

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

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from June 9, 2015 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Council changes to Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

- 1) Director Collins presented a new, amended lease agreement for River's Edge Clinic to lease our medical clinic building. The agreement included no rent paid for remainder of 2015; then \$300 per month starting Jan. 1, 2016. Motion by Woelfel, seconded by Harmeyer, to approve the new lease agreement. Approved unanimously.
- 2) EDA Board had agreed to sell a 2nd lot, Industrial Park Lot 6 of Block 1, to Maud Borup Company for \$14,000. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, to sell the lot to Maud Borup Company for the \$14,000 price. Approved unanimously.

B) P & Z Report

- 1) Director Block presented to council an issue staff was having with fences and alleys. He has had three recent requests by residents to put a fence along an un-improved alley (no blacktop or gravel roadway) at the rear of their yard. Fence ordinance says a fence must be 14 ft. from centerline of any dedicated alley. Staff questioned whether an unimproved alley was still a dedicated alley? Council generally agreed: P & Z hold public hearing to consider changing fence ordinance to allow for fences 2 ft. off platted edge of an unimproved alley.
- 2) Block informed council he had a request to put an apartment in the basement of a main-street building in the B-3 Central Business District. City ordinance states: Second floor apartments will be permitted with a conditional use permit. Council generally agreed: P & Z consider this issue and make recommendation to council.

- 3) Update on two residential properties deemed hazardous by the council: Admin. Collins presented the Quit Claim Deeds for the two properties showing they were now officially owned by the city. Mayor Fredrickson spoke of working with the fire department thru the legal steps to possibly burn down one or both of the properties.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the June report: Sales were \$70,312: down \$3,400 from May, down \$400 from June '14. Collins reported: YTD revenues are up \$4,000, expenses are down \$1,400/ new tap beer is still going over well/ Public Works Supt. Roemhildt had fixed up and painted the storage shed behind the building/ July 24-25 "Christmas in July" event at the Muni with many specials.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of June: 146 calls @ 2,628 miles patrolled/ total calls down 10%, total miles up 17% for 2015. Pfarr also presented: ½ year police activity totals/ LETG training & will go live July 29th/ three potentially dangerous dog certificates issued/ applied for \$4,184 reimbursement to state board for Peace Officer Training.

- 1) Church leaders from the Latino church at 185 North Lexington Avenue were present to discuss the numerous times police have been called there due to neighborhood complaints of late night loud music and loud activity outside the church. This was happening after 9:00 & 10:00 PM on most occasions; mostly during the summer months when everyone had their windows open. Council generally agreed and told them: they have the right to worship in their church, try to keep the music inside the church, be done with the music by 9:00 PM, further calls and responses will result in tickets being given for violation of the nuisance ordinance. Church leaders did agree there was an issue and said they understood the warnings.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Sewers- recent 4" rain caused sewer by-pass in two areas/ caused flooded basement at First State Bank due to plugged roof drains.
- Streets- recent wind storm took down several older trees around town/ gas company replacing 56 gas service lines in town; installing 4" gas-line out to rural customers.
- Parks- Red Ribbon Ride comes thru town on Friday, July 17; hundreds of bikes in West Park. Note: electricity will be out city-wide July 23 @ 11:00 PM – 2:30 AM.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) Engineer Joel Hawbaker presented to council two new bids for sealcoating/ edge mill & overlay of Rolling Hills Drive and Meadow View Lane: Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Meidlinger, to accept low bid of \$31,599.91 from Nielsen Blacktopping of Kasota. Approved unanimously. (Engineer's Est.= \$34,591.50)

- 2) Lexington Avenue project: Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Harmeyer, to set public hearing to consider new amended Assessment Policy as recommended by committee for Tuesday, August 11 @ 6:00 PM. Approved unanimously.
- 3) Hawbaker announced a MNDOT grant of \$30,504.00 to City of Le Center for construction and maintenance of roads in the city. This is a one-time grant that was appropriated during the 2015 State Legislative Session.

G) Pool

Pool Manager Dorothy Dinwiddie gave the June pool report: total deposits were at \$26,098.00; slightly ahead of past years. Dinwiddie reported staff had searched extensively for the sharp edges that were causing the cut feet; maybe had narrowed it down to the sides of the pool, were asking kids to use the ladder to get out of the pool.

H) County Fair/ Nancy Stauff

Ms. Stauff reported: two handmade picnic tables were NOT stolen; just hidden away in storage/ New Ulm Battery will be back again/ new military display exhibit/ new 4H malt machines have been purchased/ fair set-up day is August 11/ informed council there will be no more overnight parking of "for sale" vehicles & campers along Hwy 99 due to the insurance risk. Council generally agreed with this decision.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) 2014 Audit (presented in June) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, officially approve the 2014 audited financial statement by Eidebailly. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, to approve a Temporary 1-4 Day strong beer license for LC Community Club for county fair. Approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, to hire Tara M. Nusbaum of Le Center for the vacant full-time office assistant position; as recommended by the hiring committee. Starting wage \$14.00 per hour + .50 after six month probation. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to reject the offer by Unison to buy our (2) cell-tower lease agreements for the lump sum of \$421,694. Approved unanimously. Attorney Moran try to negotiate a higher offer from them for council to consider.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, to approve the street shut-down for LC Fireman's ride & street dance to be held on July 18 @ Le Center American Legion. Approved unanimously.

- B) Administrator Collins noted: Notice of (2) sewer by-pass' on July 6, 2015.
- C) Administrator Collins noted the information he submitted for the new county webpage dedicated to all the cities in the county. This information will be available by simply clicking on City of Le Center on that page; thanks to the County Official's group.
- D) After discussion, it was decided to set a Budget Workshop Meeting date at the August council meeting; to give staff more time to finish the ½ year budget numbers.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:25 pm.

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