

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 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, Nathan Hintz, Collin Scott

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Evans, Public Works Superintendent Dan Steinborn, Liquor Manager Becky Vikla

Others Present: None

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Hintz, seconded by Steffen to approve the agenda as distributed. All in favor, motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 9, 2023

B) Approval of Bills to be Paid

C) Approval of Resolution No. 2023N A Resolution Accepting a Donation to the City from the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Youth Project

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Shawn O'Malley at 256 N Cordova Ave indicated to the council that her basement flooded with a foot and a half with backed up sewer water during the rain event that happened May 13th, 2023. O'Malley provided photographs of the damage and state most of her mechanical home appliances were damaged as well as personal belonging because of the flooding. O'Malley also stated that her home flooded in the summer of 2020 with the heavy rain falls. O'Malley said they cleaned up the aftermath of the flooding themselves. O'Malley indicated she wanted the city to come up with a solution to this ongoing flooding issue.

Connie & Rich Kovarik at 200 N Cordova Ave addressed the council on their issues with the flooding as well. Kovarik's said they spent roughly \$30,000 to put backflow preventors on their private service line. Kovarik's said they were unable to use the restroom when the device is closes, due to backing up of the sewer system. Kovarik's said this is an ongoing issue and the city isn't doing anything to solve it. Kovarik's asked if the lift station in Rolling Hills was a

combination lift station (meaning both sewer and storm water flow to the lift station) It was verified by city engineer and staff that it was dye tested and determined it was not a combination lift station. Kovarik's also stated that their house shakes when large vehicles drive up and down Cordova Ave.

Eric Erickson at 256 N Cordova said large vehicles are passing on Cordova Ave and believe it is unsafe for kids and pets in the area. Erickson also said vehicles are revving engines while driving on the roadway as well.

Shannon Schaefer at 205 N Cordova indicated that she had flooding in her basement also. Schaefer said she has had the added expense to call for help when these flooding issues happen.

6. PRESENTATIONS

Kelsey a representative with ABDO Finical Solutions present the 2022 final audit report. A presentation of the audit finds was presented to the council and approved.

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

- A) E.D.A. Report – Evans indicated that the County Administrator would like to host a roundtable discussion with all the different EDA groups within the county to discuss various topics. Likely this would take place the later part of summer.
- B) P & Z Report - Director Block indicated that there will be a public hearing to discuss two applications on June 27th at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. First application is to rezone a property from RA to R1 residential. The second application is for a car dealership.
- C) Liquor Store Report - Manager Becky Vikla stated that May 2023 sales were \$103,373. May sales in 2022 were \$92,508. Sales were up \$10,864 from 2022. April gambling proceeds were \$8,875. May recap: Cinco De Mayo, Thrift Store Prom Night, Live Music, Pfeiffer Tournament. June events: Bean Bag Tournament, Live Music, Free pool, and darts evening. Vikla stated that new legislation was passed concerning e-games. E-games will now be an electronic version of a paper pull tab not to resemble a casino game. Current e-games will be able to be played until December 2024 but then will need to switch to the new format in January of 2025.
- D) Police Report – Administrator Evans reported on the police activities for the month of May. Evans indicated the transition to Interim Police Chief Same Ranta has been smooth with minimal disruption to other staff and departments.
- E) Public Works Report - Public Works Superintendent Steinborn reported the following:
 - Reminder of City-Wide Clean-up day on June 17th
 - WW Blacktopping is making street repairs on Kilkenny and Mill Ave in preparation for seal coating that's set to take place this summer.
 - Selly Excavating was contact to repair a storm sewer main under Maple Ave near the school.
 - Dust Control product will be applied soon to gravel roads near Winco and the West Park.
 - Pool is operational and working well.

- F) Engineers Report – Adam Jacobs with Bolton and Menk provided the council with a memorandum highlighting the May 13th rain event and several action steps that can be taken to eventually solve the sewer backup issues near the 200 Block of Cordova Ave. The action plan had three focus areas: first being immediate with the option of installing sensors in the manholes, backflow preventors on service lines, clean and jet sewer line along Cordova Ave on a regular basis. Intermediate (1-2 years) raise buried manholes in the farm field between Sunrise Ave and Rolling Hills Drive, install flow monitors to gather data on I&I. Long term (5-10 years) reconstructs sanitary sewer along Cordova Ave, evaluate lift station on Rolling Hills and study alternate discharge locations for the lift station.
- G) Darin Hunt with House of Insurance indicated that the city has submitted a claim to the city’s insurance provider, League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Hunt stated that this is a liability claim, and there is no direct coverage from the Leagues policy to the individual homeowner. Hunt said the city could add “no fault sewer backup” to the policy however the main exclusion in this policy is the amount of rain fall that would trigger an event.
- H) County Fair Board update – Nancy Stauff said the following attractions will be at the County Fair this year: draft horse show, sweet corn feed, Doug Traxler to perform, talent show, reptile rad zoo, big ideas trailer, kids power wheel derby, micro mini tractor pulls, pedal pull, community band, demo, truck, and tractor pull and much more.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to approve the Hiring Committee’s recommendation to call a Special Meeting for the purpose of conducting Police Chief Candidate Interviews on June 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to approve the Legacy and Standard Vacation Policy as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.
 Motion by Weiers, seconded by Hintz to approve the Comp Time Policy as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.
 Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to approve the Holiday Policy as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.
- B) Motion by Hintz, seconded by Scott to approve Resolution No. 2023O A Resolution to Approve the City Hall Roof Repair Quote by Means of Direct Negotiations. Two quotes were submitted: Nieman Roofing Co. Inc. for \$36,000 and Meisner Roofing & Building Maint. Inc. for \$72,850. Work was awarded to Nieman Roofing Co. Inc. for \$36,000.
- C) Motion by Steffen, seconded by Weiers to set a Public Hearing for June 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. for the Planning and Zoning Commission to hear testimony in regards to rezoning PID# 20.780.0560 from R-A Residential Agriculture District to R-1 Residential District. All in favor, motion carried.

10. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Evans provided a brief overview of key legislation that was passed, that has an impact on the City. LGA will increase 10.59% in 2024, Police will receive a one-time public safety aid for \$110,229, Paid Family Medical Leave Act which is a state administered insurance program, Earned Sick and Safe Time for all employees, the legalization of cannabis starting on August 1, 2023. Evans indicated that he was not going to go into the weeds on this topic, as more guidance will be coming from the State, League of MN Cities, and other agencies on regulations.
- B) Councilmember Scott update the council on a new city logo contest that was submitted to TCU school kids. Contest drawings are due July 4, 2023, and the winner gets a blue ribbon and \$50 in chamber bucks.
- C) June 17th City-Wide clean-up day reminder.
- D) Motion by Scott, seconded by Weiers to approve the closing of City Hall on July 3, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Weiers, for Mayor Harmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Dan Evans, Administrator