

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Wetzel, Jason Squires, Josh Fredrickson, Bob Emmers, Brad Collins
Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson, minutes from February 8, 2011 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Council changes to proposed Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

- 1) Director Hayden reported that EDA Board had recommended approval of a small business loan package from the revolving loan fund: borrow up to \$5,000/ -0- % interest rate/ payable back in 5 years/ outside building façade improvements only/ loan dispersed upon completion of project/ \$50 filing fee. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Wetzel, to approve the EDA loan package. Approved unanimously.

Hayden also updated on the possible candy business and noted that Guardian Inn Motel is looking for new managers to move in.

B) P & Z Report

- 1) Zoning Official Corey Block reported that at the P & Z meeting held Feb. 24 they decided to amend the I-1 zone instead of starting over from scratch to address several of the properties along Hwy 99. (Kelly Const.)
- 2) Elevator- P & Z found that an additional 550,000 bushel grain bin would not be a problem due to: (a) bins were already the primary structure and use on the property so this would not be considered an accessory structure. (b) bin would meet the current setback rules. (c) steel frame construction has already been established on the property. (d) commission felt the grain elevator fully meets the Purpose of the I-1 District and meets most of the listed Permitted Uses.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

On-Sale Mgr. Mike Nelson gave a brief February report: Sales were \$61,441: down \$3100 from January, and down \$2,000 from Feb. 2010. Nelson reported there would be “alcohol server class” (for insurance reasons) held on April 3rd for all bartenders.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of February: 101 calls/ 2,684 miles patrolled. Pfarr also reported: March 1st moved into our new kennel agreement with Kind Vet/ Council agreed- set impound fee at \$30.00/ Pfarr will attend the Chiefs Institute.

- 1) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Emmers, do not enforce the downtown parking rules on March 12 midnight to March 13 midnight because approximately ½ the signs in the downtown area were not placed back up yet from the 2010 Street Project and many out-of-towners will not know which are being enforced. Approved unanimous.
- 2) Officer Hintz explained his letter sent to the MN State Patrol asking for the patrol to do several “drive-throughs” on March 12 during the day of the St. Pats celebration in Le Center. He hoped a state patrolman seen driving thru town would help reduce the number of impaired drivers later that evening.

Council was concerned about: (a) the letter did not come from the police chief. (b) they were not notified in advance of the letter being sent. (c) why we couldn't handle the extra help with our own P/T officers or county deputies? (d) asked that any future police letters go through the council first.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Superintendent Curt Roemhildt gave his monthly report:

- Water- two tours of the water treatment plant in February.
- Streets- some cold-mix patch put down, but not staying/ sweeper is ready to sweep for St. Pat's parade/ \$200 left in the snow plowing & hauling budget for 2011.
- Wastewater- March 25 Wastewater Conference held by MPCA: city will again receive award/ met all criteria for reports, by-passes, etc.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering (Joel Hawbaker, Engineer)

- 1) 2010-11 USDA Project- BMI working with USDA on the small details.
- 2) 2010 Minnesota Street Project- rock is needed at most driveways again. BMI will contact Johnson's about this.

G) Fair Association- green commercial building: concrete is shot beyond repair/ putting out bids to re-pour the entire floor.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Margaret Smith/ St. Pat's Committee: "surprised by the letter to MN State Patrol/ unknown to any serious problems in the past/ they are taken back by the letter."

Dee Wolf/ former St. Pat's Committee: "shocked by the letter to MN State Patrol/ how many DWI's were written the previous year?/ cited several businesses in city that will be hurt by lesser attendance/ personally knows of seven families not coming now because they thought this meant Le Center had a crime problem/ next time please come to them first."

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Administrator Collins noted the contract with Kind Vet for animal boarding had been finalized with a \$300 per month fee. Euthanasia and animal placement were extra.
- B) Collins noted the final monthly fee for recycling contract with Le Sueur County was approved at their county board meeting for the same \$1950 per month as city approved.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Darian Hunt/ House of Insurance gave his annual insurance preview/review. See handout. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson, to waive the statutory tort limits/ not purchase excess liability coverage/ claimants potentially recover up to \$1.5M. Approved unanimously.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

No action items.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Squires, Seconded by Collins, for Mayor Wetzel to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 7:57 pm.

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