

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010 - 7:00 PM**

**** MINUTES ****

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor Wetzel, Dorothy Dinwiddie, Emmett Krenik, Josh Fredrickson, Jason Squires
Absent: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Motion by Dinwiddie, Seconded by Fredrickson, minutes from February 9, 2010 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Squires, notes from March 5, 2010 Workshop Meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.
- C) Council changes to proposed Agenda: MOVE UP: NEW C) House of Insurance
ADD: EDA (2) Discuss minutes of EDA meeting, ADMIN. B) Budget Workshop Mtg.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Dinwiddie, to pay the bills listed and due. Approved unanimously.

**** NEW C) HOUSE OF INSURANCE REVIEW ****

Agent Darian Hunt presented his brief overview of the city insurance thru LMC. See handout. Increase of \$5,200 was due to property values being raised after appraisals. Hunt suggested breaking out the Community Club stand & West Park stand from city. Motion by Fredrickson, Seconded by Krenik, to waive the statutory tort limit on municipal liability. Approved by 4-1 vote; Dinwiddie voting no.

IV. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & DEPARTMENTS

A) E.D.A. Report- Don Hayden

- 1) Motion by Krenik, Second by Squires, to order the "Welcome To Le Center" sign to be placed in South Park. Approved unanimously.
- 2) Mayor Wetzel explained the unapproved minutes from the March 5th EDA Board meeting concerning Rivers Edge Hospital & Clinic of St. Peter wanting to lease out some of the city medical building. Rivers Edge had proposed possibly having a Nurse Practitioner staff the building 2-3 days per week depending upon the lease agreement. EDA had recommended the following lease agreement be approved:

- 1st year- no rent charged
- 2nd year- no rent charged
- 3rd year- \$300 per month rent
- 4th year- \$400 per month rent
- 5th year- \$500 per month rent

Based on signing a five year lease agreement. Rivers Edge will take the proposal back to their board for approval. Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Squires, to adopt the recommended lease agreement proposal from EDA. Approved unanimously.

B) P & Z Report- Corey Block

Building Inspector Block reported: “building speak” has definitely increased in the construction community for 2010/ Spruce Motel will either be a motel policed by County Health Dept. or will be closed within 60 days.

C) Municipal Liquor Store

On-Sale Mgr. Mike Nelson gave a brief February report: Sales were \$63,490.97; down \$3,100 from January but up \$1800.00 from February 2009/ St. Pats celebration all set/ purchased two used portable bars for use at private wedding functions.

- 1) Much discussion on whether to purchase the Elmer’s Building adjacent to the muni. Mgr. Nelson stated the deal was as good as could be offered; now was the time. The building cost was \$105,000 plus \$45,000 for fixing up the apts. and store front. Some Council felt the building was just too old. Clerk Collins stated the council could legally purchase the building with Revenue Bonds, using only net revenues from the Municipal to pay back the bonds, and not the taxing powers of the City.

Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Dinwiddie, NOT to buy the Elmer’s Building. Vote was 3-2 against motion. Voting yes to the motion- Krenik, Dinwiddie. Voting no to the motion- Squires, Fredrickson, Wetzel. Motion fails by 3-2 vote.

Motion by Squires, Seconded by Fredrickson, YES buy the Elmer’s Building. Vote was 3-2 in favor of motion. Voting yes to the motion- Squires, Fredrickson, Wetzel. Voting no to the motion- Krenik, Dinwiddie. Motion passes by 3-2 vote.

D) Police Department

Police Chief Pfarr reported on the police activities for month of February: 111 calls/ 2,675 miles patrolled. Pfarr reported its very quiet out there. Motion by Squires, Seconded by Krenik, to adopt State Joint Agreement resolution, thereby entering into a joint powers agreement with the State of Minnesota allowing Le Center access to the State I-Mobile Radio System on the police laptop. Approved unanimously.

E) Water, Sewer, Streets, Parks

Public Works Superintendent Curt Roemhildt gave his monthly report:

- Streets- sweeping sand for St. Pat's Parade.
- Parks- closed the skating rink.
- Water- the DNR letter concerning our water supply plan from January council meeting was returned to them; hopefully accepted with our changes.
- Misc.- Supt. Roemhildt provided council with his list of budget reductions for 2010.
 - 1) Well #4 electrical problem- see Bolton & Menk letter to Trout Well. City will consider the failure as "under warranty". Trout will not get paid off.
 - 2) Narrow Band radios- brief mention of the list. City will go with "push-to-talk".

F) Bolton & Menk Engineering- Engineer Joel Hawbaker

- 1) 2010-11 USDA Project- no information on the report status.
- 2) 2010 Minnesota Street Project- Hawbaker presented the Engineer's Report & Estimate: Total= \$2.2M Est. Project (City= \$651,261 - County= \$1,568,549) Based on the City's assessment policy of assessing 25% of construction costs to each abutting/ benefiting property owner; that equates to approx. \$87/lf of property owned.
 - a) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Dinwiddie, to adopt Resolution No. 2010B, thereby Receiving Engineer's Report & Estimate and Calling Hearing on Improvement. Approved unanimously.
 - b) Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Fredrickson, Set the Public Hearing on Improvements for Thursday, April 8, 2010 @ 6:00 pm at city hall. Approved unanimously.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no petitions, requests, or communications from the general public.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Squires, Seconded by Krenik, accept the committee recommendation to raise the water base fee by \$2.00 per month on each account to help cover the approx. \$32,500 loss in that fund. Discussed at Feb. meeting. Effective April 1st. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Squires, accept the committee recommendation to adjust the EDU list for apartments & rental units. Committee reworked the list to reflect the proposed new water base fee and adjusted several of the credits some of the properties were receiving. Discussed at Feb. meeting. Effective April 1st. Approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) No auditor present/ audit not ready/ schedule him for April 13 council meeting.
- B) State proposed LGA cuts of approx. \$115,000 to Le Center. Council members and Dept. Heads will look into cutting each department budget by 10% in 2010.
- C) See previous discussion.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Squires, to approve Resolution issuing temporary Warrant for \$130,696.06 (PFA Loan). Staff paid off the previous \$48,327.50 warrant approved at February meeting. Approved unanimously.
- B) Set Workshop Meeting to discuss 2010 budget cuts with Dept. Heads for Thursday, April 8 at 5:00 pm at city hall (previous to the Public Hearing on Improvements).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Krenik, Seconded by Dinwiddie, for Mayor Wetzel to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously. 9:00 pm.

Chris L. Collins, City Clerk, City of Le Center, MN