

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 – 7:00 PM  
10 W. TYRONE ST. LE CENTER, MN 56057**

**\* MINUTES \***

**1. 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, Engineer A. Jacobs, Attorney J. Moran

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Hintz to approve the agenda as distributed. Approved unanimously.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer to approve the consent agenda items list below. Approved unanimously

- A) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on November 15, 2022
- B) Approval of Bills to be Paid
- C) Approval of Resolution No. 2022S, Designating City Polling Place for 2023 Elections

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A) Mayor Fredrickson called the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing to order for the final 2023 tax levy and total general fund budget. No one from the audience spoke on the matter and Evans advised that he did not receive any written communication from the public, prior to tonight's hearing.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Catherine Schmidt @ 10 W Spors Street addressed the council on her concerns with the pitting of the new sidewalk as part of the recently completed 2020 street project. Evans advised that those concerns will be address in the spring by engineer Adam Jacobs if warranty work needs to be completed.

Carolyn Mager @ 375 N Park Ave addressed the council on her concerns with the restoration aspects of the recently completed 2020 street project. Evans advised that nothing would be looked at until the spring to see if any additional overseeding/grading was needed.

## 7. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & DEPARTMENTS

- A) E.D.A. Report – Evans, No Report
- B) P & Z Report - Director Block, indicated there was a total of five (5) new home permits issued in 2022.
- C) Liquor Store Report - Manager Becky Vikla stated that November 2022 sales were \$90,822.68. November sales in 2021 were \$87,573.83. Bar sales were up \$3,248.85 from 2021. YTD sales \$1,115,773.93. YTD expenses \$1,028,647. Hard inventory count was completed by staff. November recap: Pfeiffer tournament, meat raffle and DJ. December: Potluck, meat raffle and a band. Staff will participate in “adopt a senior” and collect items/presents for the elderly and delivering them to the Carriage House, Horizon Place and the nursing home.
- D) Police Report - Chief Derek Carlsrud reported on the police activities for month of November: 131 calls @ 2581 miles patrolled. Three (3) arrest, 1 warrant, 1 criminal and 1 traffic related. Carlsrud indicated the new squad car was picked up and delivered to Northern Safety to get equipment installed. Worked was preformed on the 2016 squad. Three (3) Officers will be going to AVAS (Active Violent Active Shooter) training in Le Sueur. Two (2) Officers participated with shop with a cop event at the Le Sueur County Justice Center. Carlsrud is currently backgrounding a 7<sup>th</sup> part-time Officer to be fully staffed.
- E) Public Works Report - Public Works Superintendent Roemhildt reported the following
- One snow/ice event so far.
  - Skating rink will be open by Christmas if the weather cooperates.
  - Roemhildt provided an estimate for a company to chip/remove all brush at our compost site for \$6,000. It was generally agreed upon that this was a good idea and would continue to have the service done every fall. Having the chips removed, rather than burned on-site would be better for the environment and the city would eliminate smoke related complaints.
- F) Bolton & Menk – City Engineer Adam Jacobs provided the council with the 14<sup>th</sup> and final Contractor’s Estimate from Holtmeier Const. for the 2020 Street Project in the amount of \$37,689.74. This will start the two (2) year warranty window and release all retainage on the project. Jacobs noted all the complaints on the project have been noted in the file and will be addressed in the spring. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott, to approve the 14<sup>th</sup> and final contractors estimate. Approved unanimously.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

None

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- A) 2023 levy was set at \$1,289,578 a 11.43% increase from 2022, with the final general fund budget set at \$1,890,250. Both figures were discussed at the preliminary levy meeting in September and have remined unchanged. Evans indicated that the tax rate would be lower

for 2023 at 65.69% and in 2022 it was 68.52%. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Weiers to approve Resolution No. 2022T accepting the 2023 final property tax levy and general fund budget. Approved unanimously.

B) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Hintz to approve the hiring committee's recommendation to offer a full-time Police Officer position to Alex Klobe. Approved unanimously.

C) Mayor Fredrickson administered the Official Oath of Office to Police Officer Alex Klobe.

## **10. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.**

A) Mayor Fredrickson gave a reminder for the Special Meeting to Conduct Interviews for the Public Works Superintendent Position on December 14, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

B) Holiday sweater contest winner was Mayor Fredrickson.

C) Mayor Fredrickson addressed the staff and council with a speech, thanking them for their dedication to the City of Le Center. Mayor Fredrickson has served a total of 14 years, with four (4) years as a council member and 10 years as mayor. His service to this community is honorable and he will be missed.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business; Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Dan Evans, Administrator