

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 - 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. Vikla, C. Block, Atty Moran

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, Minutes from August 10, 2021
Public Hearing (MetroNet) be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from August 10, 2021
Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

C) Council changes to Agenda: ADD: ADMIN. 1) Approve 3.2% beer license and
2) Approve Oct. 30 Halloween 5K Fun Run

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 reported: No EDA business to report.

B) P & Z Report

Director Block reported: Sept. 28 P & Z training at Waterville/ No other business.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Becky Vikla gave the August report: Sales were \$98,159: down \$7,000 from July; and down \$2,000 from August 2020. YTD Rev. up by \$65,400 & YTD Exp. down by \$8,550. August GP margin = 35.47%. Food GP = 33.32%. August- bar bingo a hit.

1) Ms. Vikla and Administrator Collins presented a hiring recommendation for the 3rd F.T. bartender position. The committee met and interviewed two applicants for the position; and is recommending Linda Moravec for the position. She has been working P.T. at the Muni for 4 months and has been a big help to staff filling short shifts. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Weiers, to hire Linda Moravec at \$15.00 per hour starting with 6 month performance review. Approved unanimously.

D) Police Department

Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of August: 158 calls @ 3,087 miles patrolled/ total calls down 3%, total miles up 1% for the year. Pfarr reported: struggling to find applicants to fill P.T. officer positions. Chief Pfarr read his letter of resignation as police chief as of 12/31/21 after 33 years of service on the Le Center Police Dept.

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

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Water- found one old, abandoned city 340 ft. well in back parking lot; city must properly seal this well. Hydrant flushing- flushed only dead ends and the 2020 Street Project hydrants. Moved a hydrant off of private property. Finding acidic soils are eating away some of our own pipes in Horizon Add.
- Storm sewer- did lower the manhole inlet near the water-tower and did add a berm to try to stop the rain water from flowing into neighboring backyards. Finding lots of un-flushable materials in the So. Cordova Ave. lift station.
- Parks- all ready for football to be played at West Park & South Park fields.
- Refuse- still really high amounts coming in. +9 tons for year.

F) Pool – Dorothy D.

Administrator Collins read the final pool report from Mgr. Dinwiddie email.

G) Fair Assn. – Nancy Stauff

Ms. Stauff reported on the 2021 County Fair held August 19, 20, 21, 22: Good crowds for all 4 days/ Friday Demo Derby cancelled due to rain, held Sunday aft. Tent cover allowed band to play Fri. night/ Sat. tractor pull was packed/ Sunday ranch rodeo, derby, and classic car show well attended. Over-all = good crowds! Working on a carnival for next year and/or inflatables + pony rides will be back.

H) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) Engineer Adam Jacobs reported on 2020 St. Project: black dirt backfilled and grass seeding the blvds trying to get them all covered before winter comes. Brett Mason property: Adam is asking to wait until the project is done with the wear-course blacktop and the water in that area should do what it is supposed to do. Bolton & Menk added an additional inlet & under-drain into the blvd that will run it back to the storm drain. He asked to wait until next summer to see how it is working then; we can always cut in a storm sewer into the curb line to take some of the water away. Adam has met and discussed and relayed this information to the property owner. Mayor Fredrickson stressed: we do not want to do a new street project that results in city putting water from the street onto private property. Supt. Roemhildt added we have the same type problem at LuAnn Leach property. Hopefully, the wear-course blacktop will resolve the issue there too.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Jayne Overstreet of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) addressed the council. She reported on what they do/ how they do it- in the 20 county area of Southern Minnesota. Note: Paint the Town grants for free paint.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Relay For Life celebration: Sat. Sept. 25 at 6:00 pm= Mayor Fredrickson asked for a city councilor to be present to give the city welcome; as he is unavailable.
- B) Mayor explained the letter sent to Sen Draheim that he signed along with other area mayors opposing housing legislation that Mr. Draheim is sponsoring, but which is bad for us smaller communities. We are still waiting for a reply from Sen. Draheim.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

***** Public Comment period on the Preliminary 2022 Levy and Budget *****

- A) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt **Resolution No. 2021G**, thereby approving the maximum 2022 preliminary net tax levy of \$1,157,255 (+ 1.9826%). Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt **Resolution No. 2021G**, thereby approving the maximum 2022 preliminary total budget of \$3,611,689 (+ 3.992%). Approved unanimously.
- C) Mayor Fredrickson announced the final budget “public comment meeting” for Tuesday, December 14 @ 7:00 pm.
- D) Mayor Fredrickson announced the “call or mail comments to” address, phone, whom.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott, to approve the 3.2% beer license for St. Paul’s Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 10 on church grounds. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve event permit for Halloween 5K Fun Run & Kids Run on city streets held on Sat. October 30. Approved unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:07 pm.