**City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2019**

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, December 2, 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: Representative Jeanne Poppe, Deputy Tyler Wilson, Deputy Cody McCormick, Cassidy Milks, Craig Jacobson, Sam James, Cecil Addison, Axel Gumbel, Autumn Turbenson, Bill Gerber, Chris Lentz, and Nick & Chastidy Sweeney and Gavin & Carter Sweeney. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Representative Jeanne Poppe introduced herself to those present and thanked the mayor and city council for the work they do. Council thanked Representative Poppe for stopping by.

Thiel read the due call for the Truth in Taxation hearing and opened the hearing at 6:33 PM. No one in attendance was present for the Truth in Taxation hearing. Thiel noted the city’s levy has not been increased or decreased for many years. The hearing was closed at 6:34 PM.

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

During Public Input Time:

* Bill Gerber noted that the closing of the Mayo Clinic Health System-LeRoy Clinic has affected healthcare for local residents. Mr. Gerber commented he would like to see some type of mental health services brought here to LeRoy. Council thanked Mr. Gerber for his comments.

During Standing Committee Reports:

* Huntley reported the LeRoy Area Ambulance Board will meet tomorrow evening. EMT classes will be offered in Riceville beginning in January. The Board and EMT’s are trying to recruit people willing to serve on the local ambulance service to attend these classes.
* Thiel reported the front door at the LeRoy Public Library will be replaced in the spring.

Police Report:

* Deputy Wilson commended the LeRoy Area Ambulance Service for their service.
* He noted it has been relatively quiet as of late.
* Deputy Wilson introduced Deputy McCormick; Deputy McCormick is in training.
* Deputy Wilson noted speed of vehicles and parking by the school is an on-going issue.
* Council thanked Deputy Wilson for his report and welcomed Deputy McCormick.

Volunteer of the Month Recognition:

* Gottschalk read the submission letter in honor of Nick Sweeney. Sweeney was present; he graciously accepted the Volunteer Appreciation Award presented to him. Sweeney was congratulated for this recognition and for all he has done for the L-O Football team.

2020 Budget & Levy Adoption:

* Motion by Gottschalk, second by Huntley to adopt the proposed 2020 budget as written. Motion carried 5-0.
* Motion by Huntley, second by Shipman to pass Resolution 2019-12, a resolution adopting the levy at $500,000. Motion carried 5-0.

2020 Liquor Licenses:

* Council reviewed the liquor license applications for 2020. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve the 2020 liquor licenses. Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel Reviews & 2020 Pay & Benefits Package:

* This item was deferred to later in the meeting.

Tax Abatement Policy:

* The tax abatement policy that had been put in place effective September 1, 2016, was set to expire effective December 31, 2019. Mower County Commissioners had voted to extend the county portion of the program for another three years.
* Council discussed this program. Motion by Huntley to amend the Tax Abatement Policy to expire effective December 31, 2022. Second by Shipman. Motion carried 5-0.

314 East Main Street Assessment:

* Samuel James and Cecil Addison introduced themselves to council and reported they have purchased the property located at 314 East Main Street. This property was a tax-forfeited property. They plan to move their mobile home to this property and build a two-car garage.
* Thiel noted there is an assessment in the amount of $23,700 on this property from the demolition of a home that was located on this property. White reported council could assess this entire amount to this property, they could waive this assessment, or they could agree on a lesser dollar amount to assess.
* Whisler suggested assessing half of the original assessment amount. Thiel suggested setting the assessment in the amount of the fair-market value of the lots. Motion by Huntley to pass Resolution 2019-13, a resolution reducing the assessment from $23,700 to $7,000 payable over a two-year period at 3% interest. Second by Shipman. Motion carried 5-0.

Land Use Permits:

* There were no land-use permits for council review.

Communications File:

* Council reviewed the minutes from the Mower County League of Cities dinner meeting and read a thank you from the Mobile Momma group.
* A grand opening for the City of Elgin new city hall will be held on Wednesday, December 18.

Street Quotes for East County Road:

* Council reviewed the proposal from Heartland Asphalt for the mill and overlay of East County Road from Main Street to Lowell Street. This proposal is in the amount of $144,035. Jones reported that no other proposals were received from other companies.
* Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to accept the bid from Heartland Asphalt in the amount of $144,035 for the East County Road project. Motion carried 5-0. Heartland Asphalt will also fill various potholes and address any trouble spots when they are here for this project.

Snow Removal:

* White reported she had left phone messages with Mark Panek from MnDOT to discuss the city’s share of proposed snow removal on Trunk Highway 56. She had not received a return call in time for the council meeting.
* Council reviewed two lease agreements for snow removal. One lease agreement was from Cordell Stockdale for the use of a skidloader for $85 per hour. The other lease agreement was from Koch, Inc. for the use of a Volvo payloader for $175 per hour. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve both lease agreements. Motion carried 5-0.
* Huntley also noted it may be a good time for the council to look at purchasing a skidloader for the city. Information will be gathered for council review.
* Council agreed to not address the State contract until more information is gathered.
* Chris Lentz questioned about snow removal by his house. He expressed displeasure in having all the snow from John Street deposited by his house and no snow being deposited across the street at his neighbor’s house. Jones reported he has tried his best in plowing the snow from this area and tried to not rip up this gravel street. Council thanked Mr. Lentz for his input.

Personnel Reviews & 2020 Pay & Benefits Package:

* Council wanted to move to closed session to discuss personnel reviews, but due to state law, employees that are going to be reviewed need to be notified of this and then have the choice to have the meeting open. No employee had been notified of this. Council then chose to hold a special council meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center to address Personnel Reviews and 2020 Pay & Benefits Package. All employees being reviewed will be notified of this meeting.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Shipman, second by Gottschalk at 7:29 PM. The next regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council will be held on Monday, January 6, 2020.

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 Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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 Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer