

**CITY OF LE CENTER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022 – 7:00 PM
10 W. TYRONE ST. LE CENTER, MN 56057**

*** MINUTES ***

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Mayor J. Fredrickson, Council Members J. Weiers, N. Hintz, C. Harmeyer, C. Scott
Absent: None
Staff: City Administrator D. Evans, Public Works Superintendent C. Roemhildt, Police Chief D. Carlsrud, Liquor Manager B. Vikla, Building Official C. Block, City Attorney J. Moran

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Scott to approve Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held September 13, 2022. Approved unanimously.
- B) Council changes to Agenda: None

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

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

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

- A) E.D.A. Report – Evans, No Report
- B) P & Z Report - Director Block, No Report
- C) Liquor Store Report - Manager Becky Vikla stated that September 2022 sales were \$96,791. September sales in 2021 were \$89,638. Bar sales were up \$5,071 from 2021 and off sale was up \$2,082 from 2021. September recap: Successful opening day for football with live music by Sohmer. Catered St. Mary's block party misc. parties and weddings. October: Pfeiffer, DJ and Karaoke, Halloween Bash, and a meat raffle.
- D) Police Report - Chief Derek Carlsrud reported on the police activities for month of September: 166 calls @ 3170 miles patrolled. One (1) arrest. Carlsrud indicated that animal-at-large complaints are up and encouraged folks to get their pet licensed with city hall. With the retirement of Sgt. Dan Steffen, Carlsrud indicated that he posted an open full-time position with a deadline of October 31st. Officer Hernandez will pass out candy on Halloween evening at city hall. Batteries have been received for the Motorola mobile radios, so they can be put in service.

- 1) Sgt. Dan Steffen addressed the council with his desire to resign from the Le Center Police Department. A notable quote from his beautiful speech is as follows. “Even though the sheepdog wants to chase the wolf, he might be old, and it’s time for him to go out to pasture and be a house dog, and let the new dogs chase the wolf.” Many kind words were exchanged about Sgt. Steffen from council & staff, and he will be missed. Fredrickson and Harmeyer currently sit on the law Enforcement committee and will assist with interviewing finalist for the position.

E) Public Works Report - Public Works Superintendent Roemhildt reported the following:

- City parks are all closed and winterized for the season.
- Staff has begun planting trees in the boulevard of the 2020 street project.
- Water dept. passed its annual inspection, performed by the MN dept of health with no know deficiencies.
- Winco had two water main leaks under their new parking lot that public works assisted on.
- Wastewater dept. had a clarifier (equipment) go down in the past few weeks, and that is now working and operational.
- Wastewater dept. is waiting for the corn to be harvested from our 80 acres, so that they can apply biosolids to the topsoil.
- CenterPoint Energy has finished their underground gas mains on Sharon and Kilkenny and just needs to finish hard surfaces and earth restoration/seeding.
- AT&T continues to work on the water tower for their cellular antenna upgrades.
- Metronet is close to finishing all the underground fiber work for their project.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) A public hearing was held this evening prior to the meeting regarding amending chapter 22 of the code of Ordinances, Sec 22-36 Public Nuisances Affecting Peace and Safety. There was no opposition from the public, staff or council on the changes. Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott to wave the 2nd reading and approve Ordinance No. 2022-2. Ordinance will become effective upon publication in the Le Sueur County News on October 20, 2022. Approved unanimously.
- B) Evans indicated that he reached out to four (4) firms to request a proposal for a water and sewer rate study. Both funds have been deficient in the past few years and was a recommendation from the water and sewer rate committee that this study be done. Three (3) proposals were submitted.
 - Ehlers Public Finance and Bolton & Menk submitted a joint proposal for \$23,850 with the additional charge of \$9,000 for a Capital Improvement Plan and other cost associated to the rate study.
 - Baker Tilly proposal was \$18,875.
 - ABDO Financial Solutions proposal was \$13,500.

The scope and services offered for the rate study was very similar across all proposals. Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz to approve the water and sewer rate proposal submitted by ABDO Financial Solutions for \$13,500. Approved Unanimously.

- C) The council reviewed the new Public Works Superintendent Job Description and Job Posting. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott to approve same. Approved unanimously.
- D) A hiring committee was set for the superintendent position, that will consist of Council Member Harmeyer and Hintz, Attorney Moran, and Administrator Evans. The role of this committee will be to vet applications and make recommendations on finalist to interview with the full council.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Motion by Harmeyer, Seconded by Scott to approve the Trunk or Treat Special Event Permit. Approved unanimously.
- B) Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Scott to approve the proposal from Doug Holicky to purchase the 1993 Chevrolet Suburban. Approved unanimously.
- C) This section was discussed earlier in the agenda.
- D) Motion by Weiers, Seconded by Harmeyer to approve Resolution No. 2022O Appointing Elections Judges for the State General Election. Approved unanimously.
- E) Evans indicated that an individual inquired about renting the council chambers. Renting the chambers had stopped when the pandemic started in early 2020. Evans stated that the city does not have a policy in place that regulates the renting of the council chambers. Many cities in the surrounding area only rent their chambers to non-profit, 501c3 type entities. Attorney Moran suggest that a policy would be a good idea and will begin drafting something together to help staff regulate chamber rentals. This topic will be tabled until a proposed policy is provided to the council for review.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & MISC.

- A) Evans proposed a mock agenda structure to the council for discussion. The city currently participates in the Pledge of Allegiance and the new structure would have that noted. There would be a consent agenda added to the regular agenda. This would streamline approving routine business that is generally brought before the council. One motion would approve all items listed on the consent agenda. It was also discussed to incorporate future public hearings within the body of the agenda and not call a hearing prior to the start of the regular meeting. The council was okay with these recommendation and Evans will incorporate the changes in future agendas.
- B) Motion by Scott, Seconded by Harmeyer to move the regular November meeting to November 15th because of the General Election. This would also allow the council to

canvass county election results which is a requirement of the state. Approved unanimously.

- C) Harmeyer gave an update to the council on the FEMA Flood Insurance Map Meeting that took place on September 21, 2022. There will be future meetings on this topic but if the city chooses to opt in, we will need to pass an ordinance in the future. FEMA will keep city staff updated on the process going forward.
- D) Mayor Fredrickson reminded the council of the upcoming Le Sueur County Officials Association meeting on October 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. location TBD.

IX. CLOSED MEETING

The council chose to not go into closed session because it only received one purchase agreement and it was initially anticipated that two purchase agreements would be brought before the council. Purchase agreement was from Miller Homes, LLC for Lots 14, 15, 16, 17, all in Block 003, Horizon Addition, Le Center MN, for \$285,000. All lots are zoned R3 with intentions of having Miller Homes construct single or multifamily homes. Motion by Hintz, Seconded by Harmeyer to accept the Purchase Agreement as written. Approved unanimously.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business; Motion by Scott, Seconded by Hintz, for Mayor Fredrickson to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Dan Evans, Administrator