**City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, September 9, 2019**

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, September 9, 2019, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Harold Shipman, Ashley Huntley, Jan Whisler, Kathleen Gottschalk, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White.   
Also attending: Deputy Tyler Wilson, Hunter Johnston, Craig Jacobson, and Axel Gumbel. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

During Public Input Time:

* Craig Jacobson reported the Wheels-To-Go program closed for the season this past weekend. 205 units were checked out for the season. Only one bike was damaged during the season. The EDA was pleased with the reception of the Wheels-To-Go program.

During Standing Committee Reports:

* Thiel noted the Library Board is meeting tonight. Items on the Library Board agenda include the need to add some rock to the alley and have the alley graded. The Library Board is also requesting the head librarian’s health insurance to be switched to Medicare with a Medicare supplement. Thiel noted this item will be discussed during the budget and personnel discussions.
* Gottschalk reported the Personnel Committee (Thiel & Gottschalk) met. They will be conducting informal personnel reviews in the coming weeks.

Police Report:

* Deputy Wilson reported there have been some issues with vandalism and property damage in both city parks. He has talked to the parents of the perpetrators and to the school administration about these acts. Deputy Wilson noted there seems to be one instigator with other minors following along. Deputy Wilson questioned council if they would like to press criminal charges. Thiel questioned what the sheriff’s department recommends. Deputy Wilson reported if the minor is charged they would be held accountable; this could involve community service and possibly additional help in school. Motion by Huntley that the city will pursue citations against anyone maliciously damaging city property or threatening other persons. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.
* Whisler questioned about Neighborhood Watch Groups. Deputy Wilson will gather information about these groups.

Volunteer of the Month Recognition:

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

2020 Budget & Levy:

* Thiel questioned if the levy could be set at the same amount it has been for the past six to eight years. White noted this can be done and reminded council that the preliminary levy can be lowered prior to the final adoption, but it cannot be increased. Thiel noted that salaries have not been set yet for 2020.
* Motion by Huntley, second by Shipman to pass Resolution 2019-10, a resolution adopting the preliminary levy at $500,000 and setting the Truth in Taxation hearing for Monday, December 2, 2019, at 6:30 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

LeRoy City Lines:

* Craig Jacobson updated council on the state of the LeRoy City Lines (LCL) buses. The first bus that was purchased has major engine issues; it could cost from $8,500 to $12,000 and up to $25,000 for a complete overhaul of the engine on that bus. The bus is not worth that much; it is not feasible to repair it. The second bus purchased has no passenger air conditioning, but this bus has been put back in service. This bus is not real reliable. There is a need to get a reliable back-up bus for the regular commuter service plus charter service.
* Axel Gumbel reported LCL could have had six charters in one day, but only three charters can be feasibly done. Gumbel also noted LCL is receiving more inquiries from Austin area daycare centers. He reported Palmer Bus Service is no longer doing non-public school charters. LCL did 84 charters in all of 2018; they have over 100 charters scheduled in 2019.
* LCL would like to purchase another bus for up to $60,000. They would like to rewrite the note with the city, pay off the other bank loans, and roll a new bus into this setup. Thiel noted LCL would be able to generate more revenue with another bus with not increasing the city outlay. He also noted the enterprise is close to being self-sustaining. LCL is requesting the city to authorize funds and the ability to look for another bus in the $50,000 to $60,000 price range. The EDA board is in agreement with this request. Shipman noted the bus service has more than exceeded his expectations.
* Motion by Shipman to authorize LeRoy City Lines to look for another bus, to have the city finance the bus using city reserves at 3% interest, for a price up to $60,000. Second by Whisler. On a roll call of votes Thiel, Gottschalk, Whisler, and Shipman voted aye. Huntley cast a nay vote. Motion carried 4-1.

Land Use Permits:

* Council reviewed one land-use permit and one amended land-use permit:

1. Lot 17 & E ½ Lot 16, Block 1, Caswell & Lewis, 207 E Luella, Daisie Fox-build a privacy fence
2. Lots 1 to 8 & 11 to 17, Block 27, Original Village, Tim Johnston-install solar farm. The amended permit would increase the length of each row of solar panels from 120’ to 240’; there would still be two rows of solar panels.

Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve the amended permit of Tim Johnston. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Gottschalk, second by Huntley to approve the permit of Daisie Fox. Motion carried 5-0.

Communications File:

* Council reviewed a request from Infants Remembered in Silence, a nonprofit organization requesting a city resolution endorsing October 15th as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Council took no action on this request.

Street Maintenance & Repair:

* Jones reported the crews hope to be here in LeRoy within the next week to begin the street project.
* Council discussed the condition of East County Road. Motion by Whisler, second by Gottschalk to advertise for bids for the mill and overlay of East County Road between Main Street and Lowell Street. Motion carried 5-0.

Sewer Maintenance/Repair:

* Jones noted the sewer main work on East County Road will be coordinated at the same time as the street project. Mehmert Tiling did present a change order for $675 for storm sewer pipe to be used on this project.

Snow Removal:

* Council authorized city staff to advertise for bids for snow removal for that portion of Trunk Highway 56 cooperative snow removal program.

Maintenance Office Air Conditioner:

* Jones is checking with Pickar-Oulman to see if the air conditioner unit that is at the city maintenance shop building can be moved to the maintenance offices.

Parks:

* Jones questioned council if they want him to close and winterize the park restrooms. Council consensus to leave the park restrooms open and let law enforcement address these issues.
* Jones will continue to monitor the condition of the parks and park restrooms.

Other Items:

* White reported the city has received the permit from MnDOT for the installation of the LED speed signs. The maintenance department will get these installed prior to the ground freezing.
* Thiel reviewed with council usage statistics for the Grand Meadow Public Library and the LeRoy Public Library.
* Thiel handed out a GIS map of the city parking lot north of First State Bank and Main Street Market Place. This lot is in need of additional crushed rock. Council consensus to have the maintenance department get rock applied to this lot and have it graded; the department was also directed to address other areas needing crushed rock.

Being no further business to come before the city council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Gottschalk at 7:41 PM.

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Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer