

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

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

**** PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2011 TAX LEVY & TOTAL BUDGET ****

City Administrator Collins gave a short presentation outlining the lost revenues for 2011 (LGA) and increased expenses (debt service) resulting in the proposed 14%-20% levy increase. Revenues -5.0%, Operating Budget - .7%, Debt Service + 3.2% for 2011.

Only one member of the general public was present to question the proposed tax levy towards his property; Ken Meger/ Center Apartments questioned why his proposed tax statement for 2011 was going up approx. 28% if the city was only raising the levy by 14%-20%? Council suggested that may be a better question for the county auditor. City Administrator Collins offered to accompany Meger to the county auditor's office to research the reason. No other members of the public were present to ask questions nor were any letters or phone calls on the subject received at city hall.

- 1) Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Fredrickson, to approve the 2011 Net Tax Levy of \$731,559.00 (+ 20.0% increase). Voting yes: Krenik, Fredrickson, Dinwiddie. Voting no: Mayor Wetzel, Squires. Motion approved by 3-2 vote.*
- 2) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Krenik, to approve the 2011 Total Budget of \$3,264,503.00 (+ .9% increase). Approved unanimously by 5-0 vote.*

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Squires, minutes from November 9, 2010 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Wetzel, Seconded by Squires, minutes from November 19, 2010 Special Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- C) Council changes to proposed Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

- 1) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Krenik, to sell the original Dianne's Dessert building & property to H.J. Heintz Company for \$1.00 as the expiring lease indicates. Approved unanimously. EDA had also approved & recommended the sale.

B) P & Z Report

Zoning Official Block researching several options for the Kelly Const. property and others to bring them all into zoning compliance/ early Feb. public hearing is hoped for. Rental Inspection renewals approx. ½ done for 2011.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

On-Sale Mgr. Mike Nelson gave a brief November report: Sales were \$67,838.00; down \$2700 from Oct. and down \$1500 from November 2009. Nelson also reported: after 1st of year, will purchase more bar stools/ invited MMBA liquor officials down to critique the Municipal operations for suggestions/ yes- enough in checking to transfer the additional \$25,000 over to the general fund.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of November: 110 calls/ 2,556 miles patrolled. Pfarr reported: working with Sheriff Doherty on a plan for a dog boarding facility for the county & city. Reminder- no snow pushed out into streets.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Superintendent Curt Roemhildt gave his monthly report:

- Refuse- since Christmas & New Year's are on Saturdays; recycling center open on Monday Dec. 27 and Monday Jan. 3 to allow drop-offs.
- Wastewater- met with Dianne's for changes to their Industrial User Agreement for 2011 (using 2009 figures) will go up approx. \$13,000.00. Discussed phosphorous limits for city set by MPCA. Cost approx. \$25,000/yr. to remove phosphorous at WWTP.
- Streets- it's snowing every weekend- staff doing a great job keeping up.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) 2010-11 USDA Project- they have all the info from city/ checking the affordability of each property owner as to what they can afford on the project.
- 2) 2010 Minnesota Street Project- Engineer Hawbaker reported: several old lights not now lighting. Bob's Electric will trouble-shoot the problem for us. Starting a punch-list of items to fix in the spring.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Nancy Stauff from Le Sueur County Fair Assoc. was present. Both she and the city reported a pleasant working experience again this year at the fair.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Dumpsters in city parking lot: City Administrator Collins contact Jim Weber/ remove the big dumpster/ move small Pizza dumpster under overhang/ take down the fence/ all tenants use city blue bags for refuse.
- B) Employee overtime: Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Squires, to amend city personnel policy to read: O.T. paid after 40 hours actually worked; do not include vacation, holiday, or sick hours. Approved unanimously.
- C) Snowmobile Trail: short discussion/ informational only. City staff handle as needed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson, to approve the 2011 police union contract as agreed to by city and union. Approved unanimously. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Krenik, to amend the city personnel policy to reflect two days vacation carry-over if used up by March 1st of following year. Approved unanimously.
- B) Public hearing for residents to dispute special assessment charges. No residents present nor any letters received. Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Wetzel, to adopt Resolution No. 2010R, thereby approving the list of special assessment charges to certify to county auditor. Approved unanimously. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Krenik, to approve the list of delinquent utilities to certify to county auditor. Approved unanimously.
- C) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Krenik, to adopt Resolution No. 2010S, thereby accepting the public improvements within Woods Edge Subdivision for perpetual maintenance as needed. Approved unanimously.
- D) Review city policy on residential sewer-line collapse: Resident of 2004 Street Project had sewer-line collapse behind R.O.W. Private work was done behind the R.O.W. Warranty was over on that project. Council agreed- city not responsible.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Dinwiddie, to approve the 2011 Ambulance Agreement. Approved unanimously.
- B) Clerk Collins reminded Council- turn in their expenses NOW for reimbursement in 2010.
- C) Council set Monday, January 10 @ 7:00 PM for first workshop meeting for new council.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Dinwiddie, Seconded by Krenik, for Mayor Wetzel to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:35 pm.