

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022 – 7:00 PM
10 W. TYRONE ST. LE CENTER, MN 56057**

*** MINUTES ***

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor J. Fredrickson, Council Members J. Weiers, N. Hintz, C. Harmeyer, C. Scott
Absent: None
Staff: City Administrator D. Evans, Public Works Superintendent C. Roemhildt, Police Chief D. Carlsrud, Liquor Manager B. Vikla, Building Official C. Block, City Attorney J. Moran

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Harmeyer to approve the Minutes from July 12, 2022, Regular Council Meeting. Approved unanimously.
- B) Council changes to Agenda: None

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 - Evans indicated that he received the four (4) Horizon Addition lot appraisals, and the EDA has called a special meeting for August 17, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. to review and determine the next steps. Evans has gathered all related expenses for city owned 200 East Blower St. property so the EDA can recommend a new lease agreement to the city council.
- B) P & Z Report - Director Block indicated there will be a public hearing on September 6, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. for a variance request. Block stated that there is still one vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the city will post on the website that there is an opening.
- C) Liquor Store Report - Manager Becky Vikla stated that July 2022 sales were \$104,875. July sales in 2021 were \$99,474. Bar sales were up \$1,686 from 2021 and off sale was up \$3,714 from 2021. Gross Profit Margin was 36 percent and 39 percent on food. YTD revenues were up \$7,157 and YTD expenses were up \$22,951. July Recap: Relay for Life, Softball and Baseball Orders. August: LE Sueur Co. Fair.

- D) Police Report - Chief Derek Carlsrud reported on the police activities for month of July: 174 calls @ 2887 miles patrolled. Three (3) arrests (1 criminal, 2 warrants). Carlsrud indicated that he got some good and bad feedback from addressing the golfcart complaints on Facebook. Carlsrud said he received complaints of fast driving vehicles on West Sharon from Maple Ave to the softball fields. Police provided extra patrol in this area but did not observe any speeding violations. Fair grounds had one loud party last month but turned the music down when asked by an Officer. New part-time officer started on July 30th with two open spots remaining on the roster. First draft of the new noise ordinance will be ready at the September meeting.
- E) Public Works Report - Public Works Superintendent Roemhildt reported the following:
- Rolling Hills was successfully milled and overlaid, that project is now complete.
 - Le Sueur Co. will shut down CSAH 11 (Cordova Ave) between Sharon and Minnesota to do a patch job on the road surface that is in rough shape.
 - AT&T will start with the anchoring of the base plate of the water tower and will begin working on there antenna project upgrade.
 - City Staff meet with Metronet last week and will begin working underground in the Rolling Hills area boring fiber.
- F) Pool Report – Pool Manager Dorothy was not present. Evans provide the monthly report with no questions. Evans indicated the last day will be the Wednesday before the Co. Fair.
- G) Fair Association - Board Member Nancy Stauff indicated they received a grant and used the funds to pour a new section of cement in the fair grounds. Stauff said things are coming together and it's starting to look like a fair. Stauff noted that there is an emergency plan in place if there would be dangerous weather. Friday headliner is Blue Ringers and Saturday is Smoke Screen. There will be a carnival this year and the Fair Board has been working on getting one for the last three years. They hope they can keep a carnival in the coming years.
- H) Bolton & Menk – Engineer Adam Jacobs advised the council that it will take a few months to get the finalized paperwork from the contractor, so the city can close out the 2020 street project. Last month it was asked what the warranty period was for the work being done on Park Ave by Le Sueur Co. There is one (1) year warranty for the project. Warranty for the 2020 street project is two (2) years and will begin when the contractor finalizes the project. Jacobs noted that on future projects the warranty period will start at substantial completion. Concrete issues will be addressed in 2023, residents are encouraged to contact city hall if they see concrete or other issues as it relates to the 2020 street project.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Carolyn Mager at 375 North Park Ave. spoke to show her support for the Le Center Police Department (LCPD). Mager indicated that she feels safe within the community in part to do with the quick response time from the LCPD. Mager stated that part-time LCPD officers are one of the lowest paid in the area. Mager stated that the part-time officers need to feel appreciated and deserve a fair wage. Mager would conclude by asking the council to consider raises the part-time hourly wage from \$18 to \$24.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) The Minnesota Legislature recently passed a law that permits the sale of edible cannabinoid products. The Sale of THC products became legal on July 1, 2022. Evans along with Attorney Moran and Chief Carlsrud strongly encouraged the council to pass a one (1) year moratorium to give the city time to look at potential licensing, rules and regulations surrounding the sale of THC products. This moratorium does not require a public hearing. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott to approve Ordinance 2022-1 an ordinance providing a moratorium on the sale of hemp derived THC food and beverages in the city of Le Center, Le Sueur County, Minnesota. Approved unanimously.
- B) Pat Kaderlik Chief Operator provided the council with a memorandum to approve Le Sueur Co. Environmental Services to move forward with the state grant application to seal the abandoned 1925 East Well. The grant is a 75% match and with total estimates for sealing the well at \$40,000, it puts the city liable for \$10,000. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott to proceed. Approved unanimously.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Reminder of the Budget Workshop Meeting on August 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Harmeyer, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 7:43 p.m.

Dan Evans, Administrator