

City of LeRoy MN – Council Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2018

A regular meeting of the LeRoy City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Thiel on Monday, March 5, 2018, 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, and City Clerk Patty White. Maintenance Supervisor John Jones was absent. Also attending: John & Leslie Kerr, Harold Shipman, Cassidy & Lindsey Milks, Angie Olson, Axel Gumbel, Craig Jacobson, James Loven, Tim Lewison, Dave Perkins, Sharon & Al Hodgdon, and Deputy Tyler Wilson. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council reviewed the items included in the consent agenda. Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0

During Public Input Time:

- James Loven expressed concern about the timeliness of snow plowing and the piles of snow left from snow plowing operations. He noted concern for those in wheelchairs and their ability to get around with snow. He also expressed concern with snow left on sidewalks. Whisler replied that it takes time for the maintenance department to get all the streets cleared of snow. Miller also noted that property owners are responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalks. Whisler will speak to the maintenance department employees about Mr. Loven's concerns.

During Standing Committee Reports:

- Leslie Kerr, on behalf of the library board, thanked Mayor Thiel and Clerk White for getting the library personnel committee the necessary information needed to conduct the personnel review for Librarian Barnes. Mrs. Kerr presented the personnel review of Librarian Barnes. Motion by Huntley to grant the additional 2% pay increase to Barnes retroactive to January 1, 2018. Second by Whisler. Motion carried 5-0.
- Whisler reported there are currently two vacancies at Wildwood Grove. The cash flow is improving. Craig Jacobson reported he had attended the resident meeting; he did not hear too many complaints from the residents.
- LeRoy City Lines is going good. The charter business is picking up. Thiel questioned about public relations for LeRoy City Lines. Axel Gumbel noted that within the past week a bus was in St. Paul on a charter, a bus was in Des Moines on Thursday for a charter, and two buses were back in Des Moines on Saturday for a charter. That gives much good publicity for the service. Cassidy Milks questioned about transportation for LeRoy patients to either the Mayo Clinic Health Systems Adams Clinic or to Mayo Clinic Health Systems Austin Clinic. Mr. Jacobson noted that paperwork for insurance claims for this type of transportation is a bit of a hassle. This continues to be a work in process.
- Whisler and Miller noted the property at 133 West Main Street (the former NAPA store building) is listed for sale. There is approximately 5,000 square feet in the building on approximately one acre of land for \$49,900. They both noted there is SCDP grant funds available.

In Old Business:

- Thiel reported that Jaguar Communications had a booth at the LeRoy Farm & Home Show. This booth had many interested folks stopping by. Jaguar is now looking to come to LeRoy for a "Rootbeer and BBQ" event to showcase what they can provide with fiber internet, telephone, and television. Interested people can sign up for Jaguar's services at this event. Thiel suggested a mailing campaign by the city to get the word out on Jaguar's services; Miller felt Jaguar should take the lead on something like this.
- Al Hodgdon spoke on behalf of the LeRoy Community Pool. He noted people have shown much interest in the pool with the possibility of the pool closure. He reported the LeRoy Community Foundation has offered funding to keep the pool open until December 31, 2018. This funding would give time to come up with a long-term plan for the pool. Harold Shipman noted the LeRoy

Community Foundation has not fully committed to the funding. Thiel noted the LeRoy Ostrander School Board will have the final decision on the pool. Angie Olson, Tim Lewison, Al & Sharon Hodgdon, and Lindsey Milks are members of a newly formed task force to address the pool. Council Member Huntley expressed interest in serving on this task force. It was the consensus of the council that Huntley serve on this task force. Tim Lewison reported the most feasible option at this time for pool funding may be to have an operating levy referendum. He noted the operating levy has not been increased for 13 years. This referendum would be done through the school. Mr. Shipman questioned if the city would continue to contribute \$20,000 to the pool. Thiel commented the present seated council can't tie the hands of a future council, but he felt based on history this contribution would continue. Thiel questioned how the present LeRoy Pool Board is set up. Miller noted the Pool Board is a 501(c)3.

Police Report:

- Deputy Tyler Wilson handed out the written police report. He reported February was busier than January, but there was nothing concerning about this. He noted this is just routine police business.

Appointments to Health Collaboration Committee:

- Thiel reported he had been contacted by a representative of Mayo Clinic Health Systems Austin pertaining to the pending closing of the Adams Clinic and Mayo's desire to organize a committee to review healthcare options for the LeRoy and Adams areas. Thiel felt Mayo's thoughts for using a 24-hour nurse line or other types of telemedicine aren't what LeRoy residents are looking for. Thiel suggested Ashley Huntley, Craig Jacobson, John Kerr, and himself to serve on this committee. Thiel questioned if any in the audience would like to serve. Hearing from no one, it was council consensus that these four people serve on this committee. Cassidy Milks noted the Mayo Clinic Health System Pharmacy is still open in the LeRoy Clinic building. He expressed concern that he doesn't feel the pharmacy is being utilized as much as it should be. Huntley noted people are concerned that since the Clinic has closed, will Mayo give a 20-day notice that the pharmacy will also close.

