

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
OCTOBER 28, 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 October was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, October 28, 2024.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following members were present: Members Ryan Hutchinson, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Dale Williams, and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: Cheryl Jostad. Also present were, City Public Works Director Tyler Benish, City Attorney Skip Wieser, 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 – OCTOBER 14, 2024
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – OCTOBER 25, 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 Hutchinson, 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
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 – RESOLUTION – MnDOT LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

City Council reviewed for approval a Resolution for the city to participate in the MnDOT Landscape Partnership Program. Following review and discussion, Member Hutchinson introduced the following Resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-24-36

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT TO ENTER INTO A MNDOT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

IT IS RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes;

To provide for payment by the State to the City for the acquisition of landscape materials to be placed adjacent to the intersection of Trunk Highway No. 61-14-16, State Project No. (has not yet been assigned.)

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the City Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

ADOPTED this 28th day of October 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;

Ryan Hutchinson 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 – GRINDER TANKS

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council the purchase of five grinder tanks for authorization. The City of La Crescent has received \$65,408 in mitigation funds from the 2023 Federally declared disaster that impacted the grinder pump system along Shore Acres Road. The approved mitigation will replace five existing grinder pump tanks with new sealed tanks as well as elevate the access point to reduce the impacts of future flooding. The City received a quote from Minnesota Pump Works for \$29,229 to purchase the five grinder tanks. The remainder of the mitigation funds will be expended on removal, installation, electrical work, and landscaping. It was recommended that City Council authorize the expenditure and utilize the mitigation funds from the 2023 disaster funding. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF FIVE GRINDER TANKS FOR \$29,229 FROM MINNESOTA PUMP WORKS USING THE 2023 MITIGATION DISASTER FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	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 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. That the City Council accept Tom Paulson's resignation, effective November 9, 2024, as the Fire Chief of the La Crescent Fire Department. A letter of resignation was included. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO ACCEPT TOM PAULSON’S RESIGNATION AS THE FIRE CHIEF EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 9, 2024.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

2. That effective November 9, 2024, the City Council appoint Josh Tarrence as the Interim Fire Chief. Mr. Tarrence is currently one of the Assistant Chiefs in the La Crescent Fire Department. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPOINT JOSH TARRENCE AS THE INTERIM FIRE CHIEF EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 9, 2024.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

3. That the City Council authorize the position of Fire Chief to be posted internally and that a hiring recommendation will be presented at a future City Council meeting. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE POSITION OF FIRE CHIEF TO BE POSTED INTERNALLY WITH A HIRING RECOMMENDATION TO BE PRESENTED AT A FUTURE CITY 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
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 – CANADIAN PACIFIC HOLIDAY TRAIN REQUEST

The City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager requesting permission for the LCPD and City Maintenance staff to assist with security, organization, crowd control measures, vehicle parking assistance, waste disposal, and clean-up during the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train visit on December 10th, 2024 from approximately 8 pm-9 pm. The event will take place at the old Commodore Parking Lot located on the 200 block of South Chestnut Street with permission from the owner, Maxwell Webber. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LA CRESCENT POLICE AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENTS DURING THE CANADIAN PACIFIC HOLIDAY TRAIN VISIT ON DECEMBER 10TH, 2024 AS INDICATED.

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

Ryan Hutchinson	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 – REVIEW CANNABIS REGULATIONS

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed the draft Cannabis Ordinance with City Council. An Agenda request from Member Jostad requesting a Public Hearing for the Cannabis Ordinance was also addressed. It was the consensus of the City Council to not call for a Public Hearing.

6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES

6.1 EXPLORE LA CROSSE – City Council reviewed the October 22nd Explore La Crosse Board Meeting agenda and the September 24th Board Meeting minutes.

8. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce representative Ben Horn was in attendance and had no updates to report.

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
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 5:28 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: November 12, 2024.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator