

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Wetzel, Josh Fredrickson, Bob Emmers, Emmett Krenik

Absent: Vacant spot

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Emmers , Seconded by Krenik, Minutes from April 10, 2012 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Council changes to Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Hayden presented a purchase & sale contract from The Overland Group to purchase city Lot 2 of Block 5 in Horizon Addition for the price of \$89,900.00. The asking price for those lots had generally been \$75,000.00. Kubes Realty would be awarded an \$8,000 broker fee for connecting the transaction. The sale was solely contingent upon Overland Group gaining direct Hwy 99 entrance into the lot; or no sale would take place. Overland Group would contact MNDOT themselves to negotiate the entrance. EDA Board had unanimously recommended the sale.

Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Emmers, to accept the offer of \$89,900.00 from The Overland Group for Lot 2 of Block 5 in Horizon Addition. Approved unanimously.

B) P & Z Report

Building Official Block reported: permits picking up last few weeks w/ nice weather.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Mike Nelson gave the April report: Sales were \$62,012: down \$10,000 from March and down \$8,000 from April '11. Nelson also reported: He and staff have decided to go with the Total Cash Register System (\$9,000) now; instead of the outside patio addition (\$12,000), due to more pressing need. They hope to have it installed by October 15 and ready for use on January 1st. Graduation reception orders are way up.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of April: 105 calls/ 2,285 miles patrolled. Pfarr also reported: calls are down noticeably (21%).

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Street Maintenance employee Wally Blaschko gave the monthly reports:

- ❖ Sewer- Legion Club finally disconnected their roof drains from our sanitary sewer.
- ❖ Trees- on Minnesota Street slowly getting planted/ only as they have time.
- ❖ Parks- all fields sprayed.
- ❖ Pool- collar repair work done/ painted/ fill next week with water.
- ❖ Sewer- had to bypass approx. 340,000 gallons after 4"-5" rain. De-rooted, cleaned, and televised Lexington Avenue after the big rain. Days later, foundation drains were still running water into the sewer main.
- ❖ Welcome Sign- the flowers at the sign were paid for by the Chamber: will the city be reimbursing them? They were planted by donated time. Council generally agreed the flowers cost should be paid by the organizations in town; not the city taxpayers.

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

- 1) 2010 Minnesota Street & Waterville Ave. Project- Engineer Hawbaker reported he finally received the tape of the sanitary sewer main that day. Tape showed three distinct problems: one service wye installed backwards to the flow and two temporary service lines still connected to the main. BMI did not have time to view the tape yet or form a solution to the problems. Council noted updated punch-list items.
- 2) 500 Block of North Park Avenue- street is shot on that block. Some residents were present and asked the council to fix the street. Council generally agreed there was no reason to spend big money on a fix when the street was scheduled to be reconstructed in the next street project (within 2-3 yrs.?). Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Krenik, for Bolton & Menk to get two quotes to temporarily fix the street with several options for the council to consider. Approved unanimously. (note: \$15,000 in budget)

G) Fair Assn.- Nancy Stauff reported: Sunday demo derby/ Friday rodeo. She inquired about legal campfire size for the sheriff's posse ride? Rec fires only 3 ft. X 3 ft. around.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Consider the new “Point of Sale” sewer ordinance written by City Attorney Moran. Public Hearing was held earlier that evening with no public opposition. Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Emmers, to approve the new sewer ordinance as written. Approved unanimously. Document becomes ordinance upon publication.
- B) Administrator Collins reviewed the sanitary sewer situation at 335 East Sharon Street. The property owner’s sewer line is old and in need of repair. They contend they’ve had sewer problems since the 2004 Street Project. The City contends it’s the first 50 ft. that are bad; and this was in no way impacted by the 2004 Street Project. A copy of a document from Jetter Clean, after cleaning the sewer line, seems to agree with the City’s stance. The City has sent several letters to the owners informing them this is their problem and the City will not be paying the cleaning bills. After some discussion, Council did agree with Collins to have City Attorney Moran send them a formal letter again denying any City liability in this matter.
- C) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Emmers, to approve the 2012 Club Liquor and 3.2 Beer Licenses list as written. Approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Notice of May 6 bypass of the city sanitary sewer collection system in two locations. Approx. 341,000 gallons were bypassed during the 2.3” rain event. Two property owners who had sewer back-ups into their basements were present: Megan Smith, 216 North Lexington Ave./ Melissa Erickson, 236 North Lexington Ave. Both had sewer back-ups into finished basements and they wondered if the city insurance would be paying for the damages? Bypasses were open as required on Lexington Ave. and Ottawa Street during the storm. A LMC adjuster had been contacted by the City for insurance purposes. Council advised the owners they would closely monitor the situation.
- B) Administrator Collins received complaint from neighboring property to the city 80 acre farm field south of the city. They contend the city renter had tiled extra water onto their property causing it to flood and erode. With no maps of work done, and the complainant not present; Council simply advised staff to try to acquire any maps of work done.
- C) In response to many requests: Council did consider holding another “City-wide junk drop-off day” this summer. The cost of the program would be approx. \$2,000.00; which was not a budgeted item. Citing the relatively low cost, and high benefit of holding such program; Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Krenik, to hold city-wide junk drop-off days on Friday, June 15 @ Noon- 6 pm and Saturday, June 16 @ 7 am- Noon/ charging the same fee structure as before and accepting the same items. Approved unanimously.
- D) Council generally agreed: allow the local Girl Scouts to clean up storm sewer drains on Saturday, October 13th as part of their Centennial Day of Service.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Wetzel noted the next Le Sueur County Officials Assn. group meeting: Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 pm at Le Sueur Country Club. RSVP to Admin. Collins.

- B) Collins reviewed the “Open Book Board of Appeal & Equalization” challenges held on Monday, April 16 at Le Sueur County Assessor’s Office. Only one city resident: James Reddemann, 382 North Lexington Avenue, contacted the Assessor’s Office to complain about the estimated market value of his property. Result: the county minimally reduced the value by \$5,000.00.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

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