

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 – 7:00 PM
10 W. TYRONE ST. LE CENTER, MN 56057**

*** MINUTES ***

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Christian Harmeyer, Council Members Antonio Ruiz-Mendez, 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. OATH OF OFFICE

A) Mayor Harmeyer swore in Council Member Antonio Ruiz-Mendez.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Steffen, 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 December 12, 2023

B) Approval of Bills to be Paid

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) Motion by Hintz, seconded by Scott to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. for Ordinance 2024-1, an ordinance amending Ordinance 2023-1 (2023 fee schedule). 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 7:04 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. PRESENTATIONS

- A) Municipal Liquor Store technology upgrades by Computer Technology Solutions (CTS). Xac a representative from CTS advised that the much of the hardware and camera system was very outdated and not working properly. New cabling inside the building will also be needed. Currently the point-of-sale system is not working properly, and it's crashing roughly 10 to 15 times a day. Xac indicated the longevity of the camera system is about 7 years and the computers would be 5 years or so.
- B) The informational meeting with MnDOT on the Hwy 99 project will be tabled until the February meeting, as the representative was unable to attend the meeting, due to inclement weather in her area.

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

- A) E.D.A. Report – Evans advised no report.
- B) P & Z Report - Block advised no report.
- C) Liquor Store Report - Vikla stated that December 2023 sales were \$103,616. Total 2023 sales were \$1,192,492 compared to total 2022 sales which were \$1,122,587, an increase of \$69,904. November gambling proceeds were \$6,456. December recap: Music by Just Crita, Todd Jindra, Sohmer Karaoke, ham bingo, meat raffle, DJ Rich Kern. Vikla indicated here and staff did their annual “Be a Santa to a Senior” drive, which provides gifts and holiday cheer to Horizon Place, Carriage House, and Central Health Care. Vikla stated the point-of-sale system is crashing several times a day and is recommended have CTS make the necessary changes as they outlined in their presentation. Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to approve the quote from CTS to install the necessary equipment outlined for \$24,453.
- D) Police Report – Overn provided the report on the police activities for the month of December. Calls / incidents handled 159, miles patrolled 2,444, no arrests, call / incidents are down 15% from 2022. Overn stated that he has received zero application for the open full-time police officer position. Overn indicated his department can make the 24/7 schedule work with being one officer down. Part-time officers are picking up shifts and overtime is being issued to the full-time officer to cover shifts.
- E) Public Works Report - Steinborn reported the following:
- Continuing to add water to the ice rink.
 - 2023 refuse and recycling totals: garbage 465 tons, 38 ton increase from last year. Recycling 130 tons, roughly 3 ton increase and cardboard 56 tons, roughly 3 ton increase.
 - Steinborn indicated there is a slight increase in illegal dumping at the shop where the refuse roll-offs are located. This has always been an issue but has been getting worse over the years. It was generally discussed that staff would secure a quote for a surveillance system at that location. Attorney Moran indicated that if good video evidence was captured for illegal dumping, that he would prosecute those cases.

- F) Bolton & Menk – Adam Jacobs presented the sanitary sewer flow monitoring results. Jacobs indicated that flow monitors were placed at strategic locations throughout the city. The main purpose of this study was to attempt to isolate specific legs of the sanitary sewer, to determine the amount of inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the system. Jacobs indicated that every time it rains, we get an increase in rainwater that will enter the system through I&I. Jacobs believes most of the I&I comes from the customer side of the service line, either through old clay pipes, footing tiles, or sump pumps that are illegally discharging into the sanitary sewer.
- G) Le Sueur Co. Commissioner Updates – Dave Preisler presented the following:
- County adopted a 4.9% levy increase for 2024.
 - Remodeling projects within the courthouse and other county owned facilities are continuing to finish up through the winter.
 - The county adopted a new financial policy and drainage manual.
 - Capital investment plan for the next five years.
 - The gravel section on Hwy 11 north of Le Center was graded, and that should improve that section of travel throughout the winter.

10. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scott to waive the 2nd reading and approve Ordinance 2024-1, an ordinance amending Ordinance 2023-1 the (2023 fee schedule). All in favor, motion carried.
- B) Motion by Hintz, seconded by Scott to approve the summary publication of Ordinance 2024-1. All in favor, motion carried.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Lynnea Wetzel who is a local realtor with RE/MAX is representing the Hoffman family who are the sellers of 100 North Cordova Ave. The Hoffman's are requesting that the city waive the point-of-sale requirement for prohibited discharge into the sanitary sewer system. City staff in December of 2023 located foundation drains that were connected to the city's sanitary sewer. City Ordinance 42-156 states that no unpolluted water or stormwater shall be discharged to the sanitary sewer. The Hoffman's obtained a quote from Sycks Construction for \$23,000 to eliminate the connection to the city sanitary sewer, however the connection was under an addition to the home. Sycks estimate indicated they would not attempt to go under an existing support wall footing to eliminate the connection, as this may cause significant damage in the future by jeopardizing the structural integrity of the house. Wetzel indicated that two prior properties in the city limits had their foundation drain point-of-sale waived by prior city staff for a similar access issue. Attorney Moran presented the city council with a foundation drain variance document to be recorded against the property. Motion by Harmeyer, seconded by Scott to approve the request and grant a foundation drain variance. All in favor, motion carried.
- B) Motion by Scott, seconded by Hintz to approve Resolution 2024A annual appointments & designations. All in favor, motion carried.

- C) Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hintz to establish fund 225 Public Safety Aid in the amount of \$110,232.00. All in favor, motion carried.

- D) Evans provided a worksheet with acceptable expenditures for the public safety aid dollars. It was discussed and generally agreed upon that \$20,000 will be allocated to both the Le Center Area Fire Commission and the Le Center Area Ambulance Commission. The remaining balance of \$70,232 will remain in fund 225 to likely be used towards our cost share of the new county wide records management and CAD system. A formal resolution will be adopted at the next meeting with the aforementioned.

12. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) City offices will be closed January 15th in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- B) Le Sueur County Officials Association meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31st location TBD.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Hintz, seconded by Scott, for Mayor Harmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Dan Evans, Administrator