

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor J. Fredrickson, Council Members J. Weiers, N. Hintz, C. Harmeyer, C. Scott
Absent: None
Staff: Deputy Clerk D. Kopet, Public Works Operator D. Steinborn, Police Chief D. Carlsrud,
Liquor Manager B. Vikla, Building Official C. Block

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, Minutes from March 8, 2022
Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

B) Council changes to Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Weiers,
to pay the bills listed and due. Approved unanimously.

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

A) E.D.A. Report
Mayor indicated the EDA will plan to meet this summer.

B) P & Z Report
Director Block indicated a potential rezone for the 4 vacant city lots on the south side of
Commerce Drive. Block stated this would likely be done if a plat was approved by the city and
homes were going to be constructed. Block informed the council that an application for a
zoning ordinance change for fences might be in the works.

C) Municipal Liquor Store
Manager Becky Vikla stated that March sales were \$82,758, March sales in 2021 were \$90,530.
Bar sales were up \$3,344 however off-sale was down \$11,116. Gross Profit Margin was 44
percent and 36 percent on food. YTD revenues were up \$10,425 and YTD expenses were down
\$4,777. Events that took place were St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Pfeiffer, trivia, bargo and a
meat raffle. April 23rd will be customer appreciation day with two bands: Shenanigans and
Sohmer. Coming up in May there will be a thrift store prom night event.

D) Police Department

Chief Derek Carlsrud reported on the police activities for month of March: 157 calls @ 2764 miles patrolled, total calls up 25%, total miles down 6% for the year.

Chief Carlsrud reported that he had two part-time openings and only one applicant applied for the position. Carlsrud indicated that he would be backgrounding the applicant that applied. Carlsrud attended the Chiefs Conference and spoke with several Police Chiefs about starting part-time wages for similar sized communities. Carlsrud said that \$20.00 and above was the average hourly rate. It was discussed that increasing the part-time hourly rate might attract more police applicants but it's a national issue getting people to become a peace officer. Officer Hernandez attended a three-day DWI course. Use of force policy is updated and approved. New radios arrived but no batteries were shipped with them, they are in short supply. Carlsrud discussed a potential new program called "Lights on Program." This would give vouchers in lieu of citations to drivers that get pulled over for a headlight/taillight out. Local repair shops could opt in and be a part of this program. The Mayor requested that a 2nd Officer be scheduled to work on June 25th the evening of the 125th fire dept. celebration.

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

Public Works Operator Dan Steinborn reported:

- Streets- Potholes are being filled and sweeping is ongoing. The sweeper will be displayed at the vehicle fair next week.
- Parks- The week of April 18th the fence will be installed at the North Park. Preparing the ball fields for spring sports. Bathrooms have not been open yet because of the colder weather.
- No report and water, wastewater, or refuse

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering

- 1) Engineer Adam Jacobs- Not Present, no report

V. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Darian Hunt with House of Insurance presented the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust information for 2022. There has been a decrease in property and casualty premiums overall and an appraisal of city assets is scheduled for some time this year. Workers Compensation has an increase in premiums mostly because of rate increases on public works and police personnel. Equipment breakdown coverage was explained and if there is any mechanical failure to the water and wastewater plant, city

staff should let Darin know to see if a claim should be submitted to the League. Motion by Harmeyer, seconded by Scott, to waive the Statutory Limits for municipal coverage. Approved unanimously. New item that was added was \$250k worth of cyber liability coverage at no additional cost. 2021 dividend check was \$18,458 simply because there were not as many claims.

- B) Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott, to approve the Amended Labor Agreement between the City and Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees' Union Local No. 320. Approved unanimously.
- C) Mayor Fredrickson explained that Metronet has been communicating with the city and would no longer be providing video services. These services are no longer cost effective according to Metronet representatives.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Mayor Fredrickson set a committee to set water and sewer rates for the coming years. The city's auditing firm "ABDO" has recommended the city look at increase rates to keep the funds operating. The committee will then make a recommendation to the council at a later date on what action should take place. Committee members will be Staff: C. Roemhildt, D. Evans, and P. Kaderlik, Council Members C. Harmeyer, C. Scott.

B) Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott, to adopt **Resolution No. 2022D**, Appointing Election Judges for the Congressional District 1 Special Primary Election on May 24, 2022. Approved unanimously.

C) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer, to adopt **Resolution No. 2022E** Approving the Le Sueur County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Approve unanimously.

D) A Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott, to approve the 2022 Liquor & Beer License Renewals. Approved unanimously.

E) The City will go ahead with the city-wide cleanup day and plan for a date in June. At the May council meeting the city will adjust prices for this service if needed, based on the hauler rates.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

A) Mayor Fredrickson announced the next L.S. County Officials meeting for Wednesday, April 27th at 6:30 pm at the Revival on Main, in Montgomery. There will be a speaker from Region 9 on what this organization can provided for services.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 7:40 pm.