

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
JULY 28, 2014

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the second meeting of the City Council of the City of La Crescent for the month of July was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:30 PM in the La Crescent City Hall, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, July 28, 2014, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Attorney, the following members were present: Members Bernie Buehler, John Graf, Greg Husmann, Dale Williams, and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: None. Also present was City Administrator Bill Waller and City Attorney Skip Wieser.

Mayor Poellinger asked if anyone wished to take action to change the agenda as presented. There were no changes requested.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1.1 MINUTES – JULY 14, 2014
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH JULY 24, 2014

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 Buehler made a motion, seconded by Member Husmann, as follows:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

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

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graf	Yes
Greg Husmann	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.1 – LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY GROUP PROPOSAL

City Council reviewed a summary from Interim Police Chief Doug Stavenau on the Law Enforcement Technology Group software that the La Crescent Police Department would like to implement. The summary included the benefits from participating in the software program. Both Interim Chief Stavenau and Houston County Chief Deputy Scott Yeiter were in attendance to review information with Council. It was recommended to City Council to proceed with and authorize the execution of the agreement. Motion for this authorization

subject to County Board approval by Member Husmann was withdrawn. This item will be placed on the Agenda for the August 11, 2014 City Council Meeting.

ITEM 3.2 – WALNUT PLACE EXTENSION COST ESTIMATE

City Engineer Tim Hruska gave an overview to City Council the cost estimate to extend Walnut Place. The cost opinion for this extension would be \$805,000.00. City Administrator Waller recommended that due to cost, and the impact on the park, that no additional work be done to extend Walnut Place. He also recommended that Veteran’s Park no longer be considered as a site for elderly housing due to the School District receiving a proposal to convert the elementary school property to a senior housing complex and other sites that are privately owned that may be considered for senior housing. A revised site plan for the proposed event center project that would include the addition of a hotel to the site has been prepared. The projects are independent of each other, but would be mutually beneficial. Following discussion, Member Husmann made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE EXTENSION OF WALNUT PLACE AND THAT VETERAN’S PARK NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED AS A SITE FOR SENIOR HOUSING.

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

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graff	Yes
Greg Husmann	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.3 – MONTE CARLO ROAD

City Engineer Tim Hruska gave an overview to City Council the cost estimate to widen the Monte Carlo Road to accommodate a separated trail facility. They have evaluated construction of a 4 foot buffer between the trail and the existing roadway, a 10 foot trail, 2 foot shoulder, with 2:1 side slopes to the existing ground. The roadway is currently 18 feet wide. The opinion, based on 2014 construction costs, is \$62,500.00. The City would also be required to purchase additional wetland credits for filling associated with this area. It is anticipated that the City would be required to purchase 0.42 acres at an expected cost of \$12,600.00. City Attorney Wieser also reviewed with City Council this acquisition. It was the consensus of City Council to move forward. No action taken.

ITEM 3.4 – AMEND OAK STREET ENGINEERING AGREEMENT

City Engineer Tim Hruska gave an overview to City Council of the possible expansion to the Oak Street Improvement project and addressing the flooding issues on Redwood East/Lancer Village area. It was recommended to Council that the engineering agreement for the project be amended to include the possibility of connecting South 7th Street with the State Highway. This portion of the project would require coordination with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and may include participation from Houston County. In addition,

it was recommended that the project be expanded to include a portion of Redwood East, South 11th Street and Lancer Blvd. to address both street and storm water deficiencies. Following an extended discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Husmann, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT #1 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND WHKS & CO FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE 2015 OAK STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO INCLUDE THE EXTENSION OF 7TH STREET SOUTH TO HIGHWAY 16 AND FOR REDWOOD STREET EAST BETWEEN 10TH STREET SOUTH AND LANCER BOULEVARD TO BE RECONSTRUCTED TO ALLEVIATE LOCAL FLOODING, WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE A PORTION OF LANCER BOULEVARD BETWEEN SPRUCE DRIVE AND THE DRAINAGE WAY TO THE SOUTH OF LANCER.

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

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graff	Yes
Greg Husmann	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.5 – OPTION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY

City Administrator Waller gave an overview to City Council regarding finalizing an agreement to purchase with Coulee Bank for the approximately 60 acre parcel of property located on Stoney Point. It was recommended to Council to approve the purchase of this parcel of property at it is believed to be in the City's best interest to purchase the property in that it is reasonably priced and the City will be able to control what happens to the property in the future. The purchase would be intended to seek an engineering proposal from WHKS to evaluate and develop a number of different alternatives and uses for the property. The City currently does not have equipment to mow this parcel and would need to consider either purchasing or renting this equipment or contract out the service. Funds for the acquisition would come from the City's general fund balance. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Buehler, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH COULEE BANK FOR THE APPROXIMATELY 60 ACRE PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON STONEY POINT FOR \$302,500.00 AND TO AMEND THE 2014 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO REFLECT THIS EXPENDITURE.

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

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graff	Yes
Greg Husmann	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

It was also recommended that the purchase agreement be sent to the Planning Commission for review. Following discussion, Member Husmann made a motion, seconded by Member Graf, as follows:

MOTION TO SEND THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REVIEW.

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

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graff	Yes
Greg Husmann	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.6 – 2013 STATE DEMOGRAPHERS POPULATION ESTIMATE

City Administrator Waller gave an overview and background regarding the 2013 State Demographers Population Estimate and how it affects the City's municipal state aid funds. A population of 5,000 is the requirement to qualify for municipal state aid funding. Currently the City's population estimate is 4,966. The City was successful in getting special legislation introduced and approved that keeps the City of La Crescent in the municipal state aid system through 2015. This serves as the lead into the next item on the agenda. No action taken.

ITEM 3.7 – ANNEXATION REVIEW

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council information regarding annexation of unincorporated lands. Documents for Council review and discussion included: areas to be considered for annexation; Notice of Public Hearing for Lands Completely surrounded by the City; Notice of Intent for Annexation of Properties 60% Surrounded by the City; and Notice of Intent for Properties that Abut the City. City Attorney Wieser also reviewed the process for annexation with Council. Also, Council was also informed that the City and Town can annex property by joint agreement. Following discussion, Member Husmann made a Motion to start the notice period and approve a meeting with the Township to discuss an annexation agreement with mailed Notice. The Motion was seconded by Member Williams. The Motion was later withdrawn. Following further discussion, Member Husmann made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO ADD THE ANNEXATION REVIEW TO THE AGENDA OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 11, 2014 AND TO HAVE THE CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO MEET WITH THE TOWNSHIP AND BRING BACK RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL AT THE AUGUST 11, 2014 MEETING.

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

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graff	Yes
Greg Husmann	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.8 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

City Administrator Waller reviewed with City Council a recommendation from the Personnel Committee that the start time for the August 4 Special City Council Meeting for the purpose of conducting interviews for the Chief of Police be changed to 2:00 p.m. Following discussion, Member Buehler made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THAT THE START TIME FOR THE AUGUST 4 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS FOR THE CHIEF OF POLICE BE CHANGED TO 2:00 P.M.

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

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graff	Yes
Greg Husmann	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.9 – HIRING PROCESS REVIEWED

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council the hiring process that will take place for the hiring of the new Police Chief on August 4, 2014. No action taken.

ITEM 3.10 – ABNET FIELD LEASE EXTENSION

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council an extension to the current lease regarding Abnet Field to November 30, 2024. Following discussion, Member Husmann made a motion, seconded by Member Graf, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION TO THE CURRENT LEASE REGARDING ABNET FIELD TO NOVEMBER 30, 2024.

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

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graff	Yes
Greg Husmann	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.11 – APPLEFEST PARADE REQUEST

This item will be moved to the August 11, 2014 City Council Meeting agenda.

ITEM 3.12 – LICENSE RENEWALS

This item will be moved to the August 11, 2014 City Council Meeting agenda.

**ITEM 5.1 – MAYOR’S COMMENTS – GREATER LA CROSSE AREA TRENDS/
CHARACTERISTICS**

Council reviewed a Memorandum to the City of La Crosse from Maxfield Research Inc. regarding their findings regarding the growth trends and demographic characteristics for the Greater La Crosse Area that would impact the potential demand for residential, commercial and public uses on the Riverside North property. No action taken.

ITEM 6.1 – COMMITTEE UPDATES – FIRE COOPERATIVE MEETING MINUTES – JULY 23, 2014

Council reviewed the Minutes from the July 23, 2014 La Crescent Community Fire Cooperative meeting. No action taken.

ITEM 7.1 – CORRESPONDENCE – CHARLES & JUDITH WEST

Council reviewed a correspondence from Charles and Judith West regarding illegal fireworks being shot off for several years at the same residence. No action taken.

ITEM 7.2 – CORRESPONDENCE – SEMIF

Council reviewed a handout from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. No action taken.

ITEM 8 – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

There was no Chamber member available for update.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member Husmann made a motion, seconded by Member Graf, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Bernie Buehler	Yes
John Graf	Yes
Greg Husmann	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 7:27 PM.

APPROVAL DATE: _____

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator