

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 - 7:00 PM**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Absent: N. Hintz

Staff: C. Collins, C. Roemhildt, B. Pfarr, B. Vikla, C. Block, Dorothy D., Atty Moran

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott, Minutes from July 13, 2021 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, Notes from July 29, 2021 Budget Workshop Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

C) Council changes to Agenda: No changes.

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

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Motion by Harmeyer, 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 reported: all Covid loans are sent out and being paid off. No other EDA business to report.

B) P & Z Report

Director Block reported: Quonset building at county being dismantled and removed. No other P & Z business to report.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Becky Vikla gave the July report: Sales were \$105,968: up \$2,800 from June; and up \$4,000 from July 2020. YTD Rev. up by \$60,146 & YTD Exp. down by \$9,290. July GP margin = 36.28%. Food GP = 36.1%. No leads on the 3<sup>rd</sup> F.T. bartender/ no applicants applied. Come Sept.- they are going to be short of help, losing some P.T.'ers then. Mayor: we may have to consider cutting back on open hours.

## D) Police Department

Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of July: 154 calls @ 3,119 miles patrolled/ total calls down 4%, total miles up 8% for the year. Pfarr reported: vehicle thefts; people leaving keys in the cars. (4) applicants to fill (3) P.T. officer positions.

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

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Water- fixed watermain break on No. Montgomery Ave./ moving fire hydrant off private property/ Aug. 17 digging into city hall parking lot looking for two old, abandoned wells/ discovered shallow abandoned well on W. Minnesota Street property they will have to cap it. Water recently used: 466,000 gals. most used this summer; average daily is 250,000 gal. Will consider Not flushing hydrants this fall to save 1M gal. of water.
- Storm sewer- will lower the manhole inlet near the water-tower and add a berm to try to stop the rain water from flowing into neighboring backyards.
- Parks- are winding down. Got a price on fence replacement at North Park.
- Streets- blacktop coming to the last two streets on the project and shop area.

## F) Pool – Dorothy D.

Final revenues collected will be approx. \$33,354 – down from past years. Lessons done on Friday that week and last day open will be Wed. Aug. 18 at 4:30 pm.

## G) Fair Assn. – Nancy Stauff

Ms. Stauff reported on the upcoming 2021 County Fair August 19, 20, 21, 22: No carnival this year- just couldn't get anyone. Will be some new, other activities being planned. Request to use the baseball right field for the Ney Center archery demonstration again this year? (Yes) They don't like the new county archery set. Old white schoolhouse will be restored, but after the fair is over. Historical Society got a grant to cover it. No mask requirements at this time from the state.

## H) Bolton &amp; Menk Engineering

- 1) Engineer Adam Jacobs reported on 2020 St. Project: Paving that week on North Park Ave. and Sixth Street. A discovered rolled gasket on sewer pipe will be dug up and repaired in Sept. Black dirt, grass seeding work will get done this fall. Addressed the Central Health Care sidewalk issue on the north side; the gap between the new city sidewalk and the carriage sidewalk out from the building.

**V. PUBLIC FORUM**

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

Dori Mutch, Central Health Care Administrator, was present to address the council concerning the C.H.C. status during the pandemic. She gave a detailed update of the facility during Covid: they are Covid-free at the facility/ 40 bed facility with census of approx. 25 holding steady/ LC residents get first chance at residency/ they have a very dedicated staff but are struggling with staffing numbers/ generated \$3.3M of business in 2020 including \$1.3M in local payroll/ they shop all the businesses in Le Center/ the building is up for sale, with two interested buyers/ offer P.T. and Speech therapy available weekly/ they provide “hospice” services really well/ they are the only V.A. “approved” facility in L.S. County; would welcome more veterans into the facility/ visitors are always welcome! The community should be proud of this facility! Council thanked Ms. Mutch for the insightful presentation.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Attorney Moran again briefly explained the MetroNet Franchise Agreement and letter contract agreement considered as **Ordinance No. 2021-3**. Public Hearing held earlier that evening. Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-3, thereby approving the franchise agreement with MetroNet, contingent upon MetroNet adding the Le Center Ambulance building to the agreement. Approved unanimously. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve the Letter Contract Agreement with MetroNet, contingent upon MetroNet adding the Le Center Ambulance building to the agreement. Approved unanimously.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Administrator Collins briefly explained the “work-in-progress” budget document proposed for the 2022 year. Barring any council requests, this will be the document to be considered at the September council meeting as Preliminary Budget.

## 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. 8:02 pm.

Chris L. Collins, Administrator