

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER (Remote meeting held entirely via Microsoft Teams)

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

Absent: None

Others via Microsoft Teams: C. Collins, C. Roemhildt, B. Pfarr, B. Collins, Atty Moran, J. Hawbaker, C. Block, T. Hagen @ Ehlers, C. Hughes @ Newspaper.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, Minutes & Addendum from March 18, 2020 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz, Minutes from March 19, 2020 Emergency Meeting (Covid-19 Virus) be approved. Approved unanimously.

C) Council changes to Agenda: Add: New Business B) Consider street sealcoat bids.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Collins reported: (See Un-approved Minutes) Collins read and explained the Minutes from the EDA Board Covid-19 Virus emergency meeting held April 2, 2020. The Board had discussed several ideas about how to get EDA relief \$ money out to our city business owners, quickly, during the Covid-19 shutdown. Approved was a plan that established a relief assistance loan program with a 5-year payback @ 0% interest the first year; and 2% interest for the remaining years/ obtained by providing a recent tax return and signing an agreement & also signing a Personal Guarantee. Two EDA members would be required to sign off on each loan request. First payment due one year from the date of loan. Daycares would be eligible.

Question: when do applicants have to apply by? No end time as long as the Covid-19 crisis goes on. After some further discussion: Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott, to approve the EDA Business Relief Loan Plan. Approved unanimously.

Mayor Fredrickson explained that Maud Borup may be interested in purchasing 2-3 ac. in the Industrial Park. No offer made yet/ nothing for council to vote on at this time.

B) P & Z Report

Director Block reported: lots of building activity going on in the city. Guardian Inn is for sale by owner; had one interested party.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the March report: Sales were \$90,874: up \$21,000 from February, and up \$11,000 from Mar. 2019. YTD Rev. up by \$17,647 & YTD Exp. up by \$35,222. March GP margin = 36.35%. Food GP = 33.51%. March= St. Pat's parade & celebration and two craft nights; all other events had been cancelled or postponed. April= focus on Off-Sales and lots of cleaning. Sunday sales went really well past year.

D) Police Department

Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of March: 138 calls @ 2,756 miles patrolled/ total calls down 30%, total miles up 12% for the year. Ford Motors has shut down during Covid-19; may be fall before we get new squad car. This is Severe Weather Week; expect the sirens to be tested during the week.

- 1) Attorney Moran gave rental property update: Mr. Lewis has been warned and getting warning letter and property will be watched closely.
- 2) Administrator Collins explained the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan for eligible employees of police dept. P.T. police employee Orlando Hernandez has become eligible under the state guidelines and must be added. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to adopt **Resolution No. 2020G**, thereby adding Mr. Hernandez to the Police and Fire retirement plan. Approved unanimously.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks Departments

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Building at 42 North Waterville Ave. has been removed and filled in.
- Water- two recent watermain breaks/ North Maple Ave. leak was the 100,000 gal. /day leak we've been looking for; used much city equipment to repair these leaks.
- Sewer- nothing to report.
- Parks- parks are taped off to users/ starting to work on fields. Pool will be ready to open as usual.
- Streets- street sweeper working great. Two new pick-up trucks are in, and in use.
- Refuse- recycling Wed. nights working very well; lots of compliments & thanks!

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

Engineer Hawbaker reported on 2020 Street Project:

- 1) Five bids were received and opened at city hall at 1:30 pm that day for the project. The low bidder for the project is Holtmeier Const. of Mankato at \$3,669,334.01. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$3,761,905.75.
- a) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, to adopt **Resolution No. 2020D**, thereby Accepting the Holtmeier bid for \$3,669,334.01 and Ordering the Work. Approved unanimously.
- b) Todd Hagen from Ehlers explained the Pre-Sale Report. The bond rating is good for 90 days should the council delay the project. Mr. Hagen asked for, and was given, leeway to add to the total amount pending the final project cost total.
- c) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, to adopt **Resolution No. 2020E**, thereby Providing For the Sale of \$4,105,000 G.O. Improvement Bonds. Approved unanimously.
- d) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz, to adopt **Resolution No. 2020F**, thereby Authorizing the City to Enter Into Credit Enhancement Program Agreement with the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. Approved unanimously.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Council wishes to proceed during the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic by doing what?
 Hintz- let's continue with virtual meetings, setting a good example.
 Scott- this format works, lets keep with it; keep city hall closed.
 Harmeyer- lets keep video-conferencing, until Governor says different.
 Weiers- this is working great; lets continue with it.
 Roemhildt- this is working good.
 Collins- this is working great for staff.
 Fredrickson- city hall will be exploring getting new equipment to start hosting the meetings, EDA meetings, P & Z meetings, etc.
- B) 2020 Sealcoat and Overlays: budget= \$85,000 available. Sealcoat of Lexington Ave. = approx. \$30,000 - \$35,000. Mill & Overlay several blocks including elevator road and all the needed patches around town. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve the bidding out for these projects. Approved unanimously.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

A) None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the virtual meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:06 PM.

Chris L. Collins, Administrator