

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA  
JANUARY 27, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the second meeting of the City Council of the City of La Crescent for the month of January was called to order by the temporary Presiding Officer Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, January 27, 2025.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following members were present: Members Cherryl Jostad, Chris Langen, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner. Members absent: Dale Williams. Mayor Mike Poellinger arrived at 5:10 pm. Also present were, City Administrator Bill Waller, City Attorney Skip Wieser, Attorney Kayla Schmitz, Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson, MN GreenCorp Member Mary Gegan, Community Development Coordinator Larry Kirch (via Zoom), and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

It being 5:00 pm and Mayor Poellinger not in attendance and Acting Mayor Williams absent, Attorney Wieser reviewed the process to proceed with the meeting.

1. A quorum was needed to call the meeting to order.

Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

2. Appointing one of the Council Members in attendance to be the temporary Presiding Officer over the meeting.

Member Chris Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO APPOINT MEMBER TERESA O'DONNELL-EBNER AS THE TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER OVER THE MEETING.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

**ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

At this time, temporary Presiding Officer O'Donnell-Ebner read the following items to be considered as part of the Consent Agenda for this regular meeting:

- 1.1 MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 2025
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – JANUARY 24, 2025

At the conclusion of the reading of the Consent Agenda, temporary Presiding Officer O'Donnell-Ebner asked if the Council wished to have any of the items removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad, as follows:

**A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

**ITEM 3.1 – PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES – JANUARY 7, 2025, WAIVER REQUEST – ZONING ORDINANCE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT**

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council the January 7, 2025, Planning Commission Minutes which included a waiver request for the Zoning Ordinance planned unit development requirement. Property owners from Cannabis & Glass requested a waiver for the Commercial Planned Unit Development Overlay district of the City Zoning Ordinance, to revert their property located at 270 E. Strupp Ave. in La Crescent back to C-1 Highway Commercial standards. The Planning Commission

approved the waiver request and recommended that the City Council approve the waiver request based on the following findings:

1. Commercial development of a vacant lot is consistent with the goals and intent of the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Applicant is proposed to construct a new building in compliance with C-1 zoning standards.

Max Wieser from Wieser Brothers General Contractors, Nate Podrid, and Aaron Boshart from Cannabis & Glass were in attendance to answer questions.

Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE WAIVER REQUEST BY CANNABIS & GLASS TO REVERT THE PROPERTY AT 270 E. STRUPP AVE, LA CRESCENT, MN BACK TO A C-1 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL STANDARD BASED ON THE STATED FINDINGS.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

**ITEM 3.2 – DELEGATION OF WINONA COUNTY CANNABIS REGULATIONS**

City Attorney reviewed with City Council recent communication with Winona County regarding a decision for the designation of the registration and oversight of cannabis retail establishments in the city. Under new state guidelines, cities and townships are presented with the option to either manage the registration of cannabis retail establishments within their jurisdiction or delegate the responsibility to the County(s). Attorney Wieser stated that both Houston County and Winona County have been notified that the city has adopted its own retail registration ordinance and the City intends to handle it on its own. This item was informational only, no action taken.

**ITEM 3.3 – REVIEW CITY COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES**

City Attorney Wieser reviewed Resolution No. 02-13-03 which sets forth the groundwork for orderly and respectful communication and to promote efficient working of the public's interest at Council Meetings. Pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. § 412.91 Subd. 2, City Councils have the authority to regulate their

own procedure. The Organizational Resolution has been in place with the City of La Crescent since 1975. Significant reviews were done in 2013 and 2014. Thereafter, the document has been reviewed and approved at the initial meeting of the year. Prior to the meeting a clerical change was requested to replace ‘Deputy Clerk’ with ‘City Clerk’ where stated within the Resolution. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO CHANGE ‘DEPUTY CLERK’ TO ‘CITY CLERK’ WHERE STATED WITHIN THE RESOLUTION.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O’Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

**ITEM 3.4 – REVIEW CITY CODE OF CONDUCT**

City Attorney Wieser then reviewed with City Council the Code of Conduct for elected and appointed officials of the City of La Crescent. The Code of Conduct was initially adopted in 2014. The Code of Conduct is an aspirational document for the city and how the Council and other representatives of the city conduct themselves while performing city business. There were no proposed changes to this Code of Conduct. This item was informational, and no action was taken.

