

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Fredrickson, D. Woelfel, C. Harmeyer, C. Scott, J. Weiers
Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Weiers, Notes from August 2, 2017 Budget Workshop Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from August 8, 2017 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- C) Council changes to Agenda: ADD: Old Bus. B) Lexington Avenue Project
1) Res. No. 2017F and 2) Res. No. 2017G

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Collins reported: 1st meeting scheduled for Thurs. Sept. 21 @ 5:00 pm.

B) P & Z Report

- 1) Director Corey Block asked council to consider a variance request applied for by Ken Helland @ 290 East Solberg Street. Helland was asking for an alley variance of five feet to add a garage stall onto his current structure. This would still leave a 15 ft. setback from the alley, instead of the prescribed 20 ft. setback. P & Z had held the public hearing on this request on Sept. 6 and had recommended approval of the variance request based on these Findings of Fact: 1) the alley is an unimproved alley 2) a previous request to improve the alley was denied by council 3) the garage, door, & driveway will still face Solberg St. and limit the potential to park vehicles along the side 4) all other ordinances can be adhered to. After some discussion, Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Harmeyer, to approve this variance request based on the P & Z recommendation & Findings of Facts. Approved unanimously.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the August report: Sales were \$83,286: down \$1,300 from July, and up \$10,200 from August 2016. YTD Revenues up by \$28,000 & YTD Exp. down by \$7,500. August GP margin = 34.46%. Food profit = 28.51%. Collins also reported: August sales were good thru Community Club beer sales at County Fair. Sept. activities: football open Sundays now/ Vikings tailgate parties monthly/ bean bag tourney. Building renovation update: the new awnings project starts this week!

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of August: 219 calls @ 2,501 miles patrolled/ total calls up 7%, total miles down 7% for 2017. Pfarr reported: very quiet; nothing else to report.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks Departments

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt absent/ Administrator Collins reported:

- Streets- Lexington Ave. trees are being planted; 29 more to go yet this fall.
- Boulevards & R.O.W.- CenterPoint Energy done replacing gas mains & started on service lines thru out the city. Atty Moran asked to look/ amend R.O.W. ordinance.
- Water- leak at Legion Club sidewalk again/ need to locate to see who's responsible.
- Sewer- Jetter truck repairs of \$6,000 were needed.

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

Engineer Hawbaker absent/ Administrator Collins reported: working on River Country Cooperative plan/ working on the Lexington Avenue assessment roll.

G) County Fair report

Nancy Stauff reported: weather was only a little issue/ master gardeners re-did the front of the Fair office buildings/ No carnival as reported= Big Blast Entertainment provided blow-up rides and it went well; will be back next year with even more rides/ sweet corn feed= all 900 cobs given out/ talent show had good participants/ tractor pull had lower numbers/ bands: Thrill Billies & Doug Traxler were really well attended/ Demo derby was a huge success/ too wet for monster truck to perform/ Ranch Rodeo was a huge success/ car show gets bigger every year + Vikings cheerleaders at cook-off contest. Several board members set to retire.

- H) Pool Report- Manager Dinwiddie reported: took in revenue total = \$38,044.00.
No injuries, no scrapes, no major problems except the wet paint issue in first week.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Stan Stocker, Ambulance Pres., spoke on the Ambulance Fun Night @ Thurs. Sept. 19.
There were no petitions, requests, comments, or communications from the general public.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Administrator Collins explained the Closing & Post Sale Report on the Ehlers refunding of the two older bonds into one. In the end: City savings came to 4.2% on the transaction vs. the previous, too low amount of 2.7% (must be 3.0% savings legally). Since this was an “advanced refunding” the actual transaction won’t take place until Feb. 1, 2018.
- B) Lexington Avenue Improvement Project assessment hearing: set for Tuesday, Oct. 10 @ 6:00 pm. Several items yet to be approved before that date:
- 1) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, to adopt Resolution No. 2017F, thereby Declaring Costs to be Assessed, and Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment, and setting the assessment payback interest rate at 3.0%. Approved unanimously.
 - 2) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, to adopt Resolution No. 2017G, thereby Setting the Hearing on Proposed Assessment for the Lexington Avenue Improvement Project for Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

*** Public comment period on the Preliminary 2018 Levy and Budget ***

- A) Administrator Collins explained the Preliminary 2018 maximum levy and budget; and how it had been reduced by \$12,000 from the August 2 council budget workshop meeting. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Woelfel, to adopt Resolution No. 2017H, thereby approving maximum preliminary tax levy of \$1,085,442.00 (+ 0.0361%) Approved unan.
- B) Motion by Woelfel, Seconded by Weiers, to adopt Resolution No. 2017H, thereby approving maximum preliminary total budget of \$3,459,451.00 (+ 2.0%) Approved unan.
- C) Mayor Fredrickson announced the final 2018 levy & budget “public comment meeting” for Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm at city hall. Public comments will also be allowed on October 10/ November 14/ December 12 – all at 7:00 pm.
- D) Administrator Collins announced the time, place, phone, address where to contact him for any & all public comments on the 2018 levy and budget. City Hall 357-4450.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Atty Moran explained the new golf cart ordinance passed by the county; cities were allowed to opt out if they didn’t want to change their current ordinance. Council generally agreed to set a public hearing for Tues. Nov. 14 @ 6:30 pm if needed.
- B) Mayor Fredrickson announced the next County Official’s Meeting for Wednesday, September 27 @ 6:30 pm at New Prague Golf Club for those who would attend.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:04 PM.