

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Fredrickson, C. Scott, C. Harmeyer, 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 August 12, 2020
Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott, Minutes from August 25, 2020
Budget Workshop Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

C) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Weiers, Minutes from August 27, 2020
Special Remote Meeting (polling place chg.) be approved. Approved unanimously.

D) Council changes to Agenda: ADD: Old Bus. C) Old Schoolhouse update

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.

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

A) E.D.A. Report

Director Collins: updated the EDA Covid-19 Business Relief Loan Program: still
23 applications given out/ 18 paid out totaling \$169,000.00. Possibly have sold the
10-acres land in Industrial Park to Maud Borup and Selly Excavating. (split).

B) P & Z Report

Director Block absent: no report

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Brad Collins gave the August report: Sales were \$100,177: down \$1,300 from
July, and up \$8,000 from Aug. 2019. YTD Rev. up by \$87,873 & YTD Exp. up by
\$140,990. August GP margin = 35.19%. Food GP = 33.19%. August = one wedding/
no Fair will hurt sales. Sept. = Labor Day Weekend and football season starting.

D) Police Department

Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of August: 145 calls @ 3,485 miles patrolled/ total calls down 33%, total miles up 22% for the year. Pfarr reported: No county fair, so slow month of August. New squad car is IN at Wolf Motors in Jordan.

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

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Water- flushing hydrants in September/ water main break at Winco gravel road; many breaks along that gravel road.
- Sewer- jetting & televising sewer mains @ 1/3 of city per year.
- Refuse- very strong turnout: 22 tons more than last year so far.
- Pool- closed for the season: very successful, considering the delayed start.

F) Pool – Dorothy D. (absent, no report)

G) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) Engineer Hawbaker reported: 2020 Street Project progressing towards Bowler St. with water connections; then Bowler to Spors Street and stop. Sidewalk and curb & gutter will be placed this year on these streets. Sheriff Mason asked permission to use platted city R.O.W. located behind the houses on North Park Avenue to access his house when street is closed down. Council generally agreed: Yes allow all the homeowners to use the city R.O.W. behind No. Park Ave. for access.
- 2) AT&T antenna on water tower issue: they want to add more bolts to the tower to better secure the structure. Bolton & Menk consulted the tower builder and they said they never heard of this. Council generally agreed: No to more bolts.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve the resolution approving Election Judge List for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Approved unanimously.
- B) Covid-19 CARES funds committee report: Mayor Fredrickson explained the CARES funds would be primarily used to upgrade technology for city hall and city staff. Councilman Hintz added this would allow council and staff to hold remote meetings if this pandemic should get worse again. Admin. Collins added that some would be put towards PPE and city hall and parks touchless bathroom facilities/ better video-taping of city meetings and possibly live streaming them. Atty Moran added that police salaries can now be fully reimbursed, after a change in the rules.

- C) Councilman Scott updated council on the old white schoolhouse project: two good articles were printed in newspaper/ lots of local and far away interest in donating to this project/ one local family was offering to finance the entire project IF the committee would continue accepting donations into an account for future upkeep and repairs. Bids are being acquired to do some of the work. The committee would like the city to be the “driver” of this project: to collect all the donations and pay out the expenses.

Much discussion: should the city be managing this project and managing the donation money coming in? Mayor Fredrickson was very much against this. Why not the County Historical Society or the County Fair Association? Committee approach them to see if they will take on this project. Councilman Scott, Admin. Collins, Atty Moran contact the County Fair Assn to gauge their interest in this.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

***** Public comment period on the Preliminary 2021 Levy and Budget *****

- A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Hintz, to adopt **Resolution No. 2020M**, thereby approving the maximum 2021 preliminary net tax levy of \$1,134,757 (+ 1.39%). Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to adopt **Resolution No. 2020M**, thereby approving the maximum 2021 preliminary total budget of \$3,473,015 (+ 0.527%). Approved unanimously.
- C) Mayor Fredrickson announced the final budget “public comment meeting” for Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm.
- D) Mayor Fredrickson announced the “call or mail comments to” address, phone, whom.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Weiers, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:00 PM.

Chris L. Collins, Administrator