

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Absent: None

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Harmeyer, Minutes from September 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz, Minutes from September 28, 2021 Special Meeting (police chief) be approved. Approved unanimously.

C) Council changes to Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Harmeyer, 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: Thursday, Nov. 4 meeting for conditional use permit request: (billboard on Hwy 99)

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Becky Vikla gave the September report: Sales were \$96,662: down \$1,500 from August; but up \$8,000 from Sept. 2020. YTD Rev. up by \$80,283 & YTD Exp. down by \$21,734. Sept. GP margin = 27.39%. Food GP = 35.63%. Fully staffed for the most-part. Sept.- bar bingo, meat raffle, football specials.

D) Police Department

Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of September: 119 calls @ 3,161 miles patrolled/ total calls down 6%, total miles -% for the year. Pfarr reported: October is getting busy. New chief background check = St. Peter said No. Check with Belle Plaine or New Prague. Reminder: get winter parking ordinance distributed out.

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

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- Water- well pump leak behind city hall is fixed.
- Wastewater- will be hauling bio-solids out onto the field this week.
- Sewer- lift station on South Cordova Ave. was plugged up again. Jetting and televising sanitary sewers east of Cordova Ave.
- Misc.- leaves are accepted at compost site now/ trees & branches go out to West Park.

F) Pool

Mayor Fredrickson read & explained the Final Pool Report for 2021 season. Final report shows a loss of (\$26,144.86).

G) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) Engineer Adam Jacobs reported on 2020 St. Project: contractor finished with the spot repairs on sanitary sewers on No. Park Ave./ finishing with raising manholes. Council generally agreed the project was looking good on the north end of town.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Fredrickson asked for public comments on the 2022 Prelim. Levy of \$1,157,255 (+ 1.982%) or 2022 Prelim. Total Budget of \$3,611,689 (+ 3.99%) = No comments.

The Le Sueur County Election Integrity group addressed the council and public with comments, concerns, and questions on the voting process, including:

- 1) Voter I.D. process.
- 2) Extended voting process.
- 3) Secure voting machines.
- 4) Mail-in ballots.
- 5) Use absentee ballots vs. mail-in ballots.

Election Administrator Collins answered several of their concerns.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A) Police Chief hiring update: Admin. Collins gave a brief update on the process.

- 1) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to set a Special Meeting for Monday, November 8 at 6:00 pm to select applicant and make offer. Approved unanimously.

B) Mayor Fredrickson announced the final budget “Public Comment Meeting” for Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm at city hall.

C) Mayor Fredrickson announced the “call or mail comments to” address, phone, whom.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott, to approve special event permit for October 30 Trunk or Treat candy give-away on Sharon St. & Waterville Ave. Approved unanimously.
- B) County Fairgrounds music noise complaint: Admin. Collins explained the order of events to where we are today. Several late-night celebrations with loud music are happening in a county owned building at the fairgrounds and several of the neighbors are unhappy. City police have been called to the scene several times to try to quiet the loud music; sometimes only for awhile. This issue started before the Fair = 4 events so far.

Discussion and comments from Mayor, Police Chief Pfarr, County Fair Board reps, Atty Moran, several attendees, and a resident complainant who lives near Hwy 99. Neighbor Leo Schmitz stated they are simply asking for respect for the neighborhood. Several things were discussed to try to find a compromise:

- * Look at limiting the time allowed = only until 11:00 pm? vs. the Fair 12:00 pm?
- * Look at maybe establishing a maximum decibel level?
- * Some rules need to be put in place to ensure compliance with the noise ordinance and for the peace of the neighbors.
- * The next celebration is next June, so there is time to work out a compromise between the different parties involved. No one would like to see the celebrations come to an end without trying to find a real solution for the neighborhood.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Fredrickson read the October 15 Proclamation for Infants Remembered in Silence; recognizing National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Weiers, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 8:06 pm.

Chris L. Collins, Administrator