

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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, Police Chief Mitch Overn

Others Present: City Attorney Jason Moran, Building Official Corey Block

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Hintz, seconded by Scott 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 November 14, 2023

B) Approval of Bills to be Paid

C) Approve Resolution No. 2023DD, A Resolution Accepting Resignation and Declaring a Council Member Seat Vacancy

D) Approve Resolution No. 2023EE, A Resolution Designating the Polling Place for 2024

E) Approve Resolution No. 2023FF, A Resolution Certifying Unpaid Charges

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) Motion by Hintz, seconded by Scott to close the regular meeting and open the Truth-in-Taxation public hearing at 7:02 p.m. for the final 2024 tax levy and total general budget. All in favor, motion carried. No comment from the public, nor were any written comments sent to the Clerk's Office prior to tonight's hearing. Motion by Hintz, seconded by Scott to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting at 7:03 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

- A) E.D.A. Report – Evans advised no report.
- B) P & Z Report - Block advised a public hearing took place December 5th by the Planning and Zoning Commission on a rezone request, and that item will be discussed in New Business this evening.
- C) Liquor Store Report - Vikla was not present. The November liquor report was provided with no questions.
- D) Police Report – Overn provided the report on the police activities for the month of November. Calls / incidents handled 125, miles patrolled 2286, 1 arrest, call / incidents are up 20% from 2022.
- E) Public Works Report - Steinborn reported the following:
- TMI coatings finished applying epoxy paint to the interior walls of the water treatment facility.
 - Parks are closed and winterized for the season.
- F) Le Sueur Co. Commissioner Updates – Dave Preisler was not present.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Three Le Center residents submitted an application for the vacant council seat; term will run unit December 31st of 2024. Robert Pfarr, Robert (Bob) Emmers, and Antonio Ruiz-Mendez. The council discussed all three applicants as needs.

Motion by Hintz to appoint Robert Pfarr to the vacant council seat. There was no 2nd to that motion, motion failed.

Motion by Scott, seconded by Weires to appoint Antonio Ruiz-Mendez to the vacant council seat. In favor, Scott, Weires, Steffen. Opposed, Harmeyer, Hintz. 3/2 vote, motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Hintz, seconded by Scott to approve Resolution No. 2023GG. A Resolution to accept the 2024 final property tax levy and general fund budget. All in favor, motion carried.
- B) Block indicated that the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on December 5th to hear testimony regarding the rezone of three properties PID# 20.630.0055, 20.630.0056 and 20.999.0380 from R-3 Residential District to I-1a Industrial District. Block listed the following findings of fact on the matter:
- Keeping it R-3 is not desirable because of the proximity to the recycling center, city garages, and compost piles
 - I-1a is limited
 - Industrial expansion is needed

The Planning and Zoning Commission held the 1st reading of Ordinance No. 2023-5. An Ordinance approving a rezoning of real estate and amending document 306280, The City of Le Center zoning map. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hintz to waive the 2nd reading and approve Ordinance No. 2023-5. All in favor, motion carried.

- C) 1st Reading of Ordinance 2024-1, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2023-1 (2023 Fee Schedule). Block recommends that all fix fees in the building permit section be increased by \$5 across the board. Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2024-1 with the recommend changes. All in favor, motion carried.
- D) Evans indicated that by in large most of proposed personnel policy handbook was from the Leage of Minnesota Cities model policies with some blended of language from other policies. Motion by Weiers, seconded by Scott to approve the policy handbook as distributed to start January 1st, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.
- E) Motion my Hintz, seconded by Scott to approve the annual wage increases for non-union staff. All in favor, motion carried.
- F) Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scott to approve the 2024 police collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with MN Teamsters Union Local 320. All in favor, motioned carried.

10. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) The winner of the annual holiday festive outfit contest will be voted on after the meeting.
- B) Reminder that city offices will be closed December 25th for Christmas Day and January 1st for New Year's Day
- C) Council Member Jennifer Weiers addressed the council and community and expressed her gratitude for her time spent on council.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen, for Mayor Harmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Dan Evans, Administrator