Council would like the final expenses for the year listed on the report from now on.

## V. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no petitions, requests, or communications from the general public.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Steve Brockway (450 South Cordova Avenue) abate nuisance status: Mr. Brockway seems to have fully complied with the city's request to clean up his property. Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Squires, Attorney Moran drop the abate nuisance court date and dismiss the case. Approved unanimously.
- B) Jensen Country Boarding: see letter from Attorney Moran to Jensen's. Council agreed: cancel our contract as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.
- C) Refinancing the 2004 Street Project: proposals from Northland Securities vs. Ehlers Inc. were discussed and compared. Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Wetzel, yes refund the bonds for the 2004 Street Project now. Approved unanimously. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson, to accept the Ehlers Inc. proposal for refunding the bonds based solely that they will sell the bonds on the open market. Approved unanimously.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Approve proposed preliminary 2011 Net Tax Levy. After much discussion:

Motion by Wetzel, to approve a 19% increase in the net tax levy for 2011. Motion died for lack of a Second.

Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Fredrickson, to approve a 25% increase in the net tax levy for 2011. Yes-Krenik, Fredrickson. No-Wetzel, Dinwiddie, Squires. Motion fails 3-2.

Motion by Squires, Seconded by Wetzel, to approve an 18% increase in the net tax levy for 2011. Yes-Squires, Wetzel. No-Krenik, Fredrickson, Dinwiddie. Motion fails 3-2.

Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Dinwiddie, to approve a 20% increase in the net tax levy for 2011. Yes-Krenik, Dinwiddie, Fredrickson. No-Wetzel, Squires. Motion passes 3-2.

- B) Approve proposed preliminary 2011 Total Budget.

Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson, to approve proposed preliminary total budget for 2011 of \$3,264,706.00. Approved unanimously.

- C) Mayor Wetzel announced the "Public Comment Meeting" would be held on Tuesday, December 14 @ 7:00 pm at Le Center City Hall.

- D) City Clerk Collins announced that comments regarding the 2011 Tax Levy and 2011 Total Budget would be accepted by him at Le Center City Hall, 10 West Tyrone Street, Le Center MN 56057 or at phone # 507-357-4450 until the December 14<sup>th</sup> date.

### **VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.**

- A) M.V.C.O.G. memo on City Administrator overview discussed: Motion by Wetzel, Seconded by Krenik, to set Tuesday, October 12 @ 6:30 pm at city hall- Public Hearing to consider changing the current city ordinance title of the Administrative Clerk/Treasurer to "City Administrator." Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Dinwiddie, Seconded by Fredrickson, to approve the Election Judge List for the Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election. Approved unanimously.
- C) Mayor Wetzel read a letter from Le Sueur County Fair Assoc. thanking the city for all their help towards the county fair.
- D) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Dinwiddie, to approve the 3.2% beer license for the Le Center Lanes bowling alley pending insurance certificate. Approved unanimously.
- E) Discussion on complaint of water being shut off at a rental house. Property owner complained he was never informed that the water was to be shut off due to renter not paying and he should not have to pay the \$50 fee to turn water back on. Clerk Collins confirmed the account was in the renter's name and therefore only the renter was served the notice of shut off. Collins also noted that city ordinance required all the water/sewer accounts be held in the name of the property owner, not the renter. He asked Council if they wished to enforce that rule and therefore this property owner would be responsible himself for the water/sewer bill each month and then would receive any shut off notices. Council guessed that was not what the property owner wanted and advised staff to keep the current policy in place as is.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson, for Mayor Wetzel to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:45 pm.

Chris L. Collins, City Clerk, City of Le Center, MN