

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 26, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the second 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 26, 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, Community Development Director Larry Kirch, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

Also in attendance were Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager, and Police Officers Josh DeBoer, and Tanner Weinfurtner.

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 – AUGUST 12, 2024
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – AUGUST 23, 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
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.1 – LA CRESCENT POLICE OFFICERS – OATH OF HONOR

La Crescent Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager administered the oath of honor to the La Crescent Police Department’s newest police officers, Josh DeBoer and Tanner Weinfurtner.

ITEM 3.2 – AUTHORIZE ORDINANCE – PROHIBIT CAMPING IN PUBLIC PLACES

Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager addressed City Council with increased concerns regarding a potential influx of unsheltered individuals into neighboring communities, including the City of La Crescent as a result of the City of La Crosse passing a new ordinance banning camping on all city-owned property to be enforced on August 28, 2024. Chief Ahlschlager requested that City Council authorize the City Attorney to draft an ordinance prohibiting camping in all city parks and on city-owned rights of way, with appropriate penalties for non-compliance. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CAMPING IN ALL CITY PARKS AND ON CITY-OWNED RIGHTS OF WAY, WITH APPROPRIATE PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE, AND BRING BACK THE DRAFT ORDINANCE TO A FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING.

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 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – ICE ARENA

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council proposals from Rucker Painting, inc. for \$72,364 and Villand & Son, Inc. for \$75,558 to paint the exterior walls and doors of the La Crescent Community Ice Arena. Lancer Youth Hockey has agreed to pay 50% of the project costs, and the City’s 2024 general fund budget includes funds necessary to cover the City’s 50% contribution to the project. It was recommended that the City Council accept the proposal submitted by Rucker Painting, Inc. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL BY RUCKER PAINTING, INC. FOR \$72,364 TO PAINT THE EXTERIOR WALLS AND DOORS OF THE LA CRESCENT COMMUNITY ICE ARENA WITH LANCER YOUTH HOCKEY PAYING 50% OF THE COST AND THE CITY PAYING 50% OF THE COST WITH FUNDS FROM 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 3.4 – LEASE AGREEMENT – READY BUS COMPANY

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council an interest from Ready Bus Line to lease space at the City maintenance facility to store buses used to service their contract with the La Crescent-Hokah School District. Site plans of the area intended to be leased were included. As proposed, Ready Bus Line would lease the property from the City for \$1,500 per month. In addition, Ready Bus Line would be responsible for all site improvements related to their area use. The City-owned property is zoned industrial, and the proposed use of the property is consistent with the permitted uses identified in the City's Zoning Ordinance. It was recommended that the City Council approve in concept a one-year lease agreement between the City and Ready Bus Line. The formal lease agreement will be brought back to a future City Council meeting for approval. Ready Bus Service will use the site between now and the adoption of the formal lease agreement as the 2024/2025 school season begins. Representatives from Ready Bus Line were in attendance to answer questions. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE IN CONCEPT A ONE-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN READY BUS LINE AND THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT TO LEASE SPACE AT THE CITY MAINTENANCE FACILITY TO STORE BUSES USED TO SERVICE THEIR CONTRACT WITH THE LA CRESCENT-HOKAH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR \$1,500 PER MONTH WITH A FORMAL LEASE AGREEMENT BEING BROUGHT BACK TO A FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR APPROVAL.

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 – UPDATE – BLANDIN GRANT/OVERLOOK PLAZA PROJECT

Community Development Director Larry Kirch introduced summer scholar Jules Marzec from the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Project (RCP) who presented City Council (via Zoom) with an update on the development of the Indigenous History Project at Overlook Plaza. Mike Greco, Program Director from the University of Minnesota, RCP also attended via Zoom. This was informational only, no action required.

ITEM 3.6 – DONATION RESOLUTION

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-24-28

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

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

1. Bluff Country Family Resources wishes to donate \$100.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor's Night Out.
2. Laverne Jones wishes to donate \$10.00 to the LCPD/Neighbor's Night Out.
3. Doris and Jerry Bertilson wish to donate \$2000.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.
4. La Crescent Area Healthy Community Partnership wishes to donate \$100.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.
5. Jim and Carole Gehrig wish to donate \$50.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.

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

ADOPTED this 26th 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 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – AEDS

Community Development Director Larry Kirch addressed City Council with information that the city applied for and was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Wisconsin Public Services (WPS) Foundation to install an AED in the Fire Station-Community Center Building. As part of the grant, the city will place a story and picture of the AED and grant information on the city website and include the WPS Foundation in the news story. The city will also issue a press release about the grant and AED placement and the Heart Safe Community initiative with a press conference when the AED is unveiled. In addition, Police Chief Ahlschlager applied to Houston County Health and Human Services Department for several AEDs that are part of county funds received from Opioid settlements. The city will receive three AEDs. One AED will be installed at the Wieser Park Pavilion. It was recommended that City Council authorize the purchase of the cabinets. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF CABINETS FOR AEDS TO BE INSTALLED AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING AND THE WIESER PARK PAVILION.

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 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

1. That the City Council approve the promotion of Vernon D. Bridwell Jr. to the Training/Safety Officer position in the Fire Department. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding this recommendation was included. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF VERNON D. BRIDWELL JR. TO THE TRAINING/SAFETY OFFICER POSITION IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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. That the City Council accept Mark Abraham's retirement/resignation as the City's Baseball Director. A copy of Mr. Abraham's letter was included. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO ACCEPT MARK ABRAHAM'S RETIREMENT/RESIGNATION AS THE CITY'S BASEBALL DIRECTOR.

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 3.9 – REVIEW CANNABIS MORATORIUM ORDINANCE

City Attorney Skip Wieser provided City Council with a review of options and alternatives to the minimum buffer requirements and limits on the location of a cannabis business within the City. It was the consensus of the council that Attorney Wieser draft a regulatory cannabis ordinance and bring it back to the September 23, 2024, City Council meeting.

6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES

6.1. DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

City Council reviewed the July 8, 2024, Development Commission Minutes.

6.2

7. HOUSTON COUNTY

Houston County Commissioner Dewey Severson was in attendance and provided an update.

8. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce representative Amy Shimshak was in attendance and provided an update.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member Williams 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 6:20 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: September 9, 2024

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator