

**** PUBLIC HEARING ****

**CITY OF LE CENTER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015 @ 6:30 PM AT CITY HALL**

TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDER AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES CH. 28: OFFENSES & MISC. PROVISIONS ORDINANCE; BY ADDING SECTION 28-0: DESIGNATED PREDATORY OFFENDER RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Fredrickson, J. Weiers, G. Meidlinger, D. Woelfel, C. Harmeyer

Absent: None

Staff: Administrator Chris Collins, Attorney Jason Moran, Police Chief Bob Pfarr

Residents: Lori Jensen, Dorothy Wersal, Charlene Washa, Jake Sycks, Stacy Sycks

II. CITY ATTORNEY PRESENTATION

Attorney Moran gave a synopsis of why we are here/ why city is pursuing this proposed ordinance/ why these sex offenders are being released (Fed. Gov't)/ some of the highlights of proposed ordinance/ concerned by the possibility of having the worst offenders placed in Le Center with no restrictions in place/ 27 other states have this.

*Mayor Fredrickson outlined the rules for concerned citizen's testimony.

III. CONCERNED CITIZENS TESTIMONY

Jake Sycks- will this ordinance have any bearing on the individual already placed in our community? Atty- No, once placed we had no say in this matter.

Jake Sycks- is the facility equipped to handle this individual? Atty- we have been told by State Health & Human Services that it is.

Stacy Sycks- how much of the city does the 2000 ft. cover? Atty- it does allow for areas where a person could be placed in the future. Mayor read the restricted areas from the proposed ordinance.

Stacy Sycks- could this new ordinance restriction be challenged? Atty- yes, a judge could order this thrown out; but we would fight it. Atty stated that other states and several Minnesota cities have passed similar ordinances.

Stacy Sycks- she was concerned about the timing of this; how long did the city know that this individual might be coming here, and what did the city do to prevent it then?

Atty- city never knew for sure until a judge ordered the individual released into that

specific city facility. If we had tried to rush together a restrictive ordinance during the interim; it would have been thrown out in court for sure.

Dana Thelemann (State DOC) - spoke on the State's view of what these ordinances do/ what they accomplish/ the negative effects it can have on the individuals/ how this will not solve the problems with the M.S.O.P.

IV. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Meidlinger- if this isn't going to work (says the state), what are our options and what do they feel will work to help keep our residents safe?

Woelfel- felt this came on so fast, as an entity, we had no time to deal with this. What we're trying to do now, is protect our citizens; no one else will.

Weiers- the safety of our community is our top priority; that is our main goal.

Mayor Fredrickson- we must do something for our citizens. It's easy for them (state) to sit up there in St. Paul and say they have study after study that says this won't work; but we're down here and we have to do something to protect our citizens.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion; Mayor Fredrickson closed the Public Hearing.
6:55 PM

Chris L. Collins, City Administrator