

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA  
SEPTEMBER 9, 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 September was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, September 9, 2024.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following members were present: Members Cherryl Jostad, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Dale Williams, and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: Ryan Hutchinson. Also present were, City Public Works Director Tyler Benish, City Attorney Skip Wieser, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

Hannah Cramer from MSA Professional Services was also in attendance via Zoom.

**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 26, 2024
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – SEPTEMBER 6, 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 O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, 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
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 – ADA ACCESS AUDIT/TRANSITION PLAN**

In 2023 the city selected MSA Professional Services to complete an ADA facility audit of parks and recreation facilities including site visits, preparation of a transition plan, and development of a final report. Public Works Director Tyler Benish introduced to City Council, Hannah Cramer from MSA Professional Services to present the final report (via Zoom). The transition plan will be used as a guide for maintenance, yearly budgeting, and future improvements. The transition plan will be a living document to be updated as work is completed. The Park and Recreation Commission has reviewed the report and recommends that City Council adopt the ADA Facility Audit of Parks and Recreation Facilities as presented. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADA FACILITY AUDIT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND TRANSITION PLAN 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
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

**ITEM 3.2 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – WATER SYSTEM EVALUATION**

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council a proposal from KLM Engineering to operate a remote-operated vehicle (ROV) in the city's Stoney Point and Crescent Hills reservoirs. The ROV will inspect the structure of the tanks and pipes; the staff will also inspect the tank's visible piping and exterior components. KLM will provide an evaluation report to identify deficiencies and recommend repairs and maintenance. City Council was recommended to approve the proposal from KLM Engineering for \$7000 to evaluate the two water reservoirs with a remote-operated vehicle and authorize the expenditure from the water operating fund. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM KLM ENGINEERING FOR \$7000 TO EVALUATE THE STONEY POINT AND CRESCENT HILLS RESERVOIRS WITH A REMOTE-OPERATED VEHICLE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE FROM THE WATER OPERATING FUND.**

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

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 – SOLAR RFP – AQUATIC CENTER**

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council the results of the Third-Party Solar Request for Proposals for the Aquatic Center. Proposals were received by All Energy Solar (\$72,816), iSolar (\$95,000), and Solar Connection (\$85,000). It was recommended that the City Council approve the proposal from Solar Connection, which includes the most efficient PV panels and the highest linear power performance guarantee. The City would work with Solar Connection as the developer to apply for the Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program Full Grant Application. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE THIRD-PARTY SOLAR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE AQUATIC CENTER FROM SOLAR CONNECTION AS THE DEVELOPER TO APPLY FOR THE SOLAR ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS GRANT PROGRAM FULL GRANT APPLICATION.**

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

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 Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council an updated one-year lease agreement, that was provided to City Council before the meeting between the City of La Crescent and Ready Bus Company, Inc. for Ready Bus Company to store buses used to service their contract with the La Crescent-Hokah School District at the City maintenance facility. The updated agreement includes Ready Bus Company, Inc. employee parking, and a trailer for the employees. It was recommended that City Council approve the updated lease agreement. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE UPDATED ONE-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND READY BUS COMPANY, INC. TO LEASE LAND AT THE CITY MAINTENANCE FACILITY TO SERVICE THEIR CONTRACT WITH THE LA CRESCENT-HOKAH SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

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

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 – CALL FOR SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 9/26/2024**

City Clerk Angie Boettcher reviewed with City Council a memo from City Administrator Bill Waller requesting to call for a special meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at the La Crescent Community Building. The purpose of the meeting will be for the City Council to review the draft of the proposed 2025 general fund budget, adopt a resolution setting the preliminary levy for 2025, and set the date and time for the public meeting at which time the budget and levy resolution will be discussed and public input to the final budget and levy determination. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE CALLING FOR A SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M., AT THE LA CRESCENT COMMUNITY BUILDING TO REVIEW THE DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED 2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET, ADOPT A RESOLUTION SETTING THE PRELIMINARY LEVY FOR 2025, AND SET THE DATE AND TIME FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING.**

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

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 – Mn PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION DECISION-SOLAR GARDEN SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENT**

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council the August 16<sup>th</sup> Public Utilities Commission denial of the City’s request for reconsideration on how the Commission is changing solar credits. Moving forward the City would have to pursue any appeal to the Public Utilities Commission's decision through the courts. This would be cost-prohibitive to the City. It was recommended that City Council not pursue any further appeal at this time. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO NOT FURTHER PURSUE AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION REGARDING CHANGES TO THE SOLAR CREDITS.**

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

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 – FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT**

City Clerk Angie Boettcher reviewed with City Council Ordinance No. 585 amending the Master Fee Schedule to increase the Police Reserve Assistance fee to \$17.50 per hour. Following review and discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following ordinance and moved its passage and adoption:

**ORDINANCE NO. 585**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AMENDING THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AS SET FORTH IN ORDINANCES NO. 404, NO. 438, NO. 448, NO. 459, NO. 483, NO. 492, NO. 500, NO. 540, NO. 542, NO. 544, NO. 545, NO. 548, NO. 552, NO. 554, NO. 557, NO. 564, NO. 565, NO. 566, NO. 569, 571, 579, AND NO. 583**

The City Council of the City of La Crescent, Houston County, Minnesota hereby ordains:

1. The La Crescent City Code established on March 8, 2004, stated that certain fees may be set from time to time by the City Council.

2. The La Crescent City Code was amended on January 28, 2008, January 12, 2009, January 11, 2010, January 13, 2014, February 9, 2015, February 8, 2016, February 24, 2020, April 13, 2020, April 27, 2020, May 18, 2020, December 14, 2020, April 20, 2021, and December 13, 2021, December 19, 2022, February 13, 2023, April 24, 2023, June 26, 2023, July 24, 2023, and December 11, 2023 by Ordinance to amend certain fees.
3. The Fee Schedule has been reviewed by City Staff and amended each year from 2016 to 2024 by Motions passed by City Council. These amendments passed by City Council shall remain in effect.
4. The City staff has reviewed the fees which the City currently charges and is recommending that the fee schedule be amended as follows:

<b>POLICE</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Print-out of driving record/registration check – per request	\$5.00
Police Reserves – School District #300 events – per hour/per person	<del>\$12.00</del> to \$17.50
Fingerprinting	\$55.00
Vehicle Towing Fee	\$225.00
Vehicle Impoundment Fee – per day	\$15.00

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

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

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.

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

**MOTION THAT A PRÉCIS FORMAT OF SAID INTERIM ORDINANCE 585 BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY AND WITH “OFFICIAL COPY” SO MARKED BE KEPT ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR.**

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

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 – DONATION RESOLUTION**

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 09-24-29**

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

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

1. An Anonymous donor wishes to donate \$50,000 to Wieser Park.
2. Jeffrey and Teresa Krueger wish to donate \$20.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
3. Donnis Buchan wishes to donate \$25.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
4. Kathleen Banasik wishes to donate \$25.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
5. Rita Towner wishes to donate \$25.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.

6. Robert and Mary Beckman wish to donate \$15.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
7. Laurel and Mavis Millie wish to donate \$40.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
8. Bruce and Barb Grant wish to donate \$40.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
9. Louise Hill wishes to donate \$40.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
10. Douglas and Jackie Colsch wish to donate \$30.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
11. Pat and Ron Gruntzel wish to donate \$50.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
12. Edwin Burrell wishes to donate \$20.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
13. Carolyn Newcomb wishes to donate \$20.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
14. James and Jane Beckman wish to donate \$20.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
15. A. Peter and Jeanne Johnson wish to donate \$20.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
16. David and Anna Schroeder wish to donate \$100.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
17. Janice Schild wishes to donate \$80.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department in memory of Greg Schild.
18. Randal and Sharon Dwyer wish to donate \$30.00 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 9<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2024.

SIGNED:

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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

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.

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

### **6.1. EXPLORE LA CROSSE**

City Council reviewed the August 27, 2024, Explore La Crosse Board Meeting agenda and the July 30, 2024, Meeting minutes.

### **6.2**

## **8. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

A representative from the Chamber of Commerce was in attendance and had no updates to report.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams 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
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 5:37 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: September 23, 2024.

SIGNED:

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Administrator