**ITEM 3.5 – REVIEW SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

City Attorney Wieser also reviewed with City Council a copy of the existing Communications Policy adopted by the City of La Crescent. This was initially adopted in March 2003 and has been reviewed annually and updated as needed. There were no proposed changes to this Communication Policy. This item was informational, and no action was taken.

**ITEM 3.6 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – POOL CHAIRS**

City Council reviewed a letter from Public Works Director Tyler Benish regarding the purchase of thirty-six (36) pool chairs. The City received a quote from Taylor Associates for thirty-six (36) Bahia chaise lounge chairs for \$4,665.60. These chairs would replace approximately half of the chairs at the La Crescent Aquatic Center. It was recommended that City Council approve the expenditure with funds from

the Aquatic Center budget. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$4,665.60 FROM THE AQUATIC CENTER BUDGET FOR THIRTY-SIX (36) BAHIA CHAISE LOUNGE CHAIRS FROM TAYLOR ASSOCIATES TO REPLACE APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE CHAIRS AT THE LA CRESCENT AQUATIC CENTER.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

**ITEM 3.7 – SOLAR ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AGREEMENT**

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council an agreement between the City and Solar Connection. The city selected Solar Connection as the contractor for the solar PV project at the Aquatic Center. The solar system will be 30 KW DC with the combined grant and elective pay tax credit covering \$76,500 or ninety percent (90%) of the system cost of \$85,000. The cost of the system to the city will be \$8,500 which will come from the City's 2022 equipment certificate. Once the solar PV system is installed an estimated 105% of the electricity used by the facility will be generated by solar and the cumulative return on the system is estimated to be \$163,621 after twenty-five (25) years. It was recommended that City Council approve the agreement. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND SOLAR CONNECTION AS THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE SOLAR PV PROJECT AT THE LA CRESCENT AQUATIC CENTER CONSISTING OF A 30 KW DC SOLAR SYSTEM WITH A COMBINED GRANT AND ELECTIVE PAY TAX CREDIT COVERING \$76,500 OF THE SYSTEM COST OF \$85,000 AND THE REMAINING \$8,500 COMING FROM THE CITY'S 2022 EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATE.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes

Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

### **ITEM 3.8 – FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION GRANT**

Community Development Director Larry Kirch (via Zoom) reviewed with City Council the Federal Railroad Administration Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant. The City applied for and received a \$229,000 Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant under its Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant program. The purpose of the grant is to evaluate three crossings in the city and one in La Crescent Township. The crossings include the county recycling site/dog park, the MnDOT/city crossing, Crest Precast, and the Industrial Drive south of town. The study will look at potentially combining the MnDOT/city and Crest Precast crossings into one crossing. The study will also look at the other crossings for potential safety improvements including signals, median islands, and alarm bells. The city must match 20% of the grant. The city has applied to MnDOT for an IJJA Matching Grant program. The city's match request to MnDOT is for 20% or \$57,400. The city hopes to hear soon from this MnDOT program and the council will see a grant agreement at a future meeting. The city is required to solicit engineering firms through a competitive process and once started, the study should take approximately 12 months. This item was informational only, no action was taken.

### **ITEM 3.9 – STONEY POINT FOREST RESTORATION PROGRESS**

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson and MN GreenCorp member Mary Gegen presented City Council with a slide show that provided an update on the Stoney Point Forest Habitat Restoration Project. This item was informational only, no action was taken.

### **ITEM 3.10 – 5K FUN RUN/WALK REQUEST – RIVER CITY RUNNING CLUB**

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager regarding a request from Susy Foster with the River City Running Club (RCRC) requesting approval to host a 5K Fun Run/ Walk, beginning and ending at the Wagon Wheel Pedestrian Bridge at South 1<sup>st</sup> Street on Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. It was recommended that City Council approve the request. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE RIVER CITY RUNNING CLUB REQUEST TO HOST A 5K FUN RUN/WALK, BEGINNING AND ENDING AT THE WAGON WHEEL PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT SOUTH 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET ON SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025, FROM 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members present voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

**6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

6.1 EXPLORE LA CROSSE – City Council reviewed the January 21, 2025 Explore La Crosse Board Meeting Agenda and the November 19, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

6.2

**7. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Chamber of Commerce representative Amy Shimshak was in attendance and had no updates.

**8. HOUSTON COUNTY**

Houston County Commissioner Cindy Wright was in attendance and provided an update.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members present voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried and the meeting duly adjourned at 5:34 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: February 10, 2025.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator