

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 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 Present: City Administrator Dan Evans, Public Works Superintendent Dan Steinborn, Police Chief Derek Carlsrud, Liquor Manager Becky Vikla

Others Present: City Attorney Jason Moran

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Scott, seconded by Weiers to add to New Business (D) Amend Resolution No. 2023C Titled Annual Appointments and Designations to add Travis Christensen to the Planning and Zoning Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Weiers, seconded by Scott to approve the consent agenda items list below. All in favor, motion carried.

A) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 14, 2023

B) Approval of Bills to be Paid

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. PRESENTATIONS

A) Final Utility Rate Study Presentation by Victoria Holthaus, on behalf of ABDO Financial Solutions. Holthaus presented the water rate assumptions for the next five years, starting in 2023 the rate would increase 2% to 35% percent. This vast range is because the rate structure is now tiered as required by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Anticipated increases for water rates would be 5% to 2% per year thru 2027. Sewer rate assumptions for the next five years, starting in 2023 the rate would increase to 14% with anticipated increases from 11% to 7% per year thru 2027. These increases are needed to achieve target cash balance in both the water and sewer fund. Holthaus indicated that the city should always be thinking about increasing rates 3% to 5% percent every year, just to keep up with inflation. Evans indicated that a future fee schedule with these rates will likely

be proposed at the next council meeting. ABDO will assist the city in the implementation of these rates/structures into our utility billing system.

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

- A) E.D.A. Report – Evans, no report.
- B) P & Z Report - Director Block, was not present, Evans indicated the Winco Inc. applied for a conditional use permit for an exterior liquid nitrogen tank. Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on April 4 at 7 p.m. on the matter.
- C) Liquor Store Report - Manager Becky Vikla stated that February 2023 sales were \$86,115. February sales in 2022 were \$77,028. Sales were up \$9,087 from 2022. Becky stated that two for one's are now only done once a week instead of four times a week, which has shown a savings in product. February recap: Music by Mike David and the Angels, then live music by Shenanigans. March: St. Patrick's Day festivities were a success. Live music by Todd Jindra on the 17th. April 8th will be customer appreciation day with a meat raffle and live music by Crista Bohlmann and live music by Gary West. Becky is in the process of researching different point-of-sale (POS) systems that are all-in-one and will handle card process as well. Current system is from 2013 and tech support indicated they will no longer be providing updates to this system.
- D) Police Report - Chief Derek Carlsrud reported on the police activities for the month of February: 197 calls / incidents @ 3778 miles patrolled. Five (5) arrests: (3) DWI (1) Assault (1) Traffic related. Six (6) out of the seven (7) part-time positions are currently filed. Carlsrud wanted to recognize two part-time Officers, Kevin Huber for his 25 years of service and Sam Ranta for his 15 years of service. Carlsrud requested quotes for body cameras from both Axon and Motorola. Carlsrud will also be looking to add additional radios to his fleet, he made mention of some potential funding through the state to get radios.
- E) Public Works Report - Public Works Superintendent Steinborn reported the following:
- Steinborn spoke with LJP regarding our city-wide clean-up, two dates were still available. The city elected to go with June 17th from 8am to noon. A list of acceptable and unacceptable items is listed on the flyer that was provided to the council.
 - The grant for sealing up well #1 was approved. City staff and Le Sueur Co. Environmental services dept. have been working together to be awarded these funds.
 - Skating rink is closed for the season.
- F) Le Sueur Co. Commissioner update – Dave Preisler District 4 Commissioner stated that the CSAH 11 (Cordova Ave) mill and overlay project will now only be from Hwy 99 to the north side of city limits. The original scope of project was to mill and overlay to County Road 32, but there is peat under the roadway in some sections and the county will be looking to resolve those issues before overlaying the rest of the roadway. The government center will start remodel on the 20th of this month on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The city has made accommodations to allow for extended periods of parking on the roadways near the government center. The public health building is now open, and the environmental services dept. will be moving into the 3rd floor at

the government center. The highway dept. will be moving into the old environmental services building.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Four (4) applications were submitted for the vacant Council Member seat. Kelly McMillen, Nathan Hintz, Robert Pfarr and Tom Vavra. The council discussed these applications as needed.

Motion by Harmeyer, seconded by Weiers to appoint Nathan Hintz. In favor: Harmeyer and Weiers; opposed: Scott and Steffen. Motion does not carry, 2-2

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scott to appoint Robert Pfarr. In favor: Steffen and Scott; opposed: Harmeyer and Weiers. Motion does not carry, 2-2

Mayor Harmeyer then made a direct appoint of Nathan Hintz. Hintz will take the oath and be seated at the April council meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to consider hiring committee's recommendation to offer a full-time public works general maintenance worker position to Anthony Kortuem at \$27 an hour, with a \$1 raise following a six (6) month review. All in favor, motion carried.
- B) Motion by Weiers, seconded by Scott to consider hiring committee's recommendation to offer a full-time police officer position to Mitchel Toltzman at \$27.17 an hour per union contract. All in favor, motion carried.
- C) Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to approve Resolution No. 2023D A Resolution Approving a County Project within the Municipal Corporate Limits. Le Sueur Co. Highway Engineer Dave Tiegs provided this resolution with plans and specs for the CSAH 11 (Cordova Ave) mill and overlay project. All in favor, motion carried.
- D) Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scott to amend Resolution No. 2023C Titled Annual Appointments and Designations to add Travis Christensen to the Planning and Zoning Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

10. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Mayor Harmeyer reminded the council of the upcoming Le Sueur Co. Officials Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on March 22, 2023 at the American Legion in Montgomery.
- B) Scott noted a special recognition for the certificate of excellence award presented to the Le Center Volunteer Ambulance.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Weiers, for Mayor Harmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Approved unanimously.