

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 – 7:00 PM
10 W. TYRONE ST. LE CENTER, MN 56057**

*** MINUTES ***

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Christian Harmeyer, Council Members Jennifer Weiers, Dan Steffen, Collin Scott

Absent: None

Staff: City Administrator Dan Evans, Public Works Superintendent Curt Roemhildt, Police Chief Derek Carlsrud, Liquor Manager Becky Vikla, Building Official Corey Block

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OATH OF OFFICE

Evans administered the Official Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Christian Harmeyer, Council Member Jennifer Weiers, Council Member Dan Steffen.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott to approve the agenda as distributed. Approved unanimously.

5. 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 December 13, 2022

B) Approval of Minutes from the Special Council Meeting held on December 14, 2022

C) Approval of Bills to be Paid

D) Approval of Resolution No. 2022A, Accepting a Donation from the Le Center Fire Relief Association

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

A) E.D.A. Report – Evans, No Report

B) P & Z Report - Director Block, indicated a potential CUP might be in the works for a nitrogen tank.

- C) Liquor Store Report - Manager Becky Vikla stated that December 2022 sales were \$106,894. December sales in 2021 were \$98,961. Bar sales were up \$7,932 from 2021. December recap: Pfeiffer tournament, meat raffle, two bands. Staff delivered over 55 gifts to Horizon Place, Carriage House, and Central Health Nursing Home. January: Potluck, band and DJ scheduled for Saturday 21, 2023, Pfeiffer tournament.
- D) Police Report - Chief Derek Carlsrud reported on the police activities for the month of December: 187 calls @ 3050 miles patrolled. One (1) criminal arrest. Carlsrud indicated that the amount of traffics stops doubled on average this month, as a new Officer has started and getting familiar with conducting traffic stops. Carlsrud indicated the new 2022 squad car was completed. The 2016 squad will go to the Emergency Management Department. The full-time Police Office position closes in a few days with only one application submitted thus far. Currently backgrounding a part-time Officer to be fully staffed. Carlsrud said he has transitioned to the new schedule and the Officers are adjusting. Carlsrud stated that he was unable to present his annual report tonight because LETG records system was down for about 10 days, and he is having issues getting the correct reports.
- E) Public Works Report - Public Works Superintendent Roemhildt reported the following
- Watermain break at 45 North Park Ave after excavation it was determined it was a private service line.
 - Roemhildt indicated the annual refuse and recycling for 2022 was calculated. Cardboard was 54 tons, 19 tons less than 2021. Co-mingle was 127 tons, 10 tons more than 2021. Garbage was 427 tons, 7 tons less than in 2021. 330 cubic yards of leaves were hauled to Mankato for processing. The brush pile was chipped up and will be haul away in the coming weeks.
 - Several snow events have happened this winter.
 - Snow piles have been pushed back at the fairgrounds, in order to make room for future snow accumulations.
 - Hockey rink is still not open because the challenges with the weather. The figure skating part is open.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Evans indicated that in the coming weeks he will receive a draft of potential utility rate structures from ABDO Financial Solutions who is conducting our city utility rate study. Evans said there will be a presentation from ABDO at the regularly scheduled February council meeting.
- B) Hiring committee was set for the full-time Police Officer Position, consisting of Harmeyer, Steffen, Carlsrud and Evans.
- C) Hiring committee was set for the full-time Public Works Maintenance Worker Position, consisting of Steinborn, Harmeyer, Weiers and Evans.
- D) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott, to approve the General Maintenance Worker Job Description as provided. Approved unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Steffen, to approve Resolution 2022B declaring a council member seat vacancy. Approved unanimously.

- B) Evans indicated that per Minnesota State Statute, the council can appoint a citizen of the community to the vacant seat and the council does not need to call for a special election. Evans provided two known options to him on filling the vacant seat. Option one, is to have a simple application process and those applications can be viewed and discussed by the council. Option two, the vacant seat can be offered to the next highest vote getter of the 2022 local elections. Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Steffen, to select the application process to fill the vacant seat. All submitted applications will be distributed to the council at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

- C) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott, to approve Resolution 2023C annual appointments and designations with the following amendments to appendix A: Steffen to be council liaison in the Planning and Zoning Commission and Weiers to be council liaison in the Economic Development Authority. Approved unanimously.

- D) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Steffen, to reinstate the WAC and SAC fees for new residential and commercial construction, a total of \$2500. Approved unanimously.

10. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Harmeyer reminded the council of the 2023 elected leaders institute program to take place on February 10th and 11th.

- B) Mayor Harmeyer stated the MN Valley Council of Government general assembly was scheduled for January 18th at 4:30 p.m.

- C) Mayor Harmeyer stated the Le Sueur Co. Officials Association Meeting was scheduled for January 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion in Le Center.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Weiers, for Mayor Harmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Dan Evans, Administrator