

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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 September 9, 2014 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Council changes to Agenda: ADD: OLD BUS. B) Employee Insurance Meeting

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

Director Collins reported: EDA Board met Sept. 18 and discussed the following: possible interested buyer in the 10 acres Budin land in the Industrial Park; was tabled to gather better information on maps, utilities, cost of street, annexed?, etc. Updated the council on the Industrial Park sign repairs.

B) P & Z Report

Administrator Block reported: January 2015, new building code goes into effect; some major changes are coming.

1) Attorney Moran update: two hazardous properties: both houses still standing/court again in two weeks/ both parties had indicated they would apply for demolition permits from city; neither has/ council generally agreed: let them spend the money to tear down the houses, not the city. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, to table any decision until November council meeting (after court date). Approved unan.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the September report: Sales were \$62,922: down \$14,900 from August, up \$2,700 from Sept. '13. Collins reported: Inventory approx. \$171,000/ new popcorn machine is in/ Sept. = 33% profit margin at combined sides/ fantastic turnout for the 60 year anniversary celebration.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of September: 106 calls @ 2,424 miles patrolled/ total calls up 4%, total miles down 2%. Pfarr also reported: Sept. was normal, quiet month/ Homecoming was “mellow”.

- 1) Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Meidlinger, to approve the police union contract for 3 yr. period Jan. 1, 2015 – Dec. 31, 2017 as negotiated. Approved unanimously.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Streets- sweeping & hauling leaves out/ 150 yards so far.
- Water- hydrant flushing is completed/ 350,000 gal. flushed/ considering going to only one flushing per year (Fall) to save water.
- Parks- vandalism in parks was very moderate this past summer/ provided extra set of bleachers at West Park soccer field for late season tournament.
- Wastewater- I & I report sent to state/ bio-solids will be hauled out after farmer removes his crop.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

Engineer Joel Hawbaker reported: Paulsen driveway is done; repaired as part of warranty work from 2006 Street Project.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments or questions on the 2015 preliminary budget & levy.

Resident Jim Weber appeared before the council to express his concern on the following:

- 1) No parking lot stalls painted in lot behind his building as was previously agreed and huge crack in bituminous needs filling before winter.
- 2) Signs in middle of street used by Legion, VFW, Muni, & Chiefs Baseball: adhere to city ordinance not allowing OR change the ordinance.
- 3) Stick to the Veteran’s Clubs opening at 4:00 pm as previously agreed; to help bring more business back into the Municipal Liquor Store.
- 4) This city needs to have two council meetings per month; too much stuff happening for only one meeting.
- 5) City needs to hire a full-time EDA Director; to help jumpstart the business trade in town.
- 6) City should seek a business to locate in the empty LJP building.
- 7) Montgomery city has 20 empty buildings downtown; so we’re doing better than that.
- 8) City is dying- no young people want to settle here; especially with no school.
- 9) Municipal Liquor Store remodeling was a waste of money; brought no new business in.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Todd Hagen from Ehlers Financial presented the refunding of the 2006 Street Project Bonds (2006A). As part of the refunding, the city sought and received a new credit rating from Standard & Poors rating agency: A + stable outlook. Mr. Hagen presented a plaque to the city for this major accomplishment; raising the rating up from B1 + negative outlook.

Consider: \$2,605,000 bond refunding @ 2.5589% rate on bonds sold Oct. 14 for interest savings of approx. \$332,792 over remaining 13 years. Bonds were bought by United Bankers Bank & First State Bank of Le Center. Closing date was set for Nov. 12, 2014. Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt Resolution No. 2014F, thereby approving the refunding, issuance, & sale of refunding bonds. Approved unanimously.

- B) Councilman Emmers updated the rest of council on the employee insurance meeting he attended with employees & insurance agent: other cheaper plans are available to employees and some may end up choosing those plans, so city would see a savings too. Administrator Collins informed council that agent Hunt suggested city “renew” insurance plans again on January 1st when cheaper plans will be available, back at 2013 premium prices.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Administrator Collins presented the General Election Judge list: Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Woelfel, to adopt resolution approving judge list. Approved unanimously.
- B) Mayor Fredrickson announced the final budget & levy “Public Comment Meeting” for Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7:00 pm at city hall.
- C) 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, October 23 in Waterville at 6:30 PM.
- B) Mayor Fredrickson noted the General & City Election for November 4th and encouraged all residents to get out and vote.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Emmers, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:00 pm.