

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Fredrickson, B. Emmers, C. Harmeyer, G. Meidlinger Jr., D. Woelfel
Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from August 13, 2013 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Emmers, Minutes from August 26, 2013 Special Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- C) Council changes to Agenda: ADD: ADMIN. C) Consider release of Ehlers Excel program containing Financial Management Plan to council members.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

- 1) Director Collins reported: no meetings/ no report.

B) P & Z Report

Building Official Block asked any resident interested in filling the vacant Planning & Zoning Board position to contact city hall.

- 1) Dollar General report- they hope to have building completed by October 1.
- 2) Housing & Rental Code: Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, to change the frequency of registration & inspection to every four (4) years instead of the current two years. Approved unanimously. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, instill a fine/fee schedule for not registering on time: Feb.1= \$100 fine,

May 1= \$200 fine, Aug. 1= \$300 fine, and etc. per property. Approved unan.
Attorney Moran send letter to last four uncompliant property owners.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Mike Nelson gave the August report: Sales were \$83,558: up \$9,000 from July, and up \$6,900 from Aug. '12. Nelson also reported: dart league and pool league are slow to start/ would like to purchase a 3-door cooler for \$4,000-\$5,000 for specialty liquors- Liquor Committee discuss & decide/ two of three apartments are rented.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of August: 119 calls/ 2,776 miles patrolled/ calls up 11%, miles down 8%. Pfarr reported: a quiet month/ officers completed firearms qualifications, attended LMC police training.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt read a "Thank You" from MN Rural Water for the wastewater training held here in Le Center. Roemhildt also reported:

- Streets- county starting repair of Park Ave. this week with concrete removal and pour new- then week of Aug. 23 will do mill and overlay of blacktop.
- Sewer- staff cleaning Industrial Street sewers to keep the grease down.
- Parks- football field ready for Jr. High/ West Park ready for kids flag football.
- Refuse- leaf drop-off is open/ staff will pick them up off curbsides as needed.
- Pool- bid for \$5,100 from Fredrickson Paint to sandblast pool collar/ done this late fall/ paid for ½ this year and other ½ in early 2014.
- Tri-County hazardous waste drop-off at city WWTP on Thursday, Sept. 19th.

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

Engineer Hawbaker unable to attend meeting/ no report.

G) Pool - Administrator Collins gave the August and Final pool reports. With the cool and late summer contributing factors- pool lost approx. \$19,731.04.

H) Le Sueur County Fair Assn. - Nancy Stauff presented a final County Fair report- weather was awesome and fair was well attended/ Native American exhibit was very well received/ over-all went really well. Thank You to city staff for all their help.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Stan Stocker from Le Center Ambulance announced on Wednesday, Sept. 11 they would be going door-to-door seeking interested new members to the ambulance department. Next Tuesday, Sept. 17 was the Ambulance Fun Night at the hall starting at 4:00 pm.

Thank You to Curt & his staff and Chief Pfarr & his officers for all their help.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Verizon cell-phone tower: Steve Fester was present for Verizon to report they have agreed to pay \$1,300 per month for a 40 ft. X 30 ft. lease area near the watertower. Council was not in agreement the mono-pole should go in that area as it may detract from the watertower, and may be too close to the residential area. Council asked Mr. Fester to send site plan and elevation plan; Council would take under advisement and vote at the October council meeting; and send Atty Moran the revised contract. Council also asked that Verizon consider the city shop area for the mono-pole.
- B) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Harmeyer, to accept and implement the Ehler's Financial Management Plan as presented at the Aug. 26 meeting. Approved unan.
- C) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Emmers, to approve and adopt the Fines & Fees Schedule presented at the earlier public hearing. Approved unanimously.
- D) After some discussion: Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, to repeal the current sidewalk ordinance/ approve and adopt the old sidewalk ordinance/ remove "alleys" out of the language. Approved by 4-1 vote, Emmers voting No. New ordinance shall take effect upon it's passage and legal publication.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Russ Harkins, 256 No. Lexington Ave. request for city to pay ½ (\$750) for the tree he had removed from his back alley. Council generally agreed they would not pay for ½ of the removal because the request came in after the tree was already down; and they were not convinced the tree was actually in the alley right-of-way.
- B) Administrator Collins explained the preliminary 2014 maximum budget & levy and how it compared to Ehlers Financial Management Plan for the city. Collins compared the \$1,094,915.00 total levy amount (13.76% increase) to the 13.62% recommended increase by Ehlers. He stated ALL the increased levy is budgeted towards the payment of the debt service funds. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, to adopt Resolution No. 2013G, thereby approving the maximum preliminary tax levy of \$1,094,915.00 (13.76%) for 2014. Approved unanimously.
- C) Administrator Collins asked the council to approve the preliminary 2014 maximum total budget of \$3,392,517 (operating budget + debt service budget). Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Harmeyer, to approve the \$3,392,517.00 maximum preliminary total budget for 2014. Approved unanimously.
- D) Mayor Fredrickson announced the 2014 final budget & levy "Public Comment Meeting" would be held Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm @ city hall council chambers.
- E) Administrator Collins announced that he would be accepting comments, calls, & letters concerning the 2014 budget at 10 West Tyrone Street, Le Center or phone 507-357-4450 between the hours of 8 am – 4:30 pm until December 10th.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Fredrickson noted the letter from Alliant Energy announcing their sale of electric utility distribution businesses in Minnesota.
- B) Mayor Fredrickson noted the next Le Sueur County Officials Meeting will be held in New Prague on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 6:30 pm.
- C) Councilman Meidlinger requested that Council release the live Ehlers Excel program of the new city Financial Management Plan to all the councilmembers. After much discussion: Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Fredrickson, to release the live version of the Excel program to the councilmembers. Roll Call Vote:
Meidlinger= yes, Woelfel= no, Harmeyer= no, Emmers= yes, Fredrickson= yes.
Motion to release live Excel version of plan to councilmembers approved by 3-2 vote.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:38 pm.