

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 24, 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 February was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, February 24, 2025.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Administrator, the following members were present: Members Cherryl Jostad, Chris Langen, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Dale Williams, and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: None. Also present were, City Administrator Bill Waller, City Attorney Skip Wieser, City Engineer Tim Hruska (via Zoom), Public Works Director Tyler Benish, Finance Director Kara Tarrence, and City Accountant Amy Jore.

Also present was Mike Temp from Tostrud & Temp S.C., Certified Public Accountants.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

At this time, Mayor Poellinger read the following items to be considered as part of the Consent Agenda for this regular meeting:

- 1.1 MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2025
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – FEBRUARY 21, 2025

At the conclusion of the reading of the Consent Agenda, Mayor Poellinger asked if the Council wished to have any of the items removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

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

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

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

ITEM 3.1 – 2023 AUDIT REVIEW

Mike Temp from Tostrud & Temp S.C., Certified Public Accountants, gave an overview to the City Council of the 2023 City audit. City Council Members were provided with a copy of the audit to review prior to the meeting. Following questions and discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT FROM TOSTRUD & TEMP, S.C., CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT DATED DECEMBER 31, 2023, AS PRESENTED.

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

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

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

ITEM 3.2 – LEASE AGREEMENT – TRUSS SPECIALISTS

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council that the City has for many years leased the property commonly referred to as the “old dump property” to Truss Specialists. The current lease expired in June of 2024. It was recommended that City Council approve a new three-year lease agreement with Truss Specialists with a 3% annual increase in the lease amount. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE A THREE- YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND TRUSS SPECIALISTS FROM JUNE 15, 2024, TO JUNE 15, 2027, FOR THE PROPERTY COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE “OLD DUMP PROPERTY” WITH A 3% ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE LEASE AMOUNT.

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

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

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

ITEM 3.3 – 2025 STREET PROJECT REVIEW

City Engineer Tim Hruska (via Zoom) reviewed the 2025 street projects with City Council. Mr. Hruska along with City Staff identified a section of road and two sections of alley that need replacement. The city will obtain quotes for this work in conjunction with the South 6th Street and North Oak Street project. A professional service agreement with WHKS was attached for review and consideration to perform the work required to make the repairs and improvements to the following:

- Shore Acres Road; approximately 500 feet of road under the train bridge and continuing to the north. Estimated cost of \$73,000
- 400 and 600 blocks of alley between Main Street and South 1st Street. Estimated cost is \$60,000

Both road segments are included in the 2025-2029 street reconstruction plan and the cost of the project will be included in the 2025 Bond issue. It was recommended that City Council approve the agreement for engineering services with WHKS. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND WHKS TO PERFORM THE WORK REQUIRED TO MAKE THE REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS AS STATED.

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

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

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

ITEM 3.4 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – WIESER PAVILION REPAIR

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed two proposals with City Council for repairs to the Wieser Park Pavilion. On November 13th, 2024, an individual drove an SUV into the southeast corner of the pavilion damaging one concrete panel of the building. The removal and replacement will require part of the roof and interior floor to be removed. The proposals are as follows:

- Wieser Brothers: \$55,475
- Cary Specialized: \$62,400

The League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust will approve the lowest qualified bid. LMCIT will issue the city a check for the amount minus the city’s deductible of \$1,000. LMCIT will attempt to recover the full amount including the \$1,000 deductible from the driver’s insurance carrier. It was recommended that City Council approve the proposal from Wieser Brothers in the amount of \$55,475 for the repair of the Wieser Memorial Park Pavilion. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL OF \$55,475 FROM WIESER BROTHERS TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO THE WIESER PARK PAVILION.

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

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

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

ITEM 3.5 – AUTHORIZE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council for authorization a capital expenditure request for tables at the Community Building. The Community Building is utilized by civic non-profits, the library, City Council meetings, and other community groups. The tables are original to the community building from 1989 and are becoming damaged and worn out. The Community Building has fourteen (14) tables with eight (8) being utilized daily. The cost per table is \$200. The original recommendation was to replace the eight tables that are most damaged for a total cost of \$1600, however, after further discussion it

was recommended to replace all fourteen tables. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR FOURTEEN TABLES FOR THE COMMUNITY BUILDING AT A COST OF \$200 PER TABLE FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$2800 AND TO AMEND THE 2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND TAKE THE FUNDS FROM THE DISCRETIONARY LINE ITEM OF THE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET.

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

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

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

ITEM 3.6 – DONATION RESOLUTION – MnDOT SPEED SIGN

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council a Resolution authorizing MnDOT to install a Dynamic Speed Sign on the southbound lane of Highway 14/61 north of the Hillview Blvd intersection. The sign is provided to the City from MnDOT at no cost through a safety grant. The city will own and maintain the sign following installation. It was recommended that City Council authorize the Resolution. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-25-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MnDOT TO INSTALL A DYNAMIC SPEED SIGN IN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation received a safety grant for radar speed signs; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crescent was identified as a recipient of one of these signs; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges and receives a "Vehicle Speed Feedback (VSF)" sign as part of a MnDOT safety grant at no cost to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City agrees for this VSF sign to be installed by MnDOT next to the existing 40 mph sign on the southbound side of Hwy 14/61 (North of the Hillview Blvd. intersection); and

WHEREAS, the City agrees to own and maintain (by Permit) this VSF sign to keep it operational to include replacing batteries and working with the sign vendor to troubleshoot any problems; and

WHEREAS, if the VSF sign is damaged beyond repair, the city is under no obligation to replace the sign.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of La Crescent authorizes the Minnesota Department of Transportation to provide and install the city with a Vehicle Speed Feedback sign as stated above.

ADOPTED this 25th Day of February 2025.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Langen and upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

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

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

ITEM 3.7 – AUTHORIZE SALE OF VEHICLES

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council a request for the sale of two City vehicles:

1. 2003 Honda Accord – felony forfeiture which has been used primarily by city hall staff. State Statute dictates that the distribution of money be split between the state (10%), prosecuting agency (Houston County, 20%), and the police department (70%).
2. 2015 Dodge Charger - has been used by the Police and Zoning departments, the car needs a transmission repair that is more than the value of the car.

It was recommended that City Council authorize the sale of the vehicles on MNBid and that payments be made according to state statute from the proceeds of the sale of the 2003 Honda Accord. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF THE TWO CITY VEHICLES AS MENTIONED ON MNBID WITH THE PAYMENTS FOR THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF THE 2003 HONDA ACCORD BEING MADE PER STATE STATUTE.

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

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

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

ITEM 3.8 – RESOLUTION – OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council for approval a Resolution approving the city's application for an Outdoor Recreation Grant with MnDNR. If approved the grant would help cover the costs to install a walking path around Wieser Park and complete the new playground with a fully poured in place play surface. Prior to the meeting a correction was made to the submittal date of April 1, 2024, to April 1, 2025. Following discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption

RESOLUTION NO. 02-25-11

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AN OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of La Crescent, MN act as legal sponsor for the project contained in the Outdoor Recreation Grant application to be submitted on April 1, 2025, and that Jason Ludwigson is hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Natural Resources for funding of this project on behalf of the City of La Crescent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant maintains an adequate Conflict of Interest Policy and, throughout the term of the contract, will monitor and report any actual or potential conflicts of interest to the State, upon discovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and it has the financial capability to meet the match requirement (if any) and ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent has not incurred any development costs and has not entered into a written purchase agreement to acquire the property described in the Cost Breakdown section on this application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent has fee title or permanent easement over all the land described in the boundary map or recreational site plan included in the application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon approval of its application by the State, the City of La Crescent may enter into an agreement with the State for the above-referenced project, and the City of La Crescent certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the grant agreement including dedicating the park property for uses consistent with the funding grant program into perpetuity.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Coordinator is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as necessary to implement the project on behalf of the applicant.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of La Crescent on February 24, 2025.

SIGNED:

WITNESSED:

Mike Poellinger

Angie Boettcher

Mayor	Date	City Clerk	Date
-------	------	------------	------

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner and upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

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

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

ITEM 3.9 – DONATION RESOLUTION

City Council reviewed a Resolution regarding the acceptance of donations to the City for the months of January and February. Following review and discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following Resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-25-12

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS MADE TO THE
CITY OF LA CRESCENT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025**

WHEREAS, the following donations were made to the City of La Crescent in the months of January and February 2025:

1. Gregory Fiegen wishes to donate \$1,000.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.
2. Chelsea Dubiel & Trane Technologies wish to donate \$50.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of La Crescent hereby accepts the donations as stated above.

ADOPTED this 24th Day of February 2025.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Williams and upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

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

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

ITEM 3.10 – 5K REQUEST – RUN FOR THE ONE

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager regarding a request from Bluff Country Family Resources Executive Director Sara Gilman seeking approval for a 5K run event in La Crescent. The event, titled “Run for the One” is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The La Crescent Police Department will assist with providing an escort, traffic control, and security to ensure a safe and successful event. It was recommended that City Council approve the event request. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE “RUN FOR THE ONE” 5K RUN EVENT FOR BLUFF COUNTRY FAMILY RESOURCES TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2025, AT 10:00 AM WITH THE LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WITH AN ESCORT, TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SECURITY.

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

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
----------------	-----

Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.11 – GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a letter from Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch regarding a Gambling Permit Application for ABLE, Inc. for an event to be held on April 4, 2025, at the La Crescent Area Event Center. The application appears to be in order and it was recommended that City Council approve the application and authorize that it be forwarded to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION FROM ABLE, INC. FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD ON APRIL 4, 2025, AT THE LA CRESCENT AREA EVENT CENTER AND AUTHORIZE THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO THE MINNESOTA GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD.

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

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	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 ENERGY READY CASE STUDY – City Council reviewed a case study published by Energy Ready highlighting the success La Crescent has achieved in the SolSmart and Charging Smart programs.

7. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce representative Kim Siegersma was in attendance and provided updates.

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

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

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried and the meeting duly adjourned at 5:36 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: March 10, 2025

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator