

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 - 7:00 PM**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Emmers, minutes from August 9, 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 Collins, Seconded by Squires,  
to pay the bills listed and due. Approved unanimously.

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

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Hayden stated there were no meetings/ no report.

B) P & Z Report

Building Official Corey Block reported the public hearing for the Terry Stoering  
Conditional Use Permit & approval of building would be held Thursday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

On-Sale Mgr. Mike Nelson gave a brief August report: Sales were \$71,707:  
down \$3000 from July; and up \$1000 from August 2010. Nelson also reported:  
Sales holding steady/ Expenses were down for the year. Discussion on when to  
possibly hire a replacement for Jan N. if she retires on May 1<sup>st</sup>/ how much would the  
position pay/ job title & duties of the new hire/ etc. After much discussion on the  
matter: Council directed Manager Nelson to send the \$ dollar numbers to city hall to  
distribute to council members.

1) Nelson reported the Elmer's Bldg. has been storing coolers, cups, bars since day one.

## D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of August: 131 calls/ 2,947 miles patrolled. Pfarr also reported: firearms training coming in September.

- 1) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Wetzel, to approve the "Joint Powers Agreement" for State Patrol connection to squad computers. Approved unanimously.

## E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Superintendent Curt Roemhildt gave his monthly report:

- ❖ Streets- all downtown "2 hr. parking" signs are now put up/ street project signs are all put up/ striping done around school and crosswalks.
- ❖ Wastewater- poured concrete ramp ourselves (16 yards).

- 1) & 2) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Emmers, No to both renewing the lights warranty for West Park (\$9,097) and South Park (\$7,700). Approved unanimously.

## F) Bolton &amp; Menk Engineering (Joel Hawbaker, Engineer)

- 1) 2010-11 USDA Project- After meeting with USDA officials; and finding the grant amount for the project had shrunk to approx. 25% = Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Collins, to forget the project for now/ done with it. Approved unanimously.
- 2) 2010 Minnesota Street Project- Supt. Roemhildt reported the preliminary locations of tree placement are marked out along the project.
  - a) Administrator Collins reported there were 2-3 carriage walks yet to be put in for residents who missed the one day notice put out by inspector/ will be done when concrete comes back in to town.
  - b) Council generally agreed: No- to one loading dock parking space for El Tacazo store on the Waterville Ave. side of their business.
  - c) Amy Gieseke of 248 W. Minnesota Street was present to ask council what could she do with her shared sewer line with her neighbor? Supt. Roemhildt pointed out that an individual sewer line was stubbed into her front yard during street project. Council generally agreed: she will have to go by the city ordinance/ she will have to dig in her own sump pump & sewer line/ give her one year to accomplish or come back to see council.

## G) Pool Report- Director Dorothy Dinwiddie gave the August report and Final report.

Dinwiddie also: requested council consider a raise for the lifeguards next year/ reported a small group of residents wishes to start a fund for pool improvements or replacement/ consider adding approx. \$15,000 to pool budget for umbrella replacement/ noted that we lost approx. \$600 by staying open that last week (4 days) of the season after Fair.

## H) Fair Association- Nancy Stauff reported: great weather/ record attendance/ lost money on the demo derbies/ thank you to the city crew for grounds work and Hwy 99 parking.

## V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Squires, to adopt Resolution No. 2011G, thereby approving the placing of a street floodlight at the semi-truck parking lot at the south end of fairgrounds. Approved unanimously.
- B) Discussion on the city hall emergency generator not working/ \$7,693.92 price quote to fix/ no action taken, give city staff more time to attempt to fix.
- C) Center Apts. dumpster sits on the street along Montgomery Ave/ always over-flowing/ neighbors complaining about garbage blowing into their yards. Council ordered staff to send letter to apt. owner to get it moved off street to property behind the building.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Approve proposed preliminary 2012 Net Tax Levy: Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Emmers, to approve a 25.0% net tax levy increase for 2012. Approved unanimously. This would be the highest the council could increase the levy/ decided in December.
- B) Approve proposed preliminary 2012 Total Budget: Motion by Squires, Seconded by Collins, to approve a total budget of \$3,200,408.00 for 2012. Approved unanimously. This would be the highest the council could increase the budget/ decided in December.
- C) Mayor Wetzel announced the “Public Comment Meeting” for Tues. Dec. 13 @ 7:00 pm.
- D) Admin. Collins announced the time, place, phone #, address; to call or mail public comments on the levy or budget for 2012. Administrator Chris L. Collins, 10 West Tyrone Street, Le Center, MN 56057, 507-357-4450 (8 am – 4:30 pm)

## VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Motion by Wetzel, Seconded by Squires, for AT&T to remove all their own equipment from the water-tower and not accept \$4,000 for city to keep it. Approved unanimously.
- B) Admin. Collins explained the \$126.00 cost for county ditch #26 (Elementary School).
- C) Council generally agreed: yes keep going on the budgeted repair/ fix-up of city hall.
- D) Council generally agreed: yes shut off water at curb stops at empty/ foreclosed properties.
- E) Council generally agreed: yes Collins & Atty Moran pursue raising the late fee penalty for past due water/sewer bills from .50 to a flat fee (not %). Done by ordinance.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Squires, for Mayor Wetzel to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:30 pm.