

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015 - 7:00 PM**

**\*\* MINUTES \*\***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Mayor Fredrickson, D. Woelfel, J. Weiers, C. Harmeyer, G. Meidlinger Jr.  
Absent: None

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from March 10, 2015 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Weiers, Minutes from March 30, 2015 Special Closed Meeting (hazardous property) be approved. Approved unanimous.
- C) Council changes to Agenda: None

**III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID**

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, 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 Friday, March 20 concerning the loan programs available to businesses; agreed unanimously to start immediately adding “personal guarantee” and “promissory note” forms to the loan packages, due to the recent EDA loans becoming uncollectible. Collins reported Maud Borup has shown some interest in purchasing the industrial lot next to them; still negotiating. Discussed the bowling alley closing and the micro-business loan they still owed- was turned over to Attorney Moran for legal proceedings. River’s Edge Clinic has re-opened in our medical clinic building and have been contacted concerning the past lease agreement.

B) P & Z Report

Administrator Block reported: the Center Mall apartment building has possibly been sold and may be fixed up and re-opened. Several things need fixing before re-opening.

- 1) Attorney Moran reported the Maple Ave. hazardous property is now our property, and can be boarded up if needed to keep out squatters. Staff start advertising this property for sale “as is” to any buyer. The Cordova Ave. hazardous property is still negotiating terms to complete the transaction for city take-over.

## C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins presented a check to the Le Sueur County Canine Unit for donation from “soup & chili feed” held at Muni. Accepting with gratitude for the county was Deputy Dave Struckman & Chief Deputy Brett Mason.

Manager Brad Collins gave the March report: Sales were \$75,622: up \$18,700 from February, up \$8,000 from Mar. '14. Collins reported: sales showed 41% gross profit margin/ Inventory approx. \$170,000/ revenues are up; expenses are down @ \$20,000 swing. Many upcoming events: St. Pats celebration was fantastic/ Customer Appreciation was well attended/ meat raffles 1st Saturday of each month starting May/ beer bash with DJ on April 25 for Muni women's softball team/ open Sundays thru April, then close for summer/ ice machine is moved to make room for the tap beer cooler. Council questioned how much inventory is being kept in Elmer's Building and do we have enough “contents” insurance coverage to fully cover it? Collins and Ins. Agent Darian Hunt will investigate and make sure of enough coverage.

## D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of March: 120 calls @ 2,865 miles patrolled/ total calls down 24%, total miles up 23% for 2015. Pfarr also reported: still having transmission issues with the squad car; will consider trading it for the next new unit later this year/ Severe Weather Awareness Week- siren tests will be done on Thursday afternoon.

- 1) Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to approve the Standard Service Agreement with Le Sueur County IT Dept. for LETG services that may need to be done for the new squad car system, @ \$50.00 per hour. Approved unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt **Resolution No. 2015C**; thereby approving the following licensed, new P/T police officers coverage into the Police and Fire PERA Plan: Jason Squires, Courtney Haugen, Andrew Schumacher, and Brian Tupy. Approved unanimously.

## E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Water- Pat & Dan working on the wellhead protection plan amendment for MDH.
- Parks- parks are open & bathrooms are turned on/ paint is ordered for the pool job.
- Streets- spring sweeping is completed/ Center Point Energy will take gas off our line on West Tyrone Street to run a line out to area farmers north of town. City not involved; but there will be digging done on Tyrone Street/ did some hole patching.
- Wastewater Plant- need to replace the sewer plant mixer @ approx. \$15,000 for an emergency replacement/ installing 40 new radio-read meters along Hwy 99 homes.
- Refuse- several complaints from neighbors near city shop about paper recycling blowing around; ordered a 2<sup>nd</sup> dumpster to take the extra paper & cardboard.

- (Handed out to council a map of proposed fiber-optic installation) reported that Jaguar Communications of Owatonna will be installing fiber-optic line thru-out city to courthouse, library, & elementary school. R.O.W. permit charged at \$50 X 10 holes for \$500.00 fee. Staff send R.O.W. ordinance to Atty Moran.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

Engineer Joel Hawbaker handed out to council the preliminary cost options for possible sealcoat or mill & overlay of Rolling Hills Drive and Meadow View Lane. After discussion: Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Woelfel, for BMI to send out for bids to sealcoat on Rolling Hills Drive and to edge mill & overlay on Meadow View Lane. Approved unanimously.

G) Pool

Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, to approve the proposed 2015 Pool Fee Schedule, the same as last year. Approved unanimously.

H) County Fair/ Nancy Stauff

No Fair rep present/ No report.

## V. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no petitions, requests, comments, or communications from the public.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Community committee for senior citizen center: Bob Leary announced that on Friday, April 17 @ 1:00 pm there would be a meeting of townfolk to plan on Senior Center Activities; and possibly decide how often to meet, etc.
- B) Safe Routes To School- Administrator Collins updated the council: SRTS federal funds are not available until 4 years after the application is filed. SRTS state funds are very minimal and available immediately if granted/ curb extensions, bump-outs, temporary bump-outs will be considered with city permission/ crosswalk lights with striped painted crosswalks are preferred/ federal funds are granted at 80% - 20% matching grants/ SHIP program will provide minimal funds for projects/ bicycle rodeo sponsored by police.
- C) Administrator Collins asked council to declare a “Health Hazard Emergency” on the property located at 305 West Minnesota Street; an abandoned home where all the food was still inside. Collins wanted to start the 30 day clock ticking; so the city could enforce the ordinance and not lose a month of time with warm weather coming. Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Weiers, the council does hereby declare a “health hazard emergency” and orders an emergency abatement if needed by the enforcement officer @ 305 West Minnesota Street. Approved unanimously.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A) Insurance Review by Agent Darian Hunt: Mr. Hunt reported the city renewed insurance coverage thru the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust on January 15, 2015. Some of the highlights explained were: property schedule, auto/truck schedule, and liability coverage. Council suggested a review of the Elmer's Building & city shop. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, to waive the state statute liability limit of \$500,000 instead up to \$2 million in coverage. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, to approve the 2015 City & School Field Lease Agreement as written. Approved unanimously.
- C) Collins explained the request by a business owner to have his water & sewer monthly base fees suspended or reduced because his commercial building with apartments located downtown was currently empty and for sale. After much discussion about setting a precedent; and the amount of similar requests sure to follow: Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to deny the request to suspend or reduce the water & sewer base fees charged to this account. Approved by 4-1 vote; Woelfel voting No. Council instructed staff to find some other ways to help this customer during the "sale" transition.

**VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.**

- A) Mayor Fredrickson noted the next county official's meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30, at 6:30 PM in Montgomery.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business; Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:47 pm.