2018 Lawn Mowing:

- White reported she had contacted Brady O'Connor of Blades of Glory. Mr. O'Connor has mowed the two city parks and city cemetery since 2015. Mr. O'Connor is willing to mow these parcels for the 2018 mowing season and charge the rates he was paid for mowing in 2017. Those rates were \$350 per time for mowing the LeRoy Cemetery and \$75 per time for mowing each the LeRoy South Park and LeRoy North Baumbach Park. White reported council can either accept Mr. O'Connor's offer for mowing, or the council can choose to put the 2018 mowing out for bid. Motion by Miller, second by Huntley to continue with Mr. O'Connor for the 2018 mowing season at the rates previously stated. Motion carried 5-0.

Aluminum Can Dumpster:

- White reported the aluminum can dumpster has been abused by people throwing their garbage bags in the dumpster instead of only aluminum cans. The maintenance department tries to monitor this, but they cannot catch everything that gets dropped off. White has been contacted by staff at Behr Iron expressing concern for this. Council was reminded the funds from these aluminum cans goes into a savings account of the LeRoy Community Foundation. Council could opt to have the dumpster picked up, leave it as is and hope that no more garbage is thrown in this, Behr Iron has offered to remove the dumpster and give people the option when they bring their aluminum cans to the yard that the check can still go the playground fund of the LeRoy Community Foundation, or switch to a smaller trailer with wire sides (maybe this would deter people from throwing garbage in it). Council discussed options and alternatives. Motion by Huntley to have Behr Iron pick up the dumpster and give people the option when they take their aluminum cans to Behr Iron where they want the check to go if the LeRoy Community Foundation does not want to take over the responsibility of the dumpster. Second by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no land use permits for council to review.

The Communications File was reviewed. Items included:

- A letter from the Mower County Fair Board was read. The Fair Board was looking for monetary support for the fair. Council took no action on this request.
- Council reviewed a permit application for a feedlot for Eric Nelson located at 13097 770th Ave. This feedlot would be for 98.4 animal units consisting of 82 beef cow and calf pairs.
- The invitation to the LMC Legislative Conference to be held on March 21 & 22 was reviewed.
- The Mower County open book meetings will be held from April 16 through June 8 at the Mower County Assessor's office. Thiel noted he and Whisler had talked to County Assessor Joy Kanne about property valuations. Ms. Kanne had planned on attending this council meeting, but the weather did not allow her attendance.

Water Tower Maintenance Contract:

- KLM Engineering had submitted a proposal for a 12-year service agreement to perform inspections on the 60,000-gallon elevated water tower. This 12-year service agreement will allow the City to stay compliant with the AWWA inspections. KLM would perform five inspections on the water tower which will provide an updated baseline report that the City will be able to use to manage this asset. The total cost of this service agreement is \$16,000 spread out over the 12 years. Miller questioned if this should be sent out for requests for proposals. Jones will work with Miller to research this option with other companies.

Sanitary Sewer Main Televising:

- Thiel questioned if the council should entertain the option to have more sanitary sewer mains televised when the company is here to televise the sewer main under Main Street. Council discussed this option. Motion by Miller to work with the maintenance department and council to determine where and how far additional televising should be done. Second by Huntley. Motion carried 5-0.

Community Center Meeting Rooms:

- Thiel suggested the Senior Citizens may be ready to not have control of the small room they have in the Community Center. If the Senior Citizens would relinquish control of this room, all activities and events for this room would be scheduled through city hall. Miller questioned about the rent the Senior Citizens have agreed to pay. Thiel noted that without them having control of this room, they wouldn't have anything to pay rent for. Thiel reminded council the Senior Citizens donated a large sum of money towards the restroom renovation in the Community Center. Motion by Whisler, second by Miller to take control of the Senior Room as the Community Center small meeting room pending a vote of the Senior Citizens. Gottschalk suggested the Senior Citizens should make this offer to the city council instead of the council asking the Senior Citizens for this room. Whisler rescinded his motion.

LED Sign Policy:

- Thiel questioned if the new LED sign should be opened up for advertising of community events, not just events held at the Community Center. Currently messages on the sign pertain to events being held at the Community Center with the exception of a few community events. Council questioned if rent should be charged to have items advertised on the sign. White was not in favor of this option. Thiel suggested using the sign for community events, not school events, but events that benefit the entire community. Council discussed whether to allow advertising for public events in private business places. Council will review these ideas and discuss this again at the April council meeting. Community events can be put on the sign now. Motion by Gottschalk, second by Huntley to leave the usage of the sign as is for now. Motion carried 5-0.

Nuisance Properties:

- Thiel reiterated that only signed written complaints will be acted upon. White will devise some type of generic form that people can fill out and sign for nuisance complaints. Signed, written complaints will also be accepted.
- Motion by Huntley, second by Gottschalk to offer another city-wide cleanup day sometime this spring. Motion carried 5-0.

Being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Gottschalk, second by Miller at 8:34 PM.

Brian Thiel, Mayor

Attest:

Patty A. White, City Clerk-Treasurer