**City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, May 6, 2019**

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 7:00 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Ashley Huntley, Gene Miller, and City Clerk Patty White. Council member Jan Whisler and Maintenance Supervisor John Jones were absent.   
Also attending: Harold Shipman, Cassidy Milks, Deputy John Wade, Craig Jacobson, Axel Gumbel, Rose Erie, and Craig Bucknell. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the Consent Agenda. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

No one present had anything to present during Public Input Time.

During Standing Committee Reports:

* Huntley noted the last official Pool Board meeting has been held. The Pool Board is requesting $5,000 from the City. The council noted they just received 2018 financials and the first quarter 2019 financials for the swimming pool. It was noted the LeRoy Foundation has $5000 still allocated for disbursement to the pool. Huntley noted the Pool Board does not expect any funding from the Thrive for Five campaign. The school will officially take over full operation of the swimming pool on July 1, 2019. Miller expressed dismay that the council was just receiving the financial information now instead of up to 30 days ago. Huntley could not see any reason to not allocate the requested $5,000 in funding. Miller agreed. Motion by Huntley, second by Miller to allocate $5,000 to the swimming pool. Motion carried 4-0.
* The Fire Department Personnel Committee has met and offered positions on the Fire Department to Jason Bastian, Tanner Meyers, and Lloyd Stephens. One other application was reviewed, but this applicant does not currently live in the LeRoy fire district.
* The LeRoy Area Ambulance Service will be holding EMS Week activities. Huntley noted the LeRoy Service has opted out of joining with the Adams and Grand Meadow services at this time. She noted the LeRoy Service will keep the lines of communication open with these other services. Thiel noted both the fire and ambulance services are very valuable services to have here in town; he commended all the volunteers dedicated to these services.

Police Report:

* Deputy Wade handed out the printed police report. Council discussed the speed of vehicles traveling through town and questioned about the status of the speed signs. White noted she is working with MnDOT for these. Council thanked Deputy Wade for his service and report.

City Police Protection:

* White reported the meeting with Mower County officials has not happened yet.

Volunteer of the Month Recognition:

* Miller read the submission letter from Judy Jasper in honor of Rose Erie. Erie was present; the Volunteer Appreciation Award was presented to her. Erie was congratulated for this recognition and for all she does for the community.

City Equipment Update:

* In the absence of Jones, White reported that Jones and Sweeney had gone to Albert Lea to look at the available dump trucks.

Council Member Resignation:

* Miller submitted his letter of resignation effective at the close of this council meeting. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to accept this letter of resignation with regret. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Gottschalk, second by Thiel to pass Resolution 2019-07, a resolution accepting the resignation and declaring a vacancy on the council. Motion carried 4-0. It was the consensus of the council to advertise for interested people to submit a letter of interest to City Hall to fill the balance of Miller’s term until the next general election.

Book Box Request:

* Council reviewed the information received from Krystal Colwell about a little book box that her students had built. She wanted to offer a box to make books more readily available to people. Axel Gumbel noted the LeRoy Lions have already adopted one box that is located in front of the old creamery building. White reported that a community group could adopt this box to refill it. Gumbel noted he could check with the LeRoy Lions to see if they would like to adopt the second box, too. White had checked with Rhonda Barnes at the LeRoy Public Library; Barnes noted the library has plenty of books to keep the box filled.
* It was the consensus of the council to allow this book box to be installed at North Baumbach Park if the LeRoy Lions would be willing to adopt the box to oversee it.

Land Use Permits:

* Council reviewed four land use permits.

1. Lots 1 & 2, Rivers Edge Addition, 100 County Rd 56-build garage
2. Lot 4, Block 1, Hickock 3rd Addition, 309 E Benton-build privacy fence
3. Lots 1 & 2, Block 9, Original Village, 218 E Luella-pour cement driveway
4. N 72’ Lots 4 & 5, Block 9, Caswell & Lewis Addition, 712 N Broadway-install fence

Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve said permits. Motion carried 4-0.

Communications File:

* A letter from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation was reviewed. No action was taken on the funding request.
* A letter from Freeborn Mower Cooperative Services pertaining to an increase in electrical rates was reviewed.

