

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from August 10, 2016 Public Hearing (Opt-out Ord.) be approved. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, Minutes from August 10, 2016 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- C) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, Notes from August 30, 2016 Budget Workshop Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- D) 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 and Attorney Moran explained: Voigt- Smith Innovations, LLC was requesting both a \$5,000 Micro Loan and \$30,000 Revolving Fund Loan for their business located at 150 East Sharon Street in Le Center. Jordan Smith was present to explain what his business does/ how he will use the money to remodel the building. EDA Board had recommended approval of both loans. After some discussion; Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, to approve both loan requests. Approved unanimously.
- 2) Collins presented a recommendation from the EDA Board to set the price of the lots potentially being sold to the county at between \$100,000 - \$125,000 due to the following reasons: sale would not ever add to our tax base into the future since they would be taken off the tax rolls/ they were priced low for a potential business to come in and put up a building and employ local people and pay taxes/ between the costly infrastructure and the cost of the land- the city was barely going to break even at a lower price. After some discussion: Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Meidlinger, to set the asking price at \$125,000 each for the reasons stated by the EDA Board. Approved unanimously.

B) P & Z Report

- 1) Director Block was absent. Mayor Fredrickson reported that Block had indicated Maud Borup was finally getting their wind tower put up.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the August report: Sales were \$73,037: down \$6,800 from July, and down \$4,800 from August 2015. August GP margin = 34.29%. YTD Sales up \$11,679 and YTD Expenses down by \$3,300. Food profit = 35.89%. Collins also reported: now open on Sundays again during football/ Oct. 1 is Country Western Night/ Oct. 28 is Wine Tasting with American Legion as part of Chamber Night Out/ Oct. 29 is Women's Softball Bash & Halloween Party.

- 1) Administrator Collins presented a recommendation from the Liquor Committee to hire Rebecca Vikla for the F/T position of Assistant Manager, which had recently, un-expectedly become open again. Rebecca had previously applied for the position. She has worked P/T at the Muni for 3+ years. Committee is recommending starting wage of \$13.50 per hour. Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to hire Rebecca Vikla as new Liquor Store Assistant Manager. Approved unanimously.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of August: 200 calls @ 2,500 miles patrolled/ total calls up 15%, total miles down 6% for 2016. Pfarr also reported: caught the burglar who had been burglarizing the north end of town; people keep your stuff locked up/ can we paint the curb yellow by the dentist office corner?

- 1) Bob presented Resolution No. 2016G, Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement With the City of Le Center On Behalf of Its City Attorney and Police Department. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, to adopt & approve the Resolution agreement with the state. Approved unanimously.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks Departments

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Water- easily passed Minn. Dept. of Health Annual Inspection/ flushing hydrants
- Parks- bleachers moved; switched over to football season now
- Streets- all mill & overlay blacktopping done/ trimming trees & removing stumps
- Wastewater- employee Dan Steinborn won the state "Operator of the Year" award/ soon will be hauling out our bio-solids to spread on 80 acres/ lots of cleaning, painting, & repairing at wastewater plant/ will host state wastewater class at fire hall on October 12/ storm sewer repairs in blvd. at Minnesota St. & Sunrise Ave.
- Refuse- truck was purchased in April '09 for \$25,000 with \$21,000 in repairs so far.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) Lexington Avenue Project/ Engineer Hawbaker reported: project is slowing down due to weather conditions/ paved blacktop all the way to Washington Street/ deep dig is done for now/ residents have been really understanding/ the plan is still for Chard to finish the project this year.

G) County Fair/ Nancy Stauff

Ms. Stauff reported: good attendance overall/ demo derby sold out/ Saturday bad rain cancelled the tractor pull, the monster truck, & the horse show/ purchased two new sets of bleachers; only one came with full parts for use/ Sunday BBQ contest had not much buzz, no aromas, but won by LC resident/ classic car show #'s doubled over last year, big potential. Request to store corn on the fair property again this yr.

H) Pool/ Mgr. Dorothy Dinwiddie

Ms. Dinwiddie reported: August receipts were \$2,530.00; Total 2016 deposits to date = \$41,045.50, up \$2,500 from 2015. Lessons were up/ concessions were up/ final report coming @ October meeting. 10,069 people used the pool in 2.5 months open.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

- 1) Jennifer Nelson from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation addressed the council about several of their programs: provide GAP financing loans to businesses in this area/ Regional Collaboration & Partnership Group/ all loan clients are provided technical assistance help/ Return on Investment = \$10.00 for every \$1.00 spent/ City EDA has contributed \$15,000 since 1997 for investment in business/ next six years will focus more on small communities under 5,000 population.
- 2) Representative Bob Vogel addressed the council & audience about the last legislative session; and a possible special session looming.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Alano Club property: Admin. Collins reported No new updates. They have not indicated whether they want the property or not.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

*** Public comment period on the Preliminary 2017 Levy & Budget ***

- A) Administrator Collins explained the preliminary 2017 maximum budget & levy; and how it had changed since the August 30 budget workshop meeting. Council changes had reduced the max levy from 2.09% down to 1.25%. Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt resolution, thereby approving maximum preliminary tax levy of \$1,085,050 (+ 1.252%). Approved unanimously.

- B) Motion by Meidlinger, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt resolution, thereby approving maximum preliminary total budget of \$3,390,050 (+ 0.137%). Approved unanimously.
- C) Mayor Fredrickson announced the final budget & levy “Public Comment Meeting” for Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm. Public comment meetings will be held on Sept. 13, October 11, November 16, & December 13 – all at 7:00 pm.
- D) Administrator Collins announced the time, place, phone, address, & whom to contact for comments on the 2017 budget & levy: Chris L. Collins, Administrator @ 357-4450 between 8 am – 4:30 pm or mail to: 10 West Tyrone Street, Le Center, MN 56057.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Fredrickson noted the press release from Moody’s Investors Service upgrading the city credit rating one notch up to Ba1; Outlook Positive. This was the annual maintenance review by Moody’s and cost the city nothing.
- B) Mayor Fredrickson noted the next Le Sueur County Official’s Meeting for Wednesday, September 28 at 6:00 pm @ Waterville.
- C) Mayor Fredrickson reminded council of the employee performance review & wage review workshop meeting to be held on Thursday, Sept. 22 @ 6:30 pm. This will be a Closed Meeting to discuss individual employee performance.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Meidlinger, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:32 PM.