

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Emmers, Minutes from March 11, 2014 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Council changes to Agenda: Move Back: REPORTS B) P & Z Report

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

- 1) Director Collins asked Council to consider buying the four Kubes tax-forfeited lots located along Commerce Drive. The County had offered the lots back to the city for \$100.00 apiece; with the city then putting them back on the tax rolls, and then paying the real estate taxes forward. EDA Board recommendation was to not buy the lots. After some discussion about the current zoning of the lots; and what the city could do with them, Council generally agreed not to purchase the lots.
- 2) Collins asked the Council to consider purchasing new individual signs for the main Industrial Park sign located on Hwy 99. The sign is old and outdated; with signs for companies no longer in business. Several new businesses in the Industrial Park had asked to have their sign put up there. EDA Board recommendation was to repair or change the signs and charge \$100.00 per company. After some discussion, Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to repair and/or change the signs for \$100.00 per company. Approved unanimously.

B) P & Z Report

Administrator Block absent: moved P & Z report back to later in meeting.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Mike Nelson gave the March report: Sales were \$67,598: up \$7,800 from February, and down \$4,400 from Mar.'13. Nelson also reported: Inventory is approx. \$125,000/ YTD sales down \$12,000, expenses up due to purchase of new cooler. Mr. Nelson announced his full resignation as liquor store manager as of May 12, 2014.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of March: 135 calls @ 2,038 miles patrolled/ total calls up 20%, total miles down 14%. Pfarr reported: next week (April 21-25) is Severe Weather Week. Chief Pfarr explained the drills, tornados, sirens, no all-clear siren, etc. that would be tested.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

Streets- filling potholes with cold-mix/ many residents have questions about Lexington Avenue street condition. Six total water-main breaks totaling \$23,312.50; over budget already by \$3,312.50 for 2014.

Water- will hold off on flushing hydrants until later spring/ early summer due to the residents running their water the last 2½ months.

Wastewater: staff working on new 5 year wastewater plant renewal permit with MPCA. More sampling of mercury, sodium, & other contaminants coming with new permit. Still have four by-passes open; will need to reduce that to two by 2019 permit renewal. De-chlorination system ready to go online for May 2014 deadline.

Refuse- reminder: 40 lb. limit on weight of blue bags by ordinance OR they will not be picked up from your residence. Compost site: No tree branches.

Parks- fields are open and ready for school. No bathrooms yet due to cold weather. Pool collar is in terrible shape, but staff will have it ready to go. Council should start planning for the long-term needs of the pool. Staff move the small bleacher to the soccer field and a bigger size to the North Park field. Ok to use Ray Plut Field for summer baseball camps for high school coach at no charge.

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

Engineer Hawbaker reported: summer sealcoating of the 2006 Street Project streets has a preliminary price of approx.. \$80,000.00/ only \$65,000.00 budgeted. May have to cut back on a couple less traveled streets to stay within 2014 budgeted amount. Should have bids ready for approval at the June council meeting.

G) Fair Association- No report.

H) Pool- Manager Dorothy Dinwiddie presented the 2014 Pool Fees & Schedule. Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Emmers, to adopt the pool fees & schedule as written. Approved unanimously. Ms. Dinwiddie asked the council to be aware of the new minimum wage requirements when budgeting for 2015 pool.

** Planning & Zoning Administrator Block reported: meeting set for April 29 at 7:00 pm to get new members acclimated.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments, questions, or statements from the general public.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt the new “Sign Reflectability Policy” as written by City Attorney Moran. This policy deals with street sign inventory, maintenance, and replacement; and meets the June 13, 2014 deadline. Approved unanimously.
- B) Unimin/ 80 acres farm land: Mayor Fredrickson noted the letter sent to Unimin by city staff. No reply had been received back yet from Unimin Corp. No further discussion.
- C) Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt Amending Ordinance No. 2014-3, thereby approving a temporary cable franchise agreement until July 14. Approved unanimous.
- D) Council agreed: residents can turn their running water off on April 30th. New month (May) will start with water & sewer charge based off usage again. Staff add note to bottom of bill.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) City-wide junk drop-off day: Council generally agreed to have a junk drop-off day/ put on May meeting agenda to set dates. 2012 cost approx. \$2,300.00 to city.
- B) Council discussed changing regular council meeting dates: August 12 (Primary Election) and November 11 (Veteran’s Day). Council will set dates at May meeting. Council send best dates to Administrator Collins to try to find dates that work for all members.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Fredrickson noted the next Le Sueur County Officials Meeting to be held Thursday, April 24 at Le Center Legion at 6:30 pm. All members try to be present.
- B) Administrator Collins noted the free training available to councilmembers on April 22 at Mankato Civic Center; presented by Minnesota Valley Council of Governments.
- C) Council did agree to set Workshop Meeting for Wednesday, April 23, at 6:30 pm @ city hall to discuss the liquor store management position. No votes will be taken.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:21 pm.