

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER** (Due to the Covid-19 Virus, no members of public were allowed)

Present: Mayor Fredrickson, C. Harmeyer, C. Scott, J. Weiers

Absent: Nathan Hintz

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott, Minutes from February 11, 2020 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Council changes to Agenda: Add: Admin. B) Covid-19 virus discussion

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

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Collins reported: 10 ac. farm renter had contacted him wondering what was the reason for all the dirt, clay, & equipment piled on the 10 acres farm field; and would it be moved by the time he wanted to plant in the spring? He was also concerned the area may be compacted so bad he would not get a good crop there. Council generally agreed: have the renter farm what he can; and we'll reduce the rent for what he can't.

B) P & Z Report

Administrator Collins reported for Director Block: nothing to report.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Administrator Collins gave the February report: Sales were \$69,837: down \$3,500 from January, but up \$4,000 from Feb. 2019. YTD Rev. up by \$6,197 & YTD Exp. up by \$18,241. February GP margin = 39.5%. Food GP = 27.35%. Feb. = dart tourney, meat raffle, pizza party, craft night, chili feed. March= St. Pat's parade & celebration and craft night; all other events have been cancelled or postponed. On-Sale is now closed by state order for Covid-19 virus; manager will monitor Off-Sale hours open.

## D) Police Department

Administrator Collins reported on the police activities for month of February: 145 calls @ 2,742 miles patrolled/ total calls down 28%, total miles up 12% for the year. Council requested: police stay status quo with what they're doing.

## E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks Departments

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

1) Letter from MPCA concerning waste-water treatment plant: Roemhildt explained they are working with this industrial user to eliminate this pH limit issue/ should have it under control by summer as user will install new equipment to reduce level.

- Streets- street sweeping done around entire town for the St. Pat's parade.
- Parks- nothing to report.
- Water- nothing to report.
- Refuse- up 840 lbs. over 2019 to date/ recycling down 2 tons from 2019 to date. Yes – will keep the kids working & recycling open on Sat. mornings.

## F) Bolton &amp; Menk Engineering

Engineer Hawbaker reported on 2020 Street Project:

- 1) SEE MEMO: new engineer's estimate has gone up by \$600,000+ based on some of their other city bids and the concrete & blacktop (\$150,000) for city shop added in/ Joel explained a new issue with Northern Natural Gas regarding an easement along Spors Street. All bidders will be aware of this issue when bidding.
  - a) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt Resolution No. 2020A, thereby Approving Plans & Specs and Advertise For Bids. Approved unanimously.
  - b) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Weiers, to move April council meeting to April 15 at 7:00 pm to help make the timing work to approve a bid for this project. Project bids will be opened at 1:30 pm that day. Approved unanimously.

**V. PUBLIC FORUM**

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

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A) Refuse & Recycling recommendations from committee: Supt. Roemhildt explained the new garbage truck prices, availability, options, etc. Administrator Collins read the list of recommendations for the council; asking them to pull any or adopt them all as needed.

Discussion on the truck; where the remainder of the payments would come from if we add budgeting \$10,000 in 2021. (Refuse CIP acct.) Where did the \$2.00 fee come from added to the Solid Waste line on the water bill? (The early worksheet showing we'd need to add \$1.86 to each city water bill to cover the hauling of recyclables once per week; we rounded up to \$2.00 to be sure). Yes open recycling center Wed. nights 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm. After discussion: Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to accept and approve the recommendations from the committee as written. Approved unanimously.

- B) Consider bids to demo building on city property: staff invited four contractors to bid the demo of the building; and received three bids back: 1) Jake Sycks Const.= \$68,660 and 2) M.J. Neisen Const.= \$31,000 and 3) Selly Excav.= \$27,720. Admin. Collins stated that this would be paid for with an early liquor fund contribution to the general fund as discussed at last fall budget meeting. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, to accept the low bid of \$27,720 by Selly Excav. to demo the building. Approved unanimously.
- C) Junk throw-away in 2020? Council all agreed: with the way things are right now with the Covid-19 Virus; this needs to be tabled at this time.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Darian Hunt/ House of Insurance: LMC ins. review. Due to the Covid-19 Virus, Mr. Hunt was asked not to come to this meeting. Mayor Fredrickson noted some highlights. After an explanation by Atty Moran: Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Harmeyer, to yes waive the statutory tort limit on city liability. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve the 2020 Le Center Ambulance Service Agreement for \$35,927 (same as 2019). Approved unanimously.
- C) Admin. Collins explained the resolution the League of Minn. Cities was asking cities to approve; concerning municipal infrastructure & building permit fees. Motion by Scott, Seconded by Weiers, to adopt Resolution No. 2020B, thereby supporting municipal infrastructure accountability vs. developers. Approved unanimously.

## VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Fredrickson announced the next County Officials Meeting for Wednesday, March 25 at St. Peter Neisen Bar has been cancelled due to Covid-19 Virus.
- B) Council discussed the Covid-19 Virus at length: contingencies for employees who need to miss work; and how to pay them/ how long to quarantine employees away from work if exposed (14 days)/ possibly declare a city disaster declaration at April meeting/ look into holding electronic council meetings if we can't get a healthy quorum to attend, etc.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:10 PM.