

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Absent: None

Staff: C. Collins, C. Roemhildt, B. Pfarr, B. Collins, C. Block, J. Hawbaker, Atty Moran

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, Minutes from June 9, 2020  
Public Hearing (Food Truck Ord.) be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Hintz, Minutes from June 9, 2020  
Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

C) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from June 23, 2020 Special  
“Remote” Meeting (Gov Walz Res.) be approved. Approved unanimously.

D) Council changes to Agenda: Move Up: Darian Hunt/ LMCIT Insurance report.  
ADD: Admin. C) Approve Covid-19 City Prep. Plan

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

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

Darian Hunt/ LMCIT Insurance report: Mr. Hunt reported Premium is up due to  
property rates/ Work Comp. is down/ \$1,000 deductible for most claims/ Higher property  
rates and liability rates due to the Minneapolis destruction. City experience mod. is very  
good, thanks to the employees. Council previously voted to waive the statutory liability  
limit for resident claims.

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

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Collins gave an update on the EDA Covid-19 Business Relief Loan  
Program: thus far 20 applications given out/ 14 paid out/ 1 returned on hold for more  
information. Still discussing land purchase with Maud Borup; and another interested  
party in the area.

## B) P &amp; Z Report

Director Block reported: two P & Z public hearings to be held on August 4.

- 1) Block explained the Joey Hruby fence being placed approx. 13 ft. on city property: declaring it was an honest mistake, and that Mr. Hruby stopped installation after realizing his mistake. The post holes were already cemented. Attorney Moran suggested a city license be given to Hruby allowing him to “temporarily” keep the fence on the property UNTIL the city says remove it. Attorney would draw up the license at Hruby expense. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott to enter into this license agreement as described. Approved unanimously.

## C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the June report: Sales were \$99,561: up \$500 from May, and up \$17,000 from June 2019. YTD Rev. up by \$59,705 & YTD Exp. up by \$111,357. June GP margin = 33.15%. Food GP = 31.46%. June ½ year sales are \$501,000. July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend was busy/ sales reps warning of product shortages coming.

## D) Police Department

Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of June: 146 calls @ 3,295 miles patrolled/ total calls down 33%, total miles up 20% for the year. Pfarr reported: he completed application for Post Board Training reimbursement/ squad car = dealer still waiting to get the car from Florida, but car is paid for by dealer/ council reminded Chief Pfarr to keep track of all Covid-19 expenses.

## E) Public Works: Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks Departments

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Parks- all park bathrooms, pavilions, etc. are painted up/ placed hand sanitizer stations in all parks last few days.
  - Streets- mill and overlay was done the past week.
  - Refuse- still very busy: two trips to Mankato each week.
  - Sewer- read the sewer by-pass notice to the council to inform them of the amount of water the staff and residents had to deal with during the 7” rainfall.
- 1) 7” rainstorm: Engineer Hawbaker commented on the storm issue: Way too much clean water is entering the city sewer system for this size of city. The 18” main interceptor was completely full. There is too much clean water entering the city system at some point.
  - 2) Residents in attendance spoke about problems incurred during 7” rainstorm: Rich & Connie Kovarik @ 200 North Cordova Ave. – flooded basement again  
Brad & Tricia Pelowski @ 550 E. Rolling Hills Dr. – sewer flooded basement  
Dan & Sally Holden @ 530 E. Rolling Hills Dr. - sewer flooded basement  
Unknown woman @ ?? - wet basement. And others were present.

Council discussed with the residents some of the issues: Can't the city investigate the manholes and try to figure out what is happening there? Why won't the city do anything? A neighbor on Rolling Hills Drive had his incorrectly installed sanitary sewer service line dug up and corrected when they built, and the city paid for it; why weren't these other neighbors notified of that issue when they built? Where is all this clean water coming from into Rolling Hills Drive? Lift station: can't there be a "call" alarm system on this station to more quickly inform the city that a problem is about to happen? Instead of just the red light alarm that no one sees unless and until they come check it? Then it's too late! City needs a permanent by-pass pump that starts automatically. Is the low-ground slough area water coming directly into the sanitary sewer line? There has to be water entering the system somehow, somewhere. Can the residents be kept informed of the actions/plans of the city as they proceed to investigate this? Yes! City engineer Hawbaker and Public Works Supt. Roemhildt outlined several things they could & would do. Council thanked these residents for being so professional in this trying time.

F) Pool – Dorothy D. absent

Mayor Fredrickson reported: pool opened on Monday, July 6; was open one day, and was forced to close due to our "pool opening policy." It is scheduled to reopen on July 20 barring unforeseen circumstances.

G) Bolton & Menk Engineering

Engineer Hawbaker reported on 2020 Street Project: removal of bituminous streets starts this week/ trees and stumps are mostly removed/ SEE Project Newsletter #2.

**V. PUBLIC FORUM** (many residents)

Mosquito Spraying discussion: Rob Olson of Clarke Mosquito Control spoke of his company: the procedure they use, the spray makeup, etc. Rob answered questions from several residents in attendance.

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

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A) Mosquito Spraying issue:

Carolyn Bettin – her subdivision is getting sprayed, and they 100% want it to continue. She provided a petition of her subdivision with 100% signatures in favor of spraying.

Mark Schroer – why should they have to pay for spraying if they're not getting the benefit? Can he buy and spray his own property and not get into trouble?

Unknown – what if people can't afford to spray on their own? Why should they have to?

Abby Boettcher – why should the people Not receiving the spray have to pay for it too?

Unknown – how many people called city hall and said they want to be sprayed? (102)

Unknown – her kids cannot go outside and play with friends because of the mosquitoes.

Patty Gregor – it's not fair that some people are getting sprayed and some are not. Why were they told to call city hall and give their address so they could get sprayed?

Mayor – that was misinformation relayed by social media, not city staff. Administrator Collins affirmed that city hall staff simply took names & addresses of those wanting to be sprayed, just to keep track of the number calling in.

In the end, it was the spray company that set the terms for those wishing to be no spray properties. Mayor Fredrickson stated he was not in favor of forcing those no spray properties to be sprayed, whether for health reasons or other, thus giving them no choice in the matter; whereas other properties wanting to be sprayed, could always arrange to do it themselves.

- B) Mayor noted the letter from our garbage bag maker Potential Unlimited that we feared was coming; they were forced to close their doors. Administrator Collins stated he has been in contact with another company to make our blue garbage bags.
- C) See above discussion.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A) Administrator Collins stated the need to change the Aug. 11 regular council meeting due to the State Primary Election that day. After some discussion: Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Hintz, to change the meeting to Wednesday, August 12 @ 7:00 pm at city hall. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Hintz, to approve the Election Judge List for the Aug. 11 State Primary Election. Approved unanimously.
- C) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Scott, to approve the Special Event Permit for the American Legion for July 18 BBQ chicken feed. Approved unanimously.

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.**

- A) Administrator Collins asked if the council wanted any special “shut off” terms for water during the Covid pandemic? After discussion, it was decided Le Center policy is already very lenient; so council generally agreed No.
- B) Hwy 99 surface condition: Collins inquired if the council wanted to send any letters to our area legislators to complain? Mayor stated he talked to both area state legislators in spring and voiced our concerns.
- C) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to approve the official city Covid-19 Preparedness Plan by staff. Attorney Moran had approved. Approved unanimously. Mayor Fredrickson, Councilman Hintz, & Collins will subcommittee to meet with Dept. Heads & staff to advise on record keeping and possible Covid acquisitions.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business; Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Hintz, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 9:22 PM.

Chris L. Collins, Administrator