

**CITY OF LE CENTER  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 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, Collin Scott

Absent: Nathan Hintz

Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Evans, Public Works Superintendent Dan Steinborn

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

A) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 9, 2024

B) Approval of Bills to be Paid

C) Accept Resignation from Part-Time Liquor Store Employee Rachel Liebhard

D) Approval of Le Sueur County St. Pat's Committee Special Event Permit for the St. Patrick's Day Parade

E) Approval of American Legion Special Event Permit for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration

F) Approval of Resolution No. 2024B A Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary Election

G) Approval of Resolution No. 2024C A Resolution Appropriating \$20,000 from the Public Safety Aid Fund to the Le Center Area Fire Commission

H) Approval of Resolution No. 2024D A Resolution Appropriating \$20,000 from the Public Safety Aid Fund to the Le Center Ambulance Commission

I) Approval of the "Fools in the Alley" Special Event Permit

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A) None

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## 7. PRESENTATIONS

A) Barbara Schreiber Project Manager and Peter Engelmeyer Principal Project Manager with MnDOT presented information on the Hwy 99 reconstruction project. The project will focus on the roadway within city limits with an expected start date of 2029. Barbra indicated that the focus of tonight was to discuss engagement, scheduling, and issues/opportunities for the project. Council and staff indicated that a community approach to the project would be preferred. Continued discussion at council meetings and an open house option would be good to get community feedback. The preliminary design for the project will start spring of 2024 and go through the winter of 2024/2025. Final design 2025-2028 with tentative construction beginning 2029. Some of the issues discussed were the current speed of vehicles traveling on Hwy 99 through the city. Increase pedestrian safety where the kids cross Hwy 99 to go to the pool. Potential lane narrowing ideas were discussed to decrease the speed of vehicles. Keep parking available for business on Hwy 99.

## 8. 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 was not present, Evans updated the council on the IT stabilization project that is currently underway at the liquor store. January 2024 sales were \$95,194. January 2023 sales were \$85,676 an increase of \$9,518. December gambling proceeds were \$10,658.

D) Police Report – Overn was not present, Evans provided the report on the police activities for the month of January. Calls / incidents handled 162, miles patrolled 2,378, no arrests, call / incidents are down 29% from 2023.

E) Public Works Report - Steinborn reported the following:

- The brush pile at West Park was chipped up and waiting to be hauled away.
- The skating rink was only open for one week then weather conditions turned.
- CTS visited the public works shop to discuss potential camera placement for a security system.

F) Le Sueur Co. Commissioner Updates – Dave Preisler presented the following:

- Parking lot upgrades at the courthouse are moving forward.
- Spring road restrictions are anticipated to start soon.
- The County is anticipating 10 percent more revenue in 2024 than budgeted from the State for roads and bridges.
- With very little snow to plow, Preisler said that staff have been clearing a lot of tress within the County ROW.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

A) The council discussed the new proposed logo designs as needed. Motion by Harmeyer to make the logos found on page 35 and 37 as the new Le Center logo. There was no

second, motion fails. Council member Steffen proposed the idea of getting public feedback and putting it out for a vote. Evans stated that he could put it on the Le Center MN Happenings Facebook page. The Council generally agreed that this was the best approach. The survey will remain active until the next meeting at which point a resolution will be prepared to change the logo and the survey results will be discussed.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- A) Motion by Scott, seconded by Ruiz-Mendez to approve the 2024 Le Center Area Fire Commission service contract. All in favor, motion carried.
- B) Mayor Harmeyer presented the proposed Le Center Area Fire Commission budget for 2025. The proposed increase to the City's portion is \$7000 or 9.03% increase from 2023. Information only.
- C) Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to approve the 2024 Le Center Volunteer Ambulance service contract. All in favor, motion carried.
- D) Evans explained to the council the need to have our underground infrastructure mapped within a GIS and GPS system. Currently city staff use as-built maps to gauge approximate locations of where underground utilities are. The benefit of implementing this would be to eliminate the need for tracer wire on future projects, which would be a significant cost savings. An additional benefit would be the ability to add layers to our mapping system. The city could keep track of annexations, subdivisions, zoning districts, parks and trails, tree inventory as well as tracking maintenance for underground utilities. Evans indicated there was an optional task on the estimate to have our curb stops located for \$9,772, but Evans advised that the public works staff could purchase their own GPS mapping tool for roughly \$13,000 and do the work themselves. Total estimate for the project minus the optional task is \$47,444. The project would be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. Motion by Scott, seconded by Harmeyer to approve Resolution 2024E to approve the purchase of GPS & GIS professional services. All in favor, motion carried.
- E) Evans explained the need to get visual monitors in the Council Chambers so the audience can follow along better with the materials presented. This would also help aid in the presentations to the council on various matters. Estimate from EPA Audio Visual, Inc. for the system is \$13,076.26, the purchase would be funded using ARPA dollars. Motion by Scott, seconded by Steffen to approve Resolution 2024F a Resolution to approve the purchase of an audio visual system. All in favor, motion carried.
- F) Evans advised that the council previously approved a stabilization project with our technology providers Computer Technology Solutions and because that project involved many different funds and departments, Evans recommended to us ARPA dollars to pay for the \$10,850 project. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scott to approve Resolution 2024G a Resolution to approve the use of ARPA funds for technology stabilization professional services. All in favor, motion carried.
- G) Steinborn indicated several changes to the snow removal routes within the policy. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scott to approve the amended snow plowing, snow removal and ice control policy. All in favor, motion carried.

## **11. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.**

- A) City Offices will be Closed February 19th in Observation of Presidents' Day

- B) Le Sueur County Officials Association Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28th location TBD

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

- A) Conducting annual review of city administrator, under Minnesota State Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(a). Motion by Scott, seconded by Ruiz-Mendez to close the regular meeting and go into closed session at 8:14 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

**13. OPEN SESSION**

- A) Motion by Scott, seconded by Ruiz-Mendez to adjourn the closed session and go back into regular meeting at 8:56 p.m. All in favor, motion carried. Mayor Harmeyer stated that the council discussed Evans' accomplishments over his review period and discussed pending projects/goals and future goals.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business; Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scott, for Mayor Harmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Dan Evans, Administrator