**City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2019**

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, August 5, 2019, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Ashley Huntley, Jan Whisler, Harold Shipman, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White.
Also attending: Tim Johnston, Hunter Johnston, Cassidy Milks, and Dave Miller. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

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

During Standing Committee Reports:

* Jones reported he has not received any quotes on the repair of the East County Road sanitary sewer main.
* Huntley reported the monthly ambulance meeting is tomorrow night.
* Thiel reported the library has had some painting done, the water issues have been addressed, and the new basement windows have not arrived yet.

There was no Police Report in the absence of the assigned deputy.

Volunteer of the Month Recognition:

* This will be deferred to the September meeting since the honorees are out of town at this time.

Pay Equity Report:

* White explained Pay Equity and noted the city was required to file a report with wages as of 12/31/18. This report came back in non-compliance with the job class of librarian at an underpayment ratio of at least 80%. To correct this, the librarian’s wage needs to be increased by $1.92 per hour effective when the council approves the increase.
* Motion by Huntley, second by Shipman to increase the librarian wage by $1.92 per hour effective on August 5, 2019. Motion carried 5-0.

City Insurance:

* White had received a schedule of covered property from LMCIT. This renewal included a premium cost of $2,000 for the city sanitary sewer ponds. Jones reported the gate valves are all manual. The ponds have never been included in the covered property in the past.
* Motion by Whisler, second by Shipman to not include the wastewater ponds in the covered property for insurance. Motion carried 5-0.

2020 Budget:

* White reported the preliminary levy needs to be set by September 30.
* Council discussed when to hold the September council meeting since the first Monday of September is Labor Day. Council consensus to hold the September council meeting on Monday, September 9, at 6:30 PM.
* Council consensus to hold a budget work session on Wednesday, August 21, 2019, at 6:30 PM.

Land Use Permits:

* Council reviewed two land-use permits:
1. Lot 8 & W 36’ Lot 7 Exc S 40’, Block 14, Original Village, 206 E Henry, Tanner Meyers-remove three-season porch and replace with a patio deck
2. Lots 1 to 8 & 11 to 17, Block 27, Original Village, Tim Johnston-install solar farm
* Tim and Hunter Johnston presented information on the proposed solar farm. They are proposing this solar farm to be located on the south lots of the Parkside Mobile Home West Court. This would be constructed in two rows beginning on Lot #2 and going west. These are held in the ground by a cable system with a maximum height of 13 feet. The lower edge is 30” from the ground. A fence will be installed around the solar panels.
* Thiel questioned if the West Court is the best location for this project; he questioned if the East Court would be a better location. Mr. Johnston noted they had considered the advantages of both courts and felt the West Court was the better location.
* Thiel questioned if this solar farm is a way to generate more revenue than the parks are currently generating. Mr. Johnston agreed with this statement. Thiel commented about affordable housing and losing these lots for mobile homes. Mr. Johnston noted there has been changes in law that do not allow an owner of a mobile home park to own mobile homes to rent out to people. The individual homes need to be owned by the tenant. Mr. Johnston reported the courts are inspected annually by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve both permits. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearing:

* Thiel read the due call for the public hearing and opened the hearing at 7:11 PM.
* Council reviewed the request for tax abatement from Don and Alice Darland for the new construction they have proposed on Lot 12, River’s Edge Addition. The total estimated abatement amount is on $300,000 of estimated property value.
* Motion by Shipman, second by Gottschalk to pass Resolution 2019-09, a Resolution Approving Tax Abatement for Certain Property Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 469.1813. Motion carried 5-0. Being no further business to come before the public hearing, the hearing was closed at 7:13 PM.

Land Use Permits Continued:

* Dave Miller was present to review the proposed Veteran’s Memorial elevations and the layout of the memorial.
* Thiel questioned about handicap parking spots and the layout of the sidewalk. Council discussed this; they felt that losing one parking space would be better than changing the layout of the proposed memorial.
* Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to allow the Veteran’s Memorial to proceed with this plan. Motion carried 5-0.

Communications File:

* Council reviewed the courtesy public safety notice from Minnesota Energy Resources. This notice addressed a project that will automate the process of reading the gas meters.
* MnDOT will conduct a walkability audit of trunk highway 56 on Wednesday, August 7, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.
* The City of Adams is hosting a meeting of the League of Minnesota Cities leadership team to hear more about the current priorities of LMC individual cities on Wednesday, August 14, from 9:30 to 10:30 AM at Bubble’s Café in Adams.

Street Maintenance & Repair:

* Heartland Asphalt had been in town to review the condition of East County Road to do a mill and overlay after the sewer main is repaired. They returned a quote of approximately $150,000 to do this project.
* Jones reported Heartland Asphalt will hopefully be here by mid-September to do the street project on one block of Everett Street and one and one half blocks of Benton Street.
* Jones reported he and Sweeney continue to fill potholes.

Street Assessment & Mapping Proposal:

* There was nothing to report on this.

Sewer Maintenance/Repair:

* Jones noted he is still waiting for an estimate for the sewer main repair on East County Road.

Maintenance Office Air Conditioner:

* Jones reported the air conditioner for the maintenance offices has quit. Pickar-Oulman came and checked the unit out. This is no repair for this unit. A quote of $3,350 was received from Pickar-Oulman.
* Thiel questioned about the cost for this unit. He questioned if a window air conditioner would work as well for much less money. It was the consensus of the council to have Jones get another quote or two and review this at the council work session.

City Park Review:

* Council noted they had been lobbied on to keep these three lots in case a future council would decide to build a park on them.
* Council stood by their motion from the July meeting to deed these lots back to Mr. and Mrs. Gene Miller.

Nuisance Properties:

* Some council members had been told that a city resident was keeping chickens at their property. These chickens were free-range and roamed all over neighborhood properties. White will send a letter to the owner of record that chickens are not allowed in LeRoy.
* Thiel noted that other people have inquired about having chickens in town. Council took no action in pursuing to allow chickens in town.

Other Business:

* Council questioned about the speed cameras that are installed that record a speeder’s license plate number and sends a speeding ticket to them. The City of Chester, Iowa, has some of these cameras. Council had heard that the City of Chester receives funds from these speeding tickets. White will further investigate this.
* Huntley noted she had seen the night of the Summer Fest street dance an employee of Wheels-to-Go was riding one of the W-T-G bikes erratically on Main Street. Huntley was concerned that the city had appropriated funds to this endeavor and this could be considered a misuse of those funds. White assured council that none of the appropriated funds from the City had been disbursed to the Wheels-to-Go program; she also noted that this episode had been addressed with the employee.
* Cassidy Milks, a member of the L-O School Board, reported the school board has hired Steve Sallee as the interim-interim superintendent. The board is still advertising for a long-term interim or permanent superintendent.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Huntley, second by Shipman at 7:58 PM.

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 Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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 Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer