

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
NOVEMBER 25, 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 November was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, November 25, 2024.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following members were present: Members Ryan Hutchinson, Cheryl Jostad, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Dale Williams, and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: None. Also present were, City Administrator Bill Waller, Public Works Director Tyler Benish, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

La Crescent Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager, Sergeant Mike Ernster, Investigator Darin Daveau, Corporal Roth Clark, Interim Fire Chief Josh Tarrence, honoree city residents Corey Scott, Jillian Boll, Robert Steiger, and Chris Oliver were also present.

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 – NOVEMBER 12/13, 2024
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – NOVEMBER 22, 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 Teresa 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 Member Jostad voted no. The motion was declared duly carried by a 4-1 vote.

ITEM 3.1 – COMMUNITY RECOGNITION – TRADITIONS ASSISTED LIVING FIRE/RESCUE

On October 5th, 2024, a fire broke out at Traditions Assisted Living in La Crescent. Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager, Sergeant Mike Ernster, and Investigator Darin Daveau took this time to honor the selfless actions of La Crescent community members and first responders who acted with valor and dedication to ensure the safety of vulnerable residents. The following awards were presented:

- **Police Medal of Valor** – La Crescent Police Corporal Roth Clark and Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager
- **Citizen Medal of Valor** – Chris Oliver
- **Citizen Lifesaving Awards** – Teresa Brown, Stephanie Weibel, Aubrey Kasten, Corey Scott, Kristin Scott, Jillian Boll, and Robert Steiger.

This event recognized the individuals involved and the spirit of unity and resilience within our community.

ITEM 3.2 – BODY-WORN CAMERA AUDIT

Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager reviewed with City Council the Body-Worn Camera (BWC) independent audit report of the La Crescent Police Department's BWC program. The audit report found the La Crescent Police Department's BWC program in compliance with statutory requirements with two minor discrepancies which were resolved. This was informational only, no action taken.

ITEM 3.3 – PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES – 11/6/2024

City Council reviewed the November 6, 2024 Planning Commission Minutes. This was informational only, no action taken.

ITEM 3.4 – 2025 MARKETING/PROMOTIONAL AGREEMENTS

City Council reviewed the agreements regarding the 2025 lodging tax. The agreements are in substantially the same form as the last agreements with the exception of the term. The terms of these agreements would begin January 1, 2025, and end December 31, 2025.

Marketing and Promotional Agreements between the City of La Crescent and La Crosse Area Convention and Visitor Bureau, Inc. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE 2025 LODGING TAX BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND THE LA CROSSE AREA CONVENTION AND VISITOR BUREAU, INC., 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
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

Marketing and Promotional Agreements between the City of La Crescent and La Crescent Area Event Center, Inc. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE 2025 LODGING TAX BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND THE LA CRESCENT AREA EVENT CENTER, INC., 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
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

Marketing and Promotional Agreements between the City of La Crescent and La Crescent Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE 2025 LODGING TAX BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND THE LA CRESCENT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM, 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
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.5 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – GRINDER PUMP

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council for authorization Grinder Pump replacement quotes from two contractors to remove existing tanks and install new sealed tanks at specific residences on Shore Acres Rd. The City has received \$65,408 in mitigation funds and has \$13,077 in unspent disaster relief funds from the 2023 federally declared disaster that impacted the grinder pump system along Shore Acres Road. The mitigation that has been approved will involve the replacement of five existing grinder pump tanks with new sealed tanks as well as elevate the access point to reduce the impacts of future flooding. The following were the provided quotes:

Grinder pump tanks:

Zenke inc. - \$9,825 per tank
 Heintz Excavating, LLC - \$13,056.25 per tank

Grinder pump tank and installed sheeting:

Zenke inc. -\$12,000-\$15,000 budget
 Heintz Excavating, LLC - \$25,000 budget

It was recommended that City Council approve the quote from Zenke, inc. and utilize the mitigation and disaster relief funds from the 2023 disaster declaration. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE QUOTE OF \$9,825 PER GRINDER PUMP TANK AND \$12,000-\$15,000 BUDGET FOR GRINDER PUMP TANK AND INSTALLED SHEETING FROM ZENKE, INC. AND AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE MITIGATION AND DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS FROM THE 2023 DISASTER DECLARATION FOR PAYMENT.

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 3.6 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – ICE ARENA

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council for authorization two quotes to replace and paint a set of doors on the north side of the La Crescent Community Arena. The quotes are as follows:

- La Crosse Glass** - \$8,225 to remove existing and install new doors
- Rucker Painting** - \$900 to paint the doors

The City of La Crescent and Lancer Youth Hockey continue to have a partnership to make improvements and upgrades to the Ice Arena, Lancer Youth Hockey has agreed to pay for half of the cost to replace and paint the doors. The City has funds in the general fund to pay for the improvements at the Ice Arena. It was recommended that City Council approve the quotes to replace and paint the doors and authorize the use of the City’s general fund to pay the City’s portion. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE QUOTE FROM LA CROSSE GLASS FOR \$8,225 TO REMOVE EXISTING DOORS AND INSTALL NEW DOORS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE LA CRESCENT COMMUNITY ICE ARENA AND RUCKER PAINTING FOR \$900 TO PAINT THE NEW DOORS WITH LANCASTER YOUTH HOCKEY PAYING FOR ONE-HALF THE COST AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY’S PORTION TO COME FROM THE GENERAL FUND.

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 3.7 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – COMPUTERS

City Council reviewed a letter from City Finance Director Kara Tarrence regarding the need for the City to purchase five replacement computers for the Administrative Assistant, Finance Director, City Clerk, Building & Zoning Official, and Police Secretary for \$7,832.21 from Morris Electronics. The current computers for those five offices were installed in 2019 with warranties expiring in September 2022 and their five-year life ending in August 2024. In addition, City Council previously approved the City to

purchase three new computers for the Motor Vehicle Department to be paid from the Capital Equipment Certificate. Due to a change in IT Vendor's the DMV office computers were never purchased. It was recommended that City Council authorize the expenditure for the additional five computers to come from the 2024 General Fund Budget with the three Motor Vehicle Department computer replacement funds still coming from the Capital Equipment Certificate. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebmer as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE \$7,832.21 FROM MORRIS ELECTRONICS FOR FIVE REPLACEMENT COMPUTERS FOR THE CITY OFFICES AS STATED WITH THE FUNDS COMING FROM THE 2024 GENERAL FUND AND FUNDS FOR THE THREE COMPUTERS FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT TO REMAIN WITH THE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATE.

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 3.8 – WIESER PARK – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council for approval a Memorandum of Understanding agreement between the City and the La Crosse Community Foundation to reimburse the City each year for the cost of planting and maintaining flowers and other decorations at Wieser Park. The City will receive the funds each year from an endowment made by a private individual to the La Crosse Community Foundation. Appendix A explaining the terms and conditions of the fund agreement will be added to the MOU if approved. It was recommended that City Council approve the memorandum of agreement with a change to the footer stating "City of La Crescent" instead of "City of Onalaska", and authorize the Mayor's signature. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE LA CROSSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO REIMBURSE THE CITY EACH YEAR FOR THE COST OF PLANTING AND MAINTAINING FLOWERS AND OTHER DECORATIONS AT WIESER PARK WITH THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR'S SIGNATURE.

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 3.9 – 2025 LICENSE RENEWALS

City Council reviewed a list of proposed license renewals for 2025. The applications appear to be in order, and it was recommended to City Council to approve the license renewal applications. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PRESENTED LIST OF LICENSE RENEWALS FOR 2025 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CIGARETTES:

Pump 4 Less and Quillin's Inc.

GAS INSTALLERS:

B & C Plumbing; Benedict Sales & Service; Bob's Appliance Service; Cary Heating & Air Conditioning; Deml Controls; Midwest TV & Appliance; Mike Sherman Plumbing & Heating; Newman Heating & Cooling; Niebuhr Plumbing & Heating; Prime Source Plumbing & Heating; Risch Heating & Air Conditioning; River City Heating & Air Conditioning; Ron Hammes Registration; Savage Heating & Air; Schneider Heating & Air Conditioning; Winona Controls

ON SALE 3.2:

Corky's Pizza

ON SALE WINE:

Corky's Pizza

OFF SALE 3.2:

Quillins Inc.

LIQUOR OFF SALE:

Apple Village Liquor; La Crescent Wine & Spirits; Minegars Sports Hub; Pump 4 Less; Schmitty's TimeOut Tavern

LIQUOR ON SALE:

Minegar's Sports Hub; Schmitty's TimeOut Tavern

LIQUOR SUNDAY:

Minegar's Sports Hub; Schmitty's TimeOut Tavern

SOLID WASTE:

Richard’s Sanitation; Waste Management

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 3.10 – GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a memo from Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch regarding a temporary gambling permit application for the La Crescent Softball Boosters Raffle to be held on February 8, 2025, at the La Crescent Area Event Center. 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 THE TEMPORARY GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE LA CRESCENT SOFTBALL BOOSTERS RAFFLE TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2025, AT THE LA CRESCENT AREA EVENT CENTER AND AUTHORIZE THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO THE MINNESOTA GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD.

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 3.11 – TAX CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council a Resolution presented annually for properties making special levies for the collection with real estate taxes payable in the Calendar Year 2025. Following discussion, Member Williams introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-24-40
RESOLUTION MAKING SPECIAL LEVIES FOR
COLLECTION WITH REAL ESTATE TAXES PAYABLE IN THE
CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Crescent, Minnesota as follows:

1. It is hereby found and determined and declared that the amounts set forth in a column at the right to be levied as a special assessment against the listed property and to be collected in the calendar year 2025 as provided by law.

HOUSTON CO. AUDITOR REF. NUMBER	PROPERTY OWNER	CITY ACCOUNT #	AMOUNT TO BE LEVIED IN 2024	CODE
25.0225000	ALEXANDER POLLARD	10103001	127.48	80
25.1141000	SUSAN MUELLER	10804002	48.81	80
25.0067000	WEBNECHT HOLDINGS LLC	11010003	63.49	80
25.2038000	JASON CLINE	12211103	405.72	80
25.0537000	DUSTIN ARENTZ	21600816	153.92	80
25.1257003	BILL KISTLER	30302902	477.15	80
25.1257060	BILL KISTLER	30305504	85.68	80
25.1257011	BILL KISTLER	30306800	462.86	80
25.1314000	JOSHUA & JENNIFER WEIKER	30903605	203.24	80
25.1266025	AMANDA KLOSS	31304901	428.74	80
25.1064000	MARK MC ALEAR	INV 3072	165.00	80
25.1765000	ALICIA FINLEY	INV 3081	165.00	80

ADOPTED this 25th day of November 2024.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Hutchinson and 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.

6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- 6.1 EXPLORE LA CROSSE – City Council reviewed the November 19, 2024, Explore La Crosse Board Meeting Agenda and the October 22, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.
- 6.2 HOLIDAY TRAIN, DECEMBER 10, 2024 – City Council reviewed CPKC Holiday Train Schedule for December 10, 2024.

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 5:40 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: December 9, 2024

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator