

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 - 7:00 PM**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Absent: None

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, Minutes from December 9, 2021 Final Assessment Hearing be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Hintz, Minutes from December 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting 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: brief report on EDA Covid loans status. Mayor stated looking at a March meeting.

B) P & Z Report

Director Block reported: some minor inquiries on land uses; not residential. Stated city needs more residential lots.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

Manager Becky Vikla gave the December report: Sales were \$105,367: up \$10,800 from Nov.- and up \$7,000 from Dec. 2020. YTD Rev. up by \$83,314 & YTD Exp. up by \$37,000. Dec. GP margin = 29.77%. Food GP = 23.0%. Jan.- Bargo, Trivia, Craft Night, Meat Raffle, Dart Tourney, Live Band. Announced Muni hit \$1M in total sales again in 2021. Bar is fully staffed.

D) Police Department

Mayor presented former Police Chief Bob Pfarr his retirement plaque, With Thanks!

- 1) Mayor Swore In and Oath of Office to new Police Chief Derek Carlsrud.
- 2) Chief Carlsrud reported on the police activities for month of December: 117 calls @ 2,812 miles patrolled/ total calls down 6%, total miles down 3% for the year. Chief Carlsrud gave the year-end report.
- 3) Police Officer hiring committee recommendation for Orlando Hernandez for open F/T police officer position. Interviewed three applicants; he is the best candidate. Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz, to accept hiring committee recommendation: and approve Orlando Hernandez as F.T. police officer. Approved unanimously.
- 4) Mayor Swore In and Oath of Office to new Police Officer Orlando Hernandez.

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

Public Works Supt. Curt Roemhildt reported:

- SEE: Gave year-end report regarding the Parks, Streets, Refuse, Water, Sewer
- Skating Rink- is open and going well.

F) Pool

Councilman Scott of Pool Committee requested permission for Mgr. Dinwiddie to purchase our own popcorn machine for the pool; instead of renting one each year. Money from the Sportsman's Club donation would be used. Council approved.

G) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) Engineer Adam Jacobs reported on 2020 St. Project: (none) Reported L.S. County at the old jail property will want to tie in a storm sewer into the city storm sewer line.

**V. PUBLIC FORUM**

LuAnn Leach @ 585 No. Waterville Ave. asked for a response to her letter contesting her assessment amount on the 2020 Street Project. Atty Moran stated those response letters would be going out the end of that week or early the next week.

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

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve Daniel E. Evans as the next F.T. city administrator with a base salary of \$75,000 and starting date of Feb. 28, 2022 and upon completion of one year service an additional increase of \$5,000 shall be added to this salary. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Harmeyer, to Yes waive the WAC & SAC fee's (\$2,500) for new residential and commercial construction in 2022. Approved unanimously.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Weiers, to approve the 2022 Mayoral Appointments list as written. Approved unanimously.
- B) Residents Bob Emmers @ 288 W. Minnesota St. & Dave Blaschko @ 365 W. Tyrone St. were present to request they both would like to put up a new garage in their back yards. They would like access to their back yards thru the side-street entryway off Maple Ave. The big question is: Is that entryway an Alley, Utility Easement, or Private Property? Administrator Collins referenced the different maps distributed out to council. Each of the maps seem to show something different. L.S. County Beacon shows it as private property. Old city plat book shows it as a 15 ft. utility easement somewhat. Le Center city zoning map shows it as an alleyway. Bolton & Menk sanitary sewer system map shows it as more of a utility easement. This is the problem city staff was having in an attempt to give the residents a correct answer. After much discussion from city council, city attorney, and residents: Attorney Moran suggested he could examine these two resident's property title/ abstracts to study if they gave an answer. Both residents stated they would get Atty Moran that information. No other action taken.

**VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.**

- A) Mayor Fredrickson announced the next L.S. County Officials meeting for Wednesday, January 26 at 6:30 pm in Waterville at El Molino's Restaurant.
- B) Administrator Collins explained the Minnesota Valley Council of Governments meeting schedule and a brief: who they are/ what they do/ we are a paid member.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Chris L. Collins, Administrator