

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from February 9, 2016 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, Notes from February 23, 2016 Workshop Meeting (Lexington Ave.) be approved. Approved unanimously.
- C) Council changes to Agenda: Add: ADMIN. D) Consider Special Event Permit

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

- 1) Director Collins reported: EDA had met March 3 and approved & recommended sale prices on the (4) Kubes tax-forfeited lots purchased from the county: Lots 14 & 16 list for \$27,500 each; and Lots 15 & 17 list for \$30,000 each, with option to purchase all four lots for a negotiated price. Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, to list the lot prices as recommended by EDA. Approved unanimously. Collins briefly explained the Tele-Pharmacy offer; and recommendation all parties meet to hear their presentation/ Med Clinic building; and action to seek another clinic provider/ Guardian Inn Motel; and how F.N.B. of Le Center has now taken it over, and how the high value & taxes have made it difficult to keep it open.

B) P & Z Report

Director Block reported: no meetings/ short report.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the February report: Sales were \$60,711: down \$6,100 from January, but up \$4,000 from Feb. 2015. Feb. GP margin = 41%. Collins reviewed the February activities/ reported on March activities: March 12 St. Pat's Festivities/ March 26 is Customer Appreciation Day/ Open on Sundays thru March.

Mayor Fredrickson stated the liquor committee, liquor manager, and building inspector had met to discuss and plan the outside building repairs planned for this summer.

- 1) Administrator Collins read the liquor hiring committee's recommendation for hiring a new assistant liquor manager; committee recommending Brenda M. Budin. Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Meidlinger, to approve Ms. Budin as new assistant liquor store manager with a starting wage of \$13.75 per hour. Approved unanimously.
- 2) Mayor Fredrickson read the staff recommendation for the new liquor store cleaners; Tim Palmquist & Heather Henry for \$950 per month. Councilman Meidlinger was concerned about the increased costs vs. the cleaning duties involved. After some discussion: Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, to approve the cleaners and the price. Approved by 4-1 vote; Councilman Meidlinger voting No.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of February: 125 calls @ 2,497 miles patrolled/ total calls up 16%, total miles down 3% for 2016. Pfarr also reported: Quiet month/ still waiting for the new squad vehicle to be readied.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks Departments

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Parks- skating rink is closed for the season/ poor season.
- Streets- town is swept for St. Pat's Celebration/ corn pile is gone.
- Sewer- Mar. 25 staff will be receiving an MPCA award on sewer plant compliance.
- Water- city water won 1st Place in State "Best Drinking Water" category at the Minn. Rural Water Association state conference.

- 1) Staff reported Well #1 was being repaired at the cost of \$33,500 + freight.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) Lexington Avenue Project update/ Engineer Hawbaker reported: CenterPoint Energy will start late April moving their gas lines; he sent them the sidewalk plan to help them/ April council meeting on schedule to "Approve Plans & Specs"/ will meet with county sheriff to discuss some of their issues (parking, traffic).

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Mark Bartusek, Republican candidate for District 20 state senate position, spoke.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Alano Club property: Engineer Hawbaker reported Bolton & Menk was doing data collection gathering; what's recorded at the county, etc.
- B) Guardian Inn Motel discussion: Greg Traxler @ F.N.B. of Le Center addressed the council and stated: March 2 - F.N.B. took legal ownership of the motel/ there are several people interested in running the motel; one has signed to lease & run the motel for 2016/ biggest problem for motel is county has the property valued at \$950,000 and is thereby taxing @ \$38,000 per year. Mr. Traxler referenced the tax abatement; could the tax abatement continue for the final three years of the original agreement? Councilman Woelfel stated everyone should see the value of the motel to the community. Mayor Fredrickson stated he would like to do what it takes to keep the motel open. Councilman Meidlinger asked if the bank would continue to keep up on the other city bills as they have been in the past? Traxler stated yes, he would keep up on other bills. Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, to continue the tax abatement for the final three years as written in the original agreement. Approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Administrator Collins brought up the issue of renewing the "building permit reduction program" of WAC & SAC fees for \$2500? After discussion: Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Meidlinger, to renew the same program for residential and commercial "new construction" until December 31, 2016. Approved unanimously.
- B) Administrator Collins presented a "Waiver of Liability & Indemnification" agreement for the city and county to consider. This agreement was written up by City Attorney Moran to allow Le Sueur County employees to use the city swimming pool building for shelter in any weather emergency this summer. Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Harmeyer, to approve the agreement as written. Approved unanimously.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Fredrickson read the Notice of Board of Appeal & Equalization Open Book Hearing for city taxpayers: April 12 at Le Sueur County Courthouse.
- B) Mayor Fredrickson noted the next Le Sueur County Official's Meeting is Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30 PM in Montgomery.
- C) Administrator Collins noted the list of services offered by Minnesota Valley Council of Governments (which we are a paid member) for council to look over.
- D) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, to approve the special event permit for American Legion to close Park Avenue during St. Pat's Celebration. Approved unan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 7:59 PM.