

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Fredrickson, G. Meidlinger Jr., D. Woelfel, J. Weiers
Absent: None Late: C. Harmeyer (7:07 pm)

**** Oath of Office by Administrator Collins to Mayor Fredrickson, Councilmembers
Dennis Woelfel & Jennifer Weiers.**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Meidlinger, Minutes from December 9, 2014
Public Hearing (Ecumen) be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Woelfel, Minutes from December 9, 2014
Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

C) Council changes to Agenda: Add: Mayoral Proclamation.
Add: New Bus. E) Fire Commission Contract

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

**Mayoral Proclamation: Mayor Fredrickson did read and proclaim February 7-14
as “Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week” and did sign such proclamation and
was presented to the Joe & Arianne Holicky family.**

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 absent: No meetings/ no report.

1) Attorney Moran update on two hazardous properties: property owners hired a lawyer
who got the next court date pushed back. Moran suggested council to wait & see for
now; proceed with civil side at later date.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the December report: Sales were \$77,052: up \$10,400 from November, up \$4,600 from Dec. '13. Collins reported: Inventory approx. \$169,000/ busy month with the holidays/ January features: dart tourney, beer bash, & DJ on Jan. 17/ noted state report which named LC Muni as the 2nd best municipal liquor store in the out-state area/ questioned by council on apartment rental income.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of December: 96 calls @ 2,010 miles patrolled/ total calls up 8%, total miles down 7% for 2014. Pfarr also noted: Year-end report on calls- parking & traffic complaints up the most/ Year-end report on P/T help, new hires, training costs down.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Water- Record year for water-main breaks.
- Refuse- Year-end report on garbage hauled and recycling collected.
- Water- Administrator Collins explained the water fund P & L report on page 16 of the packet: there was \$333,711 of capital expenses (bonds & int.) included that should not be; water fund will show a profit when the audit is completed.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering- Engineer Hawbaker nothing to report.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Resident Carey Roemhildt complained about city sidewalks not being shoveled as the city ordinance requires. Mayor Fredrickson announced that topic was on the agenda coming up. There were no other petitions, requests, comments, or communications from the public.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Administrator Collins wanted to touch on the subject of turning water on due to cold temps. Did the council want to form a policy or committee should the occasion come up again? Council generally agreed: keep status quo.
- B) Collins informed the council that Le Center Lanes had closed; and that the owners were recipients of a \$5,000 micro-business loan thru the EDA. Yes- Attorney Moran should pursue payment of the loan. Moran suggested city should consider requiring a personal guarantee on future micro-business loans/ will pursue this to the EDA Board.
- C) Mayor Fredrickson noted information on the public hearings concerning Alliant Energy and their proposal to sell off all their Minnesota customers to SMEC.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Attorney Moran suggested the city should consider revising city ordinance pertaining to sex offender residency. Moran explained how we ended up with a Level 3 sex offender residing in Le Center; as mandated by the court system. Moran presented a sample ordinance for the city to consider, that dictates where those offenders may be placed. After some minor changes to the proposed sample ordinance by the council; Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Meidlinger, to set a public hearing to consider the proposed ordinance for Tuesday, February 10, 2015 @ 6:30 pm. Approved unanimously.
- B) See above discussion.
- C) Snow on sidewalks: Administrator Collins read several different public nuisance sections of the Environment Ordinance concerning shoveling snow off sidewalks. He admitted it was frustrating trying to enforce this ordinance due to the many different rules involved. Do we abate and hire someone (who?). Do we send our own employees to abate? Do we send warning letters first? Do we give them time to shovel? Do we wait until we have a complaint by another resident? Do we give a ticket? After much discussion: Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, send letter giving warning of 12 hours to shovel or they will be given a \$75.00 ticket by police for each day sidewalk not shoveled. Approved by 4-1 vote; Meidlinger voting no. Staff attempt to find independent contractor to abate any sidewalks not shoveled after the tickets have been given.
- D) Resident's dispute vs. Alliant Energy involving city R.O.W. permit; Alliant refuses to take responsibility and pay for resident's property damage. Attorney Moran suggests turn it in to city insurance (League of Minn. Cities)/ start a claim/ let city insurance company fight vs. Alliant Energy on responsibility. Council generally agreed.
- E) Councilman Woelfel presented for approval the 2015 Le Center Area Fire Commission Service Contract for \$77,500; same cost as 2014. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, to approve the 2015 Fire Commission Contract. Approved unanimously.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Fredrickson presented his 2015 Mayoral Appointments list. Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Woelfel, to approve 2015 Mayoral Appointments. Approved unanimously.
- B) Noted: "Meet the Area Legislators" Thursday, February 5 at 7:00 pm @ TCU School.
- C) Council set Workshop Meeting: Thursday, January 29 at 6:00 pm @ city hall.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:35 pm.