**City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2019**

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, April 1, 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: Cassidy Milks, Deputy John Wade, Craig Jacobson, and Axel Gumbel. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Following some questions on the snow removal and discussion on the utility billings using the auto-read meters, a motion was made by Huntley, seconded by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Input Time:

* Formal recognition was given to Clerk White for achieving the Minnesota Master Municipal Clerk designation. White thanked the council for their support and showed the council the plaque she received.
* Craig Jacobson handed out a brochure from Pine Island on their ‘Borrow-A-Bike’ program. Jacobson questioned if this was anything the city and/or EDA should pursue. Jacobson noted this would require funding to purchase the bikes. Council discussed the problems they have heard about the bike sharing program the City of Austin tried. It was noted that Prairie Visions is not looking to pursue any type of bike sharing program. Council offered no further support of this project.
* Cassidy Milks questioned if the city bills are readily available for public review and if these could be put on the city website. White provided Milks with the report he was requesting.

During Standing Committee Reports:

* Huntley reported the LeRoy Area Ambulance director met with directors of the Adams and Grand Meadow ambulance services to discuss sharing of EMTs to help cover open shifts with any of the services. The lines of communication will be kept open with this discussion, but the LeRoy service is not looking into this at this time since LeRoy Area Ambulance has an ample number of volunteers.

Police Report:

* Deputy John Wade handed out the written police report. He noted there has been more activity with the nicer weather.
* Deputy Wade again questioned about ordinance enforcement. Council will use Deputy Wade to deliver letters to possible offenders of the city nuisance ordinance. Council thanked Deputy Wade for his report and his time.

Volunteer of the Month Recognition:

* Miller presented a Word document that could be used for people to nominate someone for this recognition.
* Miller noted he has received two recommendations. He and Gottschalk will review these and recognize the first Volunteer of the Month at the May council meeting.

City Police Protection:

* The meeting with the Mower County Sheriff, County Administrator, County Commissioner Glynn, Councilors Whisler and Gottschalk, and White has not been set up yet.

Public Hearing:

* Mayor Thiel recused himself from the council meeting. Acting Mayor Gottschalk read the due call for the public hearing and opened the hearing at 7:00 PM.
* Council reviewed the request for tax abatement from Brian and Sharon Thiel for the new construction they have proposed on Lot 4, Block 2, Hickock 3rd Addition. The total estimated abatement amount is on $175,000 of estimated property value.
* Motion by Miller, second by Huntley to pass Resolution 2019-06, a Resolution Approving Tax Abatement for Certain Property Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 469.1813. Motion carried 4-0. Being no further business to come before the public hearing, the hearing was closed at 7:03 PM. Mayor Thiel returned to the meeting.

Lawn Mowing for 2019 Season:

* White reported she had contacted Brady O’Connor from Blades of Glory to see if he was still in the mowing business and if he was interested in the city mowing of the LeRoy Cemetery, South Park, and North Baumbach Park. He noted he was still in the mowing business and would be interested in these mowing jobs again for the 2019 mowing season.
* Whisler noted he had not heard of any complaints about Mr. O’Connor’s mowing of the cemetery or city parks. White noted the council could choose to accept Mr. O’Connor’s 2019 price quotes, or the council could choose to put the mowing out for bid. It was noted that no other party had expressed any interest in these mowing jobs.
* Motion by Whisler to accept Brady O’Connor’s quote of $365 per time for mowing the LeRoy Cemetery, $80 per time for mowing South Park, and $80 per time for mowing North Baumbach Park for the 2019 mowing season. Mr. O’Connor will provide a new certificate of insurance to the city. Second by Gottschalk. Motion carried 5-0.

City-Wide Cleanup Day:

* Council discussed available dates for a spring city-wide cleanup day. It was council consensus to offer a city-wide cleanup day on Saturday, May 4, 2019, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the area north of the Emergency Services building.
* It was noted the 20-miles of garage sales will be held on June 7 & 8 from LeRoy to Rose Creek. This is coordinated through Prairie Visions.

Communications File:

* Council reviewed the invitation to the SEMLM dinner meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, in Chatfield and reviewed the invitation to the Mower County league dinner meeting to be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019, in Elkton.
* Council reviewed information from the League of Minnesota Cities urging cities to pass a resolution supporting comprehensive transportation funding. Council took no action on this at this time.

Street Maintenance and Repair:

* Jones noted that some of the larger potholes have been filled by the maintenance department using pothole patching repair material.
* Whisler reported he had contacted J.C. Nerstad and left him a message; Whisler has not received a return call as of meeting time. Whisler had also contacted Heartland Asphalt from Mason City, Iowa. They will have a representative here tomorrow morning to review the condition of the city streets.
* Thiel commented he would like to have a complete streets mapping done showing the width and length of the city streets and the conditions of the streets. This would give the council a tool to better guide them in the decision-making process and would hopefully give better direction in making long-range plans. Whisler felt it best to proceed as in the past and get dollar figures to repair the streets.
* Miller expressed concern that if the council proceeds with having this mapping done would the council fund the amount needed to repair the streets. He also felt the mapping would give better information as the square footage of the streets and the condition of the blacktop on each street.
* Motion by Thiel to get a quote from an engineering firm to do a survey assessment of the square footage of the streets and the condition of the streets covering. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0.

Sewer Maintenance/Repair Under Main Street:

* Jones noted he has made contact with Empire Services; he is waiting for their reply for direction in addressing the condition of the sewer main under East Main Street. East County Road sewer main will also be televised by Empire Services to find the condition of that sewer main.
* The Highway 56 project through LeRoy still does not have a date yet from the state. Council felt the state engineer should be the lead engineer on this project with the city engineer doing the portion of the city’s part of the project to include new water and sewer mains.
* Huntley questioned about the ownership of County Road 56. It was noted Mower County still owns County 56; the council has no plans to accept ownership of this street. There are still issues with the north end of this road with a small culvert in place and episodes of flooding.

Parks & Recreation:

* Huntley noted she has not heard anything from the LeRoy Lions about the proposed Lions Park. She has received comments from constituents why some of the features of this park are not incorporated into the other two city parks. Gumbel noted the LeRoy Lions are currently pursuing their own 501(C)3 designation. This is a time-consuming process and will take some time to get in place. The Lions need this designation to apply for various grants.

City Equipment Needs:

* Thiel has been researching equipment needs for the City. He has looked into a skid-loader that could be used for various needs. This piece of equipment could be used year round. A new unit could cost from $60,000 to $70,000; a used unit can be found for $10,000 or up. Thiel felt this piece of equipment would be a good purchase for the city. He also found a couple of used dump trucks in Albert Lea for under $20,000. One of the trucks has a two-way front plow, a belly blade, a wing blade, and a sander attachment.
* Jones noted the hydraulics on the current dump truck would have to be completely rebuilt if anything went wrong with them. The parts for the hydraulic system are obsolete on the truck. If a replacement truck were purchased the present truck could be sold.
* Miller questioned about the hours and condition of the city tractor. He felt it would be more prudent to trade the tractor and not purchase a skid-loader. Thiel felt the skid-loader could alleviate some time clearing snow from the city streets or around the fire hydrants. Miller would like to receive more information as to the year of the tractor and how many hours are on the tractor. It was the consensus of the council to further investigate a different dump truck.

In Other Items:

* Miller reported that Ron Purkapile had talked to him and Jones about the snow being piled on the city railroad property behind Mr. Purkapile’s house. As these snow piles became bigger, the snow overflowed onto Mr. Purkapile’s yard. Mr. Purkapile noted that this snow could have killed one or more of his trees.
* Miller suggested having Mr. Purkapile move these trees and make a cash offer to him to allow the city to pile snow on his property. Council discussion followed. Council did not agree with the cash offer suggestion. Other alternatives were discussed including beginning the snow piles further east on the city railroad property.
* Miller will follow-through with Mr. Purkapile and let him know the city will try to push the snow further east on the city-owned railroad property. Mr. Purkapile should monitor the condition of his trees; if needed the city will replace trees affected from the snow piles.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk at 8:19 PM.

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Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer