

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Wetzel, Jason Squires, Bob Emmers, Brad Collins
Absent: Josh Fredrickson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Emmers, minutes from March 8, 2011 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously 4-0.

B) Council changes to proposed Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Motion by Collins, Seconded by Squires, to pay the bills listed and due. Approved unanimously 4-0.

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

A) E.D.A. Report

EDA Director Hayden introduced the new manager of the Guardian Inn Motel as Patrick Dixon. Hayden remarked that there is much concern from the local businesses towards the possible school merger with Monty and the effect it will have on the community.

B) P & Z Report

1) Mayor Wetzel announced the Public Hearing to Amend the I-1, I-1a, I-2 Districts of the Zoning Ordinance (Permitted Uses: Accessory Buildings sections) would be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 6:00 pm @ city hall; and Mayor announced they hereby "Waive" the Mailed Notice of such public hearing. It will be published.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

On-Sale Mgr. Mike Nelson gave a brief March report: Sales were \$64,912: up \$3400 from February, and down \$5700 from March 2010. Nelson also reported: Sales were steady for 2011/ auditor report shows 2010 profit down considerably from 2009 mostly due to Off-sale beer sales down by \$65,000/ the price mark-up at the Muni is only 15%, compared to 30% a few years ago.

1) Councilman Emmers committee report: No back-alley bash in 2011/ closed Sundays for the summer. Much debate about no back-alley bash.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of March: 113 calls/ 2,812 miles patrolled. Pfarr also reported: same number calls as 2010/ County approved the same \$30 impound fee as city considered for all animals. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Wetzel, to approve the \$30 Impound Fee for all animals. Approved unanimously 4-0. Officer Hintz attended the Leadership Academy for Supervisors at Camp Ripley/ new P/T officer Mitch Overn hired/ Pfarr & Administrator Collins went thru the final billing from Jensen's Country Boarding and reduced several charges on the bill/ Severe Weather Week- Pfarr read the rules & regulations.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Superintendent Curt Roemhildt gave his monthly report:

- 1) Well #4 Failure (again): Roemhildt gave the history & possible reasons behind it. Bolton & Menk Engineers are studying the situation.
 - Wastewater- city waste operators again received the MPCA award for "Excellence in Wastewater Operations" during 2010/ received quote for de-chlorination of wastewater (Est. \$16,000) for plans; set to use starting in May 2014/ announced and published in newspaper: March 22 & 23 untreated wastewater was by-passed over to the storm water collection system for approx. 635,296 gallons, due to 2.0 inch rainfall and I&I reasons/ spent one day clearing a grease sewer block in the line for Dianne's Gourmet Desserts.
 - Streets- spring sweeping is completed/ much cold-patch put down/ \$25,000 in the sealcoat budget is being bid out/ Thank You to the "Sentence to Serve" people for clearing the snow away from the city fire hydrants.
 - Refuse- chipper truck is now available Sat. mornings/ leaf pick-up April 25 and May 2nd / wood fence removed and garbage picked up in city parking lot.

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

- 1) 2010-11 USDA Project- USDA working on the details.
- 2) 2010 Minnesota Street Project- starting again last week of April: driveway aprons and sidewalks done first/ punchlist is started, report any problems to city hall. Maple Ave. and Cordova Ave. problems will be finished too.

G) Pool Report- Pool is not closing. Reviewed pool prices & dates: Motion by Squires, Seconded by Collins, to adopt the recommended minimal price increases for 2011 by the pool committee. Approved unanimously 4-0. Staff note: Pool lost \$38,000 in 2010.

H) Fair Association- Fair Board is thankful for Councilman Brad Collins attending their meetings/ back to two demo derbies in 2011/ hope to park trailers at Richter Implement.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Curran family request for “Deaf Child” signs near their home @ 385 E. Horizon Drive. Mr. Curran stated they would be furnishing the signs from their former city for free. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Emmers, to install the acquired signs around the Curran neighborhood. Approved unanimously 4-0.
- B) Bob Guggisberg @ 385 No. Montgomery Ave. request to take down trees or branches in public alley R.O.W. to gain access to his back yard to possibly construct a garage. Council generally decided: if he meets the all the zoning rules and set-back rules; the city will cut down the trees, but not until.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Request from Le Center Community Ed to be on an advisory committee: all councilmen respectfully declined to be on the committee.
- B) Administrator Collins announced the city “Board of Appeal & Equalization Open Book Meeting” will be held at Le Sueur County Courthouse on April 18 @ 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Administrator Collins announced the final 2010 US Census Bureau population= 2499.
- B) 5th Grade Girl Scouts request to clean or plant flowers in city parks: staff find some easy jobs for them to accomplish.
- C) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Collins, to adopt Resolution No. 2011A, thereby approving the conveyance of property (42 No. Waterville Ave.) over to the City for public use should it become available. Approved unanimously 4-0.
- D) Council set Workshop Meeting for Tuesday, May 3rd @ 6:30 pm for Dept. Heads and 8:00 pm for the city auditor to review the 2010 preliminary audit.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Squires, Seconded by Collins, for Mayor Wetzel to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:20 pm.