Street Maintenance & Repair:

* Council reviewed quotes received from Heartland Asphalt from Mason City and SL Construction from Rochester. It was noted that contact had been made with J.C. Nerstad with Four Season Maintenance; Mr. Nerstad had not submitted a quote for street work.
* Council reviewed a color-coded street map based on the quote from Heartland Asphalt.
* Huntley noted she does not want to fix up any streets if they will be used for detour routes when Highway 56 (Main Street) is redone. It was noted that Highway 56 through LeRoy will be reconstructed in 2023. Thiel also agreed that a lot of money should not be put into street repairs if those streets will be used for detour traffic.
* Council discussed differences between the two estimates. Thiel noted he would like to see the street areas marked and put that part out for bids so the council could compare like bids.
* Miller felt it would be best to be conservative with any major street repairs knowing the Highway 56 project will happen in 2023 and only get the potholes fixed. Harold Shipman questioned if any assessments were being considered for payment on these projects. Thiel noted payment has not been discussed yet.
* Thiel suggested setting a special meeting to further discuss street repairs. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to call for a special meeting to be held on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 6:30 PM. Motion carried 4-0. White and Jones will contact Heartland Asphalt and SL Contracting requesting revised quotes/bids and request that they be available for the special council meeting.
* Thiel read the proposal from Jones, Haugh and Smith for assessing and mapping the city’s existing streets and thoroughfares. The total cost for street mapping and area quantification, site assessment survey, and street mapping and data illustration is $8,500.
* Miller expressed concern that while this may be good to have, he questioned if it would be used. Miller would like to see some type of demonstration showing the council what this could do for them. Council will continue to discuss this proposal.

Sewer Maintenance:

* There was nothing to discuss or review on this with the absence of Jones.

Lions Park Project:

* Axel Gumbel reported the LeRoy Lions Club would need non-profit status (501c3) to apply for grants. He has been told this would be a long and costly process to achieve the non-profit status. The LeRoy Lions did check with the LeRoy Community Foundation to see if they would be willing to serve as their fiscal agent. The Foundation declined this offer.
* The city could serve as the fiscal agent for the Lions Club. The Lions Club would like to apply for various grants for the park through the city’s name. Any grant funds would come into the city; the city would then disburse these funds.
* Craig Bucknell reported the LeRoy Lions had also checked with the Ostrander Lions and Lions International; this option would not work with either of these two groups.
* Thiel questioned who would be running the park. Bucknell noted the Lions would do the fundraising and oversee the construction of the park. The city would own the park and oversee the maintenance and mowing of the park.
* Thiel would like to see a legal opinion on this before allowing the city to serve as the fiscal agent. Gottschalk would also like to see the legal opinion. She expressed concern if this would hamper the city’s ability to apply for grants, too. The consensus of the council was to further investigate this request.

Parks & Recreation:

* Craig Jacobson updated council on the LeRoy EDA Borrow-A-Bike program. Sharon Jacobson, Axel Gumbel, Craig, and White had met with the SHIP coordinator from Mower County. The coordinator had indicated that funding would not be a problem. They have now indicated we will need to apply to Mayo, too, for the balance of the funds requested. This whole program is now being held back due to funding issues. Craig noted the EDA wants to promote a good program with good bikes. SHIP has indicated we may receive funding in the amount of $4,500; this would put the program short about half of the needed funds. Craig noted an application has been submitted to the LeRoy Community Foundation for funds for wages.
* Thiel questioned if $5,000 would get the project started. Craig requested $4,500 to $5,000 from the Trailhead Funds to help bridge the funding gaps. Miller felt the city should only commit funds if the SHIP funds are granted. Craig noted the EDA also plans on using Promotion Funds. Miller commented this is a good program with good PR for the community, but his concern is that this program will also fall back on the taxpayers. Motion by Miller to offer up to $5,000 from the Trailhead Funds contingent on receiving the SHIP funds. Second by Gottschalk. On a roll call of votes, aye votes were cast by Thiel, Gottschalk, and Miller. Huntley cast a nay vote. The motion carried 3-1.
* Craig presented pictures of the landscaping by the trailhead kiosk, the landscaping by the picnic shelter, and the trailhead sign on the shelter. All of these items are in poor repair. He would like to request $800 to fix these items. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to allow up to $800 from the Trailhead Funds for the sign and landscaping. Motion carried 4-0.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk at 9:04 PM.

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Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer