**City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, July 1, 2019**

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, July 1, 2019, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Ashley Huntley, Jan Whisler, Harold Shipman, and City Clerk Patty White. Maintenance Supervisor John Jones arrived at 7:11 PM. Council Member Kathleen Gottschalk was absent.
Also attending: Eileen Evans, Axel Gumbel, Craig Jacobson, James Loven, Deb Reburn, Craig Bucknell, Cassidy Milks, Kathy Adams, and Deputy Sawyer Weiss. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Thiel noted the fence that has been installed at the corner of Cabot and Broadway is built out into the city right-of-way. Council took no action on this. Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

During Public Input Time:

* Craig Jacobson reported some members of the LeRoy EDA, Prairie Visions, Wapsi Trail, and County Engineer Mike Hanson had met earlier today to discuss grant funding to connect the Shooting Star Trail with the Wapsi Great-Western Trail at the MN/IA border. Jacobson requested a letter of support from the City of LeRoy supporting this trail connection. Jacobson noted the Wapsi trail people have been working for 31 years on their trail; Prairie Visions has been working 26 years on their trail. Motion by Huntley, second by Shipman to register the City of LeRoy support for this trail extension/connection. Motion carried 4-0.

During Standing Committee Reports:

* Huntley reported the LeRoy Area Ambulance Board had met and discussed the article that was published in the Mower County Independent pertaining to proposed changes in the emergency medical services in this area. Huntley noted the LeRoy Ambulance Service is not part of this at this time; the board has kept the lines of communication open with the Grand Meadow and Adams services.

City Police Protection:

* White updated council on a conversation she had with Chief Deputy Mark May and Sheriff Steve Sandvik pertaining to LeRoy police coverage. She reported the City of Adams is now contracting with Mower County for police protection. She will try to arrange a meeting with these entities to further discuss police protection.

Volunteer of the Month Recognition:

* Thiel read the submission letter in honor of Eileen Evans. Evans was present; she graciously accepted the Volunteer Appreciation Award presented to her. Evans was congratulated for this recognition and for all she does for the community.

Council Committee Assignments:

* It was noted that none of former council member Gene Miller’s committee assignments had been appointed to anyone. Miller’s assignments included water and sewer, Prairie Visions representative, EDA representative, and volunteer of the month committee.
* Thiel appointed Shipman to water and sewer, Prairie Visions representative, and volunteer of the month committee.
* Craig Jacobson, president of the LeRoy EDA, made the recommendation to appoint Brian Thiel to the EDA. Motion by Whisler, second by Shipman to appoint Thiel to the LeRoy EDA. On a roll call of votes, Whisler, Shipman, and Huntley voted aye. Thiel abstained. The motion carried.

Summer Fest:

* Council reviewed the draft list of activities and events scheduled for Summer Fest 2019. Summer Fest will be held July 19, 20, and 21.

Land Use Permits:

* Council reviewed four land use permits:
1. SE 65’ NW 240’ Lot 9, Lewis Addition, 447 W Main, Linda Bolin-build front deck
2. NWTRLY 175’, SWTRLY 124’, NETRLY 200’ Old RR RTWY Adj to Block 12, Original Village, 115 S Mather, LeRoy Lumber-rebuild 40’ x 94’ building
3. Lot 15, River’s Edge Addition, 140 Miller Court, Henry Burger-build a storage shed
4. Lot 12, River’s Edge Addition, 116 Miller Court, Donald Darland-build a house

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

* White reported Don and Alice Darland had requested tax abatement for this new construction. Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to call for a public hearing on this tax abatement request to be held on Monday, August 5, 2019, at 7:00 PM. Motion carried 4-0.

Communications File:

* Council reviewed a letter from L-O Athletic Department soliciting an advertising opportunity in their athletic game programs. Council took no action on this.
* Council read a thank you from Nick Kasel, the recipient of the Pangborn Scholorship.
* The grand opening open house will be held at SEMA in Grand Meadow on July 10.

Street Maintenance & Repair:

* Jones and Sweeney will continue to fill potholes as the weather allows.
* Thiel proposed some additional equipment for the City/maintenance department. He proposed a box grader for blading the alleys for a cost of approximately $3,000 and a paint striper for a cost of approximately $100 plus the cost of the paint. The maintenance department would be able to mark the Community Center parking area with a paint striper. Thiel would also like the city to find a good used four-wheel skidloader in the price range of $15,000 to $20,000.
* Thiel requested a motion to allow city staff to purchase the box grader and paint striper. Motion by Huntley, second by Shipman to allow the purchase of a box grader and a paint striper. Motion carried 4-0. It was the consensus of the council to allow the maintenance department to further investigate good used skidloaders.
* Jones reported the sanitary sewer force main on East County Road has started to collapse. This was found when this sanitary sewer main was televised. This is located in a one-block area from near Benton Street and Luella Street. Motion by Whisler to pursue this reconstruction a soon as possible. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 4-0.

Police Report:

* Due to the stormy weather, Deputy Weiss arrived at the meeting and introduced himself to the council. He presented the written police report.
* Deputy Weiss reported that Deputy Tyler Wilson will be returning to LeRoy in a month or so as our assigned deputy. Deputy Weiss was thanked for his report and his time serving the LeRoy area.

Public Buildings:

* Thiel reported city hall, community center, and maintenance building have all been wired for security cameras. Signage will need to be installed letting people know that security cameras are in use.

Lions Park Project:

* Thiel reported to those in attendance that at the June city council meeting, the city council had voted to not pursue the maintenance and upkeep of a third city park.
* Craig Bucknell reported the LeRoy Lions had met and reviewed the council’s decision. The LeRoy Lions would like to meet with the city council at a separate time to further discuss this park and the features being proposed for this park.
* James Loven noted the present playground structures are surrounded by pea rock. Pea rock can be used for fall protection, but pea rock is not ADA compliant. Loven continued that the LeRoy Lions do not want to add any inclusive amenities to the present structures in both parks; he stated the LeRoy Lions would want to remove all the present equipment and put all new equipment and structures in the park(s).
* Deb Reburn noted the LeRoy Lions have been working with a company very knowledgeable in regulations, etc. The Lions would still like to meet at a work session with the council to further discuss this project.
* Mr. Loven questioned about the lots that had been deeded to the city; he also questioned where excess city maintenance costs would enter into a third park.
* Whisler noted he doesn’t think anyone is against the amenities being proposed. He noted the financial responsibility of the elected officials is to oversee taxpayer dollars and work in the best interest of all city residents.
* Shipman noted the wording on the quit-claim deed stated that the City shall develop and use said real property herewith conveyed solely for purposes of a public park and/or public playground. In the event that grantee shall fail to develop and use said property herewith conveyed for those purposes, or in the event that grantee makes any other use of the premises herewith conveyed or conveys or contract to convey the premises aforesaid to any third party, then in that event all right, title and interest therein shall revert to grantors, their heirs and assigns, and this conveyance shall thereafter be null and void.
* Motion by Shipman to deed this property back to Eugene and Rita Miller and allow the LeRoy Lions to pursue these inclusive structures in one of the existing city parks. Second by Whisler. Thiel noted that nothing is off the table for what the Lions have proposed; this proposal just won’t happen in a new third city park. Huntley would like to see the Lions plans and how those plans could be incorporated into one of the existing city parks. Ms. Reburn questioned how much space the Lions could use if they were to consider using the South Park. Thiel noted South Park is 2.5 acres; North Baumbach Park is closer to 3 acres. On a roll call of votes on the motion, all council members voted aye. Motion carried 4-0.
* Council again noted they are more than open to see plans for enhancements to either of the two existing city parks.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Shipman, second by Whisler at 7:47 PM.

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 Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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 Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer