**City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, June 3, 2019**

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 6:30 PM at the LeRoy Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Brian Thiel, Council Members Ashley Huntley, Jan Whisler, Maintenance Supervisor John Jones, and City Clerk Patty White. Council Member Kathleen Gottschalk was absent.
Also attending: Daisie Fox, Joey Miller, Harold Shipman, Dennis White, Don Orum, Jason Boynton, Leslie Kerr, Cassidy Milks, Craig Jacobson, Deputy Sawyer Weiss, Axel Gumbel, Jim Gronwoldt, and James Loven. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

Council Member Appointment:

* Thiel noted four letters of interest for the open council seat vacated by Gene Miller were received from Harold Shipman, Joey Miller, Daisie Fox, and Georgena Bird. It was noted that Mr. Shipman, Mr. Miller, and Ms. Fox were in attendance; Ms. Bird was not in attendance.
* Thiel posed questions to each of the candidates ranging from what their main concerns with the city are, what they see as positives for the city, any initiatives the city should explore, and how much time each of them has to put forth with a council appointment.
* Both Whisler and Huntley noted they were pleased with the interest shown and thanked each candidate for submitting a letter of interest. Whisler noted he favored Mr. Shipman due to his past experience in serving on the council. Huntley noted Shipman comes with experience and history of serving on the council, but she was pleased to see younger residents interested in LeRoy, too.
* Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to appoint Harold Shipman to the unexpired term of Gene Miller from 06/03/19 through 12/31/20. Motion carried 3-0.
* White administered the oath of office to Harold Shipman; Mr. Shipman was welcomed to the council. Thiel noted committee assignments will be discussed at the July council meeting.

During Public Input Time:

* Leslie Kerr, on behalf of the LeRoy Library Board, updated those present about the wet basement encountered when a sump pump quit. The library was closed for a couple of days when fans were set up to assist with drying the carpet. No books were damaged. The basement carpets will be professionally cleaned later in June. Kerr thanked the city maintenance department and city clerk for assisting with this issue.
* Jim Gronwoldt requested the closure of South Broadway between Main Street and the south business alley from Thursday evening, July 18, through Sunday, July 21, to accommodate Summer Fest events. Motion by Huntley, second by Whisler to allow this closure. Motion carried 4-0. Gronwoldt also questioned why the Bud Light portion of the fire dance banner was painted over on the banner that had been hung below the ‘Welcome to LeRoy’ sign at the East Y. Thiel reported he had directed this to be done and noted commercial advertising should not be used on city signs.
* Craig Jacobson reported the Wheels-to-Go program has been well received. In the two weekends this program has been in operation 25 bikes have been checked out with over half of them being checked out by out of town visitors.
* James Loven noted that in the area of South Everett and East Atkins streets there are many young children. He requested ‘children at play’ signs installed in this area. He also noted that traffic does not always stop at the four-way stop at the intersection of Atkins and Broadway streets. Council will further discuss this, but council reminded those present that children are at play all over town; people need to watch their children, too. Whisler noted that people can record the license plate numbers of vehicles running stop signs and report them to law enforcement.

During Standing Committee Reports:

* Huntley reported the Ambulance Board did not meet in May; their May business will be addressed at their June meeting.
* Whisler noted that he and Jones had discussed getting more potholes patched. Jones reported the maintenance department used their last eight bags of pothole patch today. They will get more patching material and continue filling potholes.

Police Report:

* Our new assigned deputy was present, but he was called out before he could introduce himself and give a report.
* Thiel noted the City of Adams will soon be getting police coverage through a contract with the Mower County Sheriff’s Department. A meeting with Adams officials, county officials, and LeRoy officials will try to be convened in the near future.

Volunteer of the Month Recognition:

* Due to the absence of Councilor Gottschalk, there was no volunteer recognition at this meeting.

City Equipment Update:

* Jones reported the dump truck was repaired last week.
* Jones and Sweeney had gone to Albert Lea to look at a few different dump trucks that were for sale. None of these trucks were feasible for the city’s needs.
* Thiel questioned if some type of box scraper would be a good addition to equipment. Jones noted this could be useful.

2018 Audit Report:

* Jason Boynton of Smith Schafer and Associates introduced himself.
* Mr. Boynton reviewed the 2018 audit report and presented a PowerPoint presentation.
* Mr. Boynton reported the City of LeRoy received an unmodified clean opinion for 2018. Council thanked Mr. Boynton for his report.
* Thiel noted the city will be looking at a complete rebuild of Main Street (Highway 56) in 2023. This may come at a cost of approximately $1.5 M. Mr. Boynton noted the council may want to review water and sewer rates and look at the tax levy at that time.
* Motion by Huntley, second by Shipman to accept the 2018 audit report. Motion carried 4-0.

Resolution of Appreciation to Gene Miller:

* Motion by Whisler, second by Thiel to pass Resolution 2019-08, a Resolution of Thanks to Gene Miller for his years of service to the City of LeRoy. On a roll call of votes, all council members voted aye. The resolution passed 4-0.

Land Use Permits:

* Council reviewed one land use permit:
1. W ½ Lot 8 & E 30’ Lot 9, Lewis Addition, 437 W Main-build garage

Motion by Shipman, second by Whisler to approve said permit. Motion carried 4-0.

* Huntley questioned about the placement of the fence that has been installed at 712 North Broadway. Jones will look into this.

Communications File:

* A letter from SEMA noting the relocation from the LeRoy location to the Grand Meadow location will happen on June 15.
* Council reviewed a map showing that Frontier is extending fiber into LeRoy to their communications building.

Street Maintenance & Repair:

* The Heartland Asphalt street projects will begin later this year.
* Jones noted he will need to get more bags of pothole patch. Thiel questioned if it would be feasible to get a truck load from Heartland Asphalt. Jones noted he doesn’t have a place to pile the mix. He felt the bags work better for the city applications.

Street Assessment & Mapping Proposal:

* Thiel would like to get more information before proceeding with this.

Sewer Repair Under Main Street:

* Jones reported the contractor will be here next Wednesday to review the video from Main Street; they will also video East County Road at that time.

Water & Sewer Services to Northern Country Coop Shop Building:

* Dennis White, representing Northern Country Coop (NCC), requested access to the manhole for sanitary sewer and to the fire hydrant for water at the intersection of the alley and Ada Street. These connections would then be jack and bored underground to the NCC shop building located at 650 East Main Street. Mr. White also questioned council if they would still appropriate funds in the amount of 25% of the project cost as the council had approved at their September 4, 2018, meeting. Mr. White noted the dollar figure would be a minimum of $5,500 for the city portion. NCC would be responsible for all the permitting required for this project.
* Whisler noted he would be in favor of resolving this utility concern for NCC with the $5,500 dollar figure.
* Motion by Whisler, second by Huntley to allow up to $5,500 for this project. Motion carried 4-0. Mr. White thanked the council for their time and fund commitment.

Public Buildings:

* Thiel reported the security system is in the process of being installed. Signs will be installed noting that the property is under video surveillance.

Lions Park Project:

* Whisler read the following prepared statement:

“I truly support the Lions Club which has done good things for our community. I also support handicap facilities, however, I do not support three parks in a town of our size. The city needs a backup well, updated sanitary and storm sewers, also some of our streets are a disaster. One thing the taxpayer of LeRoy does not need is higher taxes to pay for and maintain three parks. What I would suggest is to take a look at putting handicap equipment in one of our two existing parks. It would be less costly and offer better parking. I make the motion that the City of LeRoy at this time commit no support or funding for three parks in the city.”

* Huntley questioned if the Lions had considered putting handicap accessible equipment in either of the other parks. Huntley seconded Whisler’s motion.
* Axel Gumbel questioned if this motion means the end for this park. Mr. Gumbel is looking for guidance to take back to the Lions Club. Mr. Gumbel rephrased his question and asked if this means the city does not want to take over the maintenance of this third park.
* Huntley noted she sees the good that LeRoy City Lines and the Wheels-to-Go program have been for LeRoy, but she is concerned with the costs associated with maintaining another park. She noted that all these items are amenities to LeRoy, but all these items come back on the taxpayers.
* Mr. Gumbel noted that the expectation of the city was not to fund any portion of the park construction, the city would be responsible for park maintenance and repairs.
* Whisler would like to see some of this accessible equipment put in either one or both of the two existing city parks. He felt modifications could be made to either park.
* On a roll call of votes, all council members voted aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Veteran’s Memorial Update:

* Don Orum presented the latest rendition of the proposed Veterans Memorial. Any of the green space in the memorial will be covered with artificial turf. He noted the city will need to maintain the rock next to the Community Center for building water run-off.
* Mr. Orum reported the Legion members has been busy getting quotes for the Memorial. They hope to begin construction soon with council approval.
* Motion by Huntley to approve the interim plans of the Legion for the Veterans Memorial so the Legion can proceed with groundwork with the drainage going to the southwest. Second by Shipman. Motion carried 4-0.
* It was the consensus of the council to allow the rendition of the Veterans Memorial to be placed in the window in the small meeting room.

Nuisance Properties:

* There was nothing new to report on nuisance properties.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Whisler, second by Huntley at 8:24 PM.

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 Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

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 Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer