

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from August 11, 2014 Public Hearing (Food Stands) be approved. Approved unanimously.

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

C) Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, Notes from August 26, 2014 Budget Workshop Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

D) Council changes to Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Collins reported: No meetings/ No report.

B) P & Z Report

Administrator Block reported: No meetings/ No report.

1) Update: two hazardous properties owners in court next week- council decision on the houses to be demolished or cleaned up must be made at October council meeting.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the August report: Sales were \$77,892: up \$9,200 from July, down \$5,600 from August '13. Collins reported: YTD Sales down \$16,000/ Inventory \$ not available/ open for Sunday football w/ many beer specials/ Sept. 20= ½ Way To St. Pat's Day Celebration/ Oct. 11= Muni 60 Year Anniversary Celebration/ looking at several food options/ Legion trying to take Thursday Texas Hold 'Em Poker from us.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of August: 125 calls @ 2,876 miles patrolled/ total calls up 7%, total miles down 4%. Pfarr also reported: Squad car is finally back on line/ Sept. will be firearms qualifications/ he will attend the BCA Conference in St. Cloud.

- 1) Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Harmeyer, to purchase the LEGT field reporting system the county is switching to/ pay large chunk out of 2014 budget and remainder out of the 2015 budget if needed. Approved unanimously.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Streets- completed painting school drop-off lane/ completed all blacktopping around town/ sealcoating is completed; Pearson will sweep up loose gravel yet. Casey's (Cordova Ave.) to be blacktopped next week.
- Water- hydrant flushing is now on-going.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

Engineer Joel Hawbaker reported: T-Mobile plan has been approved by BMI for antenna work to be done on the water tower. Sealcoating of 2006 Street Project streets is done and came in \$1,100.00 under quoted price.

- G) Fair Association- Fair rep Nancy Stauff reported: best county fair ever with no rain/ crowds on Thursday & Friday were tremendous/ demo derby with monster truck was awesome/ car show was only ok; hoping for more cars next year/ thanks to Emergency Management for their car bag demonstrations/ one Scott County picnic table and the sound system at the horse corral were stolen during the fair/ issues with too many unauthorized golf carts & four-wheelers speeding around the grounds. Council added that any golf carts and four-wheelers require a city permit; that should help next year. Ms. Stauff thanked the council and city staff for all their help during the fair.

- H) Pool- Manager Dorothy Dinwiddie gave the August report; and Season report on season ticket & lesson numbers/ looked at End of Year report showing loss of approx. \$30,000. Dinwiddie expects 98% of staff to return next year/ reviewed some of the infrastructure problems with the pool that may need to be fixed: floors, drain, building/ applying to Community Club for money for umbrellas next year/ CIP committee hopes to add some money into the 2015 budget for pool.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Todd Hagen from Ehlers Financial presented his proposal to refund the 2006 Street Project Bonds (2006A). Mr. Hagen explained a non-rated vs. rated refunding; and would city consider switching over to Standard & Poors (from Moody's) for a new credit rating? Interest savings on this refunding would be approx. \$311,000 to \$332,000 over 13 years. Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt Resolution No. 2014E, thereby approving the refunding and go thru S & P for new credit rating. Approved unanimously.
- B) Pete Plut of Investment Centers of America presented his proposal for Deferred Comp. for employees: explanation of a 457 Plan/ no cost to the city/ no matching contribution by the city/ no filing of Form 5500/ all fees to the Investor are paid by the employee. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, to approve Deferred Comp. benefit for city employees who wish to invest their own money. Approved unanimously.
- C) Administrator Collins updated council on the FEMA disaster relief program being offered for public damages from the June rains. He submitted paperwork for approx. \$9,922.09.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

***** Allowed for any public comment on the 2015 Budget & Levy – NONE *****

- A) Administrator Collins explained the preliminary 2015 maximum budget and levy; and how it had changed from the August 26 Budget Workshop Meeting. Council also wished to add in the \$16,616.00 T.A.C. interest payable in April 2015. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Emmers, to adopt resolution, thereby approving maximum preliminary tax levy of \$1,080,732.00. (+ 3.37% increase) Approved unanimously.
- B) Administrator Collins asked council to approve the maximum preliminary total budget of \$3,430,153.00. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, to adopt resolution, thereby approving maximum preliminary total budget of \$3,430,153.00. Approved unanimously.
- C) Mayor Fredrickson announced the final budget & levy “Public Comment Meeting” for Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7:00 pm at city hall.
- D) Administrator Collins announced the time, place, phone, address, & whom to contact for comments on the 2015 budget & levy: Chris L. Collins, Administrator @ 357-4450 or mail to: 10 West Tyrone Street, Le Center MN between 8 AM and 4:30 PM @ M—F.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Fredrickson noted the next Le Sueur County Officials Meeting would be held on Thursday, Sept. 25 in Le Sueur at 6:30 PM.
- B) Discussion on letter from Councilman Meidlinger to Administrator Collins: Collins wished to explain his position that in no way, as the election administrator for the city, does he have any authority to deny a packet to file for city office to any member of the public that requests one; that there would be no surer way for the city to be sued; that he does not determine city residency; and that his job performance should not be called into question for following correct procedure.

Collins simply wanted the entire council and the citizens of Le Center to know this. Mayor Fredrickson reiterated this position and voiced his concerns about an individual council-member sending a letter to an employee, stressing that the council only has city authority when acting as a group, not individually. Councilman Meidlinger explained his reasoning behind the letter; that he was frustrated with how the election filing has been handled, that he was not attempting to question any employee's job performance, and he meant the letter only to be seen by Administrator Collins. No further discussion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:32 pm.

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