**City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2019**

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, March 4, 2019, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Kathleen Gottschalk, Ashley Huntley, Gene Miller, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White.
Also attending: Leslie Kerr, Deputy John Wade, and Axel Gumbel. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Following some questions, motion by Miller, second by Whisler to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

No one present had anything for Public Input Time.

During Standing Committee Reports:

* Huntley reported the LeRoy Area Ambulance Service has received the 2019 per-capita from the City of LeRoy.

Police Report:

* Deputy John Wade handed out the written police report. He noted it has started to get a little busier.
* Deputy Wade questioned council which ordinances they want him to enforce. Council felt to use discretion with this; the council would like the assigned deputy to deliver letters to possible offenders of the city nuisance ordinance.
* Thiel noted the council could come up with a list of ordinances they would like to see Deputy Wade enforce. Council thanked Deputy Wade for his report and his time.

Library Board Appointments:

* Council reviewed the list of library board appointments as provided by Librarian Rhonda Barnes. These appointees include Dianne Ahrens (2019), JoAnn Shipman (2019), Gerald Payne (2019), Rhonda Newton (2018), Leslie Kerr (2017), Donna Johnson (2017), Ben Reburn (2011), and Brian Thiel (city council representative). Pat Utz serves on the SELCO Executive Board. Motion by Whisler to approve the stated list for the Library Board for 2019. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.
* White presented information received from PEIP on health insurance options for Librarian Barnes.
* Thiel noted questions had been brought to him pertaining to the shoveling of snow from the library sidewalks. It was noted the city maintenance guys are busy with plowing snow from the city streets and do not have the time to shovel the library sidewalks until after the streets have been plowed. Thiel commented the city allocates funds to the library for their operations. He felt this is something the library board needs to address and spend their funds as they deem appropriate.

City Police Protection:

* Whisler and White had met with City of Adams mayor and city clerk to discuss their options for police protection. Adams is presently considering to continue to have their own police department.
* White read some portions of the present contract the City of LeRoy has with Mower County for police protection. White suggested having a meeting with the Mower County Sheriff, County Administrator, County Commissioner Glynn, Whisler, Gottschalk, and White to further discuss police protection for the City of LeRoy. Whisler and Gottschalk committee appointments include police and public safety.

Acknowledgement of Volunteers:

* Thiel noted he had requested this item to be on the agenda. He suggested nominations for Volunteer of the Year and award this during Summer Fest. White suggested having the council pass a blanket resolution thanking all the people that volunteer for many different things throughout the year and publishing this in the Mower County Independent. Motion by Whisler to follow White’s suggestion. Council further discussed these ideas. Whisler withdrew his motion.
* Miller suggested having a volunteer of the month. White questioned who is going to determine who the volunteer to be honored is. Miller noted a sub-committee of the council would meet to review nominations and make the recommendation. Gumbel noted this could be advertised on the new City Facebook page.
* Miller volunteered to be the point-person for this recognition committee. Gottschalk volunteered to also serve on this committee.
* Motion by Thiel to begin a Volunteer Recognition Program for any city resident; this person would be nominated by his/her peers and would be recognized on a monthly basis at the city council meeting. The winner would receive a certificate and have their picture published in the Mower County Independent and on the City Facebook page. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0.

Land Use Permits:

* Council reviewed one land use permit. Thiel recused himself from this part of the meeting since the land use permit was submitted by him.
1. Lot 4, Block 2, Hickock 3rd Addition, 306 E Benton-build house and garage

Motion by Gottschalk, second by Huntley to approve said permit. Motion carried 4-0.

* Thiel requested tax abatement for this new construction. Motion by Miller, second by Whisler to call for a public hearing on this tax abatement request to be held on Monday, April 1, 2019, at 7:00 PM. Motion carried 4-0. Thiel returned to the meeting.

Communications File:

* A letter of request for funding for the Mower County Fair was reviewed. No action was taken on this request.
* The Mower County Open Book meetings will be held from April 15 to June 7 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on these days.
* Council reviewed four resolutions that were reviewed and supported by the Southeastern Minnesota League of Municipalities. These resolutions are in support of the Venture SE Minnesota Diversification Revolving Loan Program Bill, in support of the bonding request of $7 million for reconstructing Runway 2/20 at the Rochester International Airport, in support of state funding to the Minnesota Initiative Foundations for Rural Minnesota Child Care, and in support of the Minnesota Housing Tax Credit Contribution Fund. A motion was made by Miller to support all four of these resolutions. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.

East Y Project:

* White noted that this project had been completed in 2011 with assessments being assessed to five affected properties on this project. The assessment resolution had been approved by the seated council at that time and filed with Mower County. The assessment roll was to have been applied to two of the affected properties; the other three affected properties paid the assessment in full prior to filing the roll. For some unknown reason, the assessment roll had never been spread to the affected parcels.
* To best address this, the county auditor-treasurer recommended passing a duplicate resolution and filing the assessment roll with Mower County to be spread on the 2019 taxes and following the same terms as the original assessment with the assessment to be spread over five years with interest being charged at 6%. Motion by Miller to pass Resolution 2019-01, a resolution adopting this assessment roll. Second by Whisler. Motion carried 5-0.

Sewer Maintenance/Repair Under Main Street:

* Jones has not been able to make contact with Empire Pipe representatives yet on this project.

East County Road Proposed Project:

* White read an excerpt from the city engineer pertaining to this proposed project. Council agreed this project would need to be put off until the 2020 construction season. Council also expressed concern as to when the Highway 56 project will be done and the costs associated with that project.
* Motion by Miller to have the sanitary sewer main under North East County Road televised as appropriate with timing to complete this. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0.

City Facebook Page:

* Axel Gumbel reported the LeRoy EDA was quite responsive to having a City Facebook page to promote LeRoy and things happening here. The EDA noted the city would need to also support this page before it could go live. Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to support a City Facebook page. Motion carried 5-0.

In Other Business:

* White was congratulated on her becoming a Minnesota Master Municipal Clerk. This honor will be bestowed on White at the annual MCFOA conference to be held March 19-22. White thanked council for their support.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Huntley at 8:04 PM.

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 Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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 Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer