

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 12, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the first meeting of the City Council of the City of La Crescent for the month of August was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, August 12, 2024.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following members were present: Members Ryan Hutchinson, Cherryl Jostad, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Dale Williams, and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: None. Also present were, City Administrator Bill Waller, City Attorney Skip Wieser, Finance Director Kara Tarrence, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1.1 MINUTES – JULY 22, 2024
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – AUGUST 9, 2024

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 Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner, 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;

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes

and Mayor Poellinger abstained. The motion was declared duly carried by a 4-0 vote.

ITEM 3.1 – USA CYCLING GRAVEL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mayor Poellinger reviewed with City Council that the third annual USA Cycling Gravel National Championship will occur in La Crescent on the third weekend in September 2025 and again in 2026. This was informational only, no action required.

ITEM 3.2 – AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF STREET RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council for authorization the preparation of a five-year Street Reconstruction Plan. WHKS will update the City’s street pavement ratings and assist with the preparation of a new five-year street reconstruction plan. The cost to complete this work is \$2,500. There are funds in the 2024 general fund budget for the expenditure. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE WHKS TO UPDATE THE CITY’S STREET PAVEMENT RATING AND ASSIST WITH THE PREPARATION OF A NEW FIVE-YEAR STREET RECONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR A COST OF \$2,500 WITH THE EXPENDITURE COMING FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE 2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	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 3.3 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee has the following recommendations for consideration by the City Council:

1. City Finance Director Kara Tarrence reviewed the following with City Council. In the past month, 2025 park and recreation evaluations were conducted due to Jon Steffes's retirement. The Personnel Committee is recommending that the City Council approve the transfer of a portion of the responsibility for recreation programming to La Crescent Youth Ball and La Crescent-Hokah Community Education. As proposed, baseball and softball programming for 6, 7, and 8-year-olds would be transferred to La Crescent Youth Ball; and programming for T-ball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and golf would be transferred to La Crescent-Hokah Community Education. The City would

continue to staff the Aquatic Center and retain aquatic recreation activities. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PROGRAMMING FOR 6, 7, AND 8-YEAR-OLDS TO LA CRESCENT YOUTH BALL AND PROGRAMMING FOR T-BALL, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS, AND GOLF BE TRANSFERRED TO LA CRESCENT-HOKAH COMMUNITY EDUCATION WITH THE CITY CONTINUING TO STAFF THE AQUATIC CENTER AND RETAIN AQUATIC RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

2. The Personnel Committee is recommending that the City Council hire Alyssa Sebo as the City's Summer Recreation Director for 2025. Ms. Sebo has been employed in the City's Recreation Department since 2018 and will be student teaching with La Crescent-Hokah School District in the fall of 2024. Effective July 29, 2024, Ms. Sebo began accompanying Jon Steffes to receive on-the-job training for the position. Ms. Sebo's current rate of pay is \$12.66 per hour. Included in the recommendation is that effective July 29, 2024, Ms. Sebo's rate of pay be increased by \$5.00 per hour to be more consistent with the current rate of pay for head lifeguards at the aquatic center. The Personnel Committee is also recommending that the salary for the Summer Recreation Director be set at \$15,000 per year for 2025 and that she be reimbursed for the cost of acquiring certifications required for the position. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF ALYSSA SEBO AS THE CITY'S SUMMER RECREATION DIRECTOR BEGINNING IN 2025 AND EFFECTIVE JULY 29, 2024 MS. SEBO'S RATE OF PAY BE INCREASED BY \$5.00 PER HOUR AND IN 2025 MS. SEBO'S SALARY BE SET AT \$15,000 PER YEAR AND THAT SHE BE REIMBURSED FOR THE COST OF ACQUIRING CERTIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE POSITION.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

3. The Personnel Committee is recommending that the City Council hire Austin Johnson as a Lead Worker at Pine Creek Golf Course. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the contract with the Operating Engineers, Mr. Johnson will serve a 120-day probationary period. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF AUSTIN JOHNSON AS LEAD WORKER AT PINE CREEK GOLF COURSE AND PURSUANT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE OPERATING ENGINEERS, MR. JOHNSON WILL SERVE A 120-DAY PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	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 3.4 – PLANNING COMMISSION RESIGNATION

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council the resignation request by Ryan Stotts from the Planning Commission. The resignation takes effect immediately. It was recommended that the City Council accept Ryan Stotts's resignation from the Planning Commission. A recommendation to fill the vacancy will be presented at a future City Council meeting. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF RYAN STOTTS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	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 3.5 – GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a memo from Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch regarding a gambling permit application from Surviving Valor, Inc. for a raffle to be held at TimeOut Tavern on Saturday, December 14, 2024. 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 Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE A GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION FROM SURVIVING VALOR, INC. TO HOLD A RAFFLE AT TIMEOUT TAVERN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	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 3.6 – DONATION RESOLUTION

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-24-27

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION MADE TO THE
CITY OF LA CRESCENT IN JULY 2024**

WHEREAS, the following donations were made to the City of La Crescent in the month of July 2024:

1. AcenTek wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
2. Destination Dental wishes to donate \$300.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
3. Houston County wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
4. Springbrook Village of La Crescent wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
5. Wieser Law Office wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
6. Ready Bus Company wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
7. Connected Family Chiropractic wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
8. William and Sarah Goff wish to donate \$100.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.
9. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church wishes to donate \$25.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
10. Bauer’s Market & Nursery wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
11. Honor DiDonato – State Farm Insurance wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
12. Pat’s Insurance Agency wishes to donate \$200.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.
13. Crescent Electric wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor’s Night Out.

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

ADOPTED this 12th Day of August 2024.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Hutchinson and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	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 3.7 – PARADE REQUEST

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager requesting approval for a Parade Permit for temporary street closure at the intersection of Main Street and Walnut Street for the 6th Annual Thriller Dance Performance organized by Meagan Waddell to be held on Sunday, October 20th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN STREET AND WALNUT STREET FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL THRILLER PERFORMANCE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	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 3.8 – REVIEW MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION DECISION

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council that on August 1, 2024, he attended the hearing held by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regarding the City's request for reconsideration regarding the Commission's decision to change the Community Solar Garden Program authorized in 2014. The Commission denied the request for reconsideration. Attorney Wieser will continue to have dialogue with others similarly situated to see if there are any viable alternatives to move forward. This was informational only, no action required.

ITEM 3.9 – REVIEW CANNABIS MORATORIUM ORDINANCE

City Attorney Skip Wieser provided City Council with a review of options related to the cannabis moratorium ordinance. It was the consensus of the Council to have Attorney Wieser review other

alternatives to the minimum buffer requirements and limits on the location of a cannabis business within the City and bring it back to a future City Council meeting.

6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES

6.1. EXPLORE LA CROSSE

City Council reviewed the July 30, 2024, Explore La Crosse Board Meeting agenda and the June 18, 2024, Meeting minutes.

6.2 PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 7/29/24

City Council reviewed the July 29, 2024 Park & Recreation Commission minutes.

8. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A representative from the Chamber of Commerce was in attendance and provided an update.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson 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;

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Cherryl Jostad	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 6:11 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: August 26, 2024.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator