

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Absent: None

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott, Minutes from July 14, 2020 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Council changes to Agenda: ADD: Admin. A) Old Schoolhouse discussion
ADD: Admin. B) Consider Resolution No. 2020L –
Extend City disaster declaration.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Motion by Hintz, 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 gave an update on the EDA Covid-19 Business Relief Loan Program: thus far 20 applications given out/ 18 paid out totaling \$169,000.00. Still negotiating for the 10-ac. land purchase with Maud Borup and Selly Excav.

B) P & Z Report

Director Block reported on two P & Z “C.U.P.” public hearings held on August 4:

- 1) Ben McGrath @ 185 North Lexington Ave. = McGrath has purchased the old Episcopal Church abutting his property. He wants to convert the main level to a community/ recreational center available to the public. He wants to use the basement for his electrical business storage area. The lot is zoned as R-2. P & Z unanimously approved the CUP request based on the listed findings of fact. There was council concern about the # vehicles parked there and security when alcohol may be served there. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve this C.U.P. based on the P & Z list of findings of facts. Approved unanimously.

- 2) Greg Holicky @ 396 West Sharon Street = the Holicky's are purchasing the property from their son; and hope to add on a small addition that would line up with the current west wall, thus actually decreasing the lot coverage, but still encroaching into the required setback by 2'-6". Addition would not interrupt any sightlines of the street intersection. P & Z unanimously approved the CUP request based on the listed findings of fact. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve this C.U.P. based on the P & Z list of findings of facts. Approved unanimously.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the July report: Sales were \$101,557: up \$2,000 from June, and up \$19,900 from July 2019. YTD Rev. up by \$80,938 & YTD Exp. up by \$129,537. July GP margin = 34.19%. Food GP = 29.97%. YTD expenses up due to new remodeling costs and more beer & liquor purchases. Still product shortage warnings.

D) Police Department

Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of July: 134 calls @ 3,449 miles patrolled/ total calls down 34%, total miles up 22% for the year. Pfarr reported: squad car on its way from Florida. Lots of questions from residents about driving golf carts on the county/ state aid roads within the city limits. This is currently not allowed by our city ordinance Sec. 40-125 & 40-135 (5c). It would take a public hearing and approval by the council to allow this. Mayor set committee to look into this: Pfarr, Hintz, Collins, Moran.

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

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Streets- Lexington Ave. sealcoat done/ Hwy 99 turn lane for Justice Center started
 - Water- lead and copper testing has been completed and submitted to state.
 - Parks- winding down; only a couple games left at Ray Plut Field.
 - 2020 Street Project Report: sub-cut is done, installing under-tile, ready to haul in rock for first two blocks. Then curb & gutter up to Bowler Ave.
- 1) Costs of sewer lift station auto-alarm and water/ sewer standby pumps: wait and discuss this at the budget meeting when have more information & costs.

F) Pool – Dorothy D. (absent)

Mayor Fredrickson reported: pool is open for two more weeks yet/ everything seems to be running smoothly.

G) Bolton & Menk Engineering

Engineer Hawbaker absent; SEE above report from Public Works.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Administrator Collins explained the need to approve Amendment 1 to our current City Preparedness Plan. Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz, to approve Amendment 1 to the City Preparedness Plan. Approved unanimously.
- B) Administrator Collins reported on the first report submitted to the state for the Covid-19 CARES funds. Mayor Fredrickson explained the CARES committee (JF, NH, CC) will be meeting in the next week to outline a plan of needed bigger items to be purchased with the CARES funds- and will report back to the council.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to approve 2020 City/ County Hwy Maintenance Agreement. Approved unanimously.
- B) After some discussion: Mayor Fredrickson set the budget workshop meeting for Tuesday, August 25 @ 6:30 pm at city hall.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Councilman Scott spoke on the effort to refurbish and repair the old schoolhouse at the fairgrounds. A committee is established to get the schoolhouse back into show-shape. They are looking into restoration with grants, donations, fundraising, etc. and hoping the city will budget some money to help the project. The committee feels this is a very worthwhile project! He will get some cost estimates to the council.
- B) Attorney Moran explained the need to extend the city-declared emergency declaration as it was set to run out. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott, to adopt **Res. No. 2020L**, thereby extending the emergency declaration until Feb. 1, 2021. Approved unanimous.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 7:42 PM.