

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the second meeting of the City Council of the City of La Crescent for the month of February was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:30 PM in the La Crescent City Hall, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, February 22, 2021.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the City Council and City Staff were given the option to attend the meeting by telephone or Zoom. Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Administrator, 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 was City Administrator Bill Waller, City Attorney Skip Wieser, and City Administrative Assistant Angie Boettcher.

Mayor Poellinger asked if anyone wished to take action to change the agenda as presented. There were no changes requested.

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 – FEBRUARY 8, 2021
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH FEBRUARY 18, 2021
- 1.3 CASH BALANCE/ACTIVITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2020
- 1.4 LIBRARY REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

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. City Attorney Wieser requested that Item 3.1 – Review Cares Act Funding in the February 8, 2021 Minutes be revised to include “No members of the public requested to address the City Council regarding the Cares Act Funding.” Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson, as follows:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED INCLUDING ADDITION TO ITEM 3.1 – REVIEW CARES ACT FUNDING IN THE FEBRUARY 8, 2021 MINUTES.

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

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Ryan Hutchinson | Yes |
| Cheryl 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 3.1 – A.J. FRELS – EXPLORE LA CROSSE 2020 REPORT

A.J. Frels, Executive Director of the La Crosse County Convention and Visitors Bureau, was in attendance via Zoom to review with City Council the Explore La Crosse mission statement and the staff members and their roles. Mr. Frels also discussed with City Council the “Impact Review of Explore La Crosse Promotion and Marketing of the City of La Crescent” document. This item was informational, and no action was taken.

ITEM 2.0 – PUBLIC HEARING – SMALL CITIES GRANT APPLICATION

At 5:48 pm the City Council held a public hearing to review and consider the submittal of a Small Cities Development Program full application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The program would provide owner housing rehabilitation assistance to low and moderate income households in the City. The application would provide assistance to 20 homeowners, up to \$24,000 per home, with a total application of \$552,000.00. City Council reviewed a copy of the public hearing notice. This is the same program that the City received a \$456,000.00 grant in 2010, and a \$372,900.00 grant in 2017. The City has been working with Semcac to prepare the application. Cindy Vitse from Semcac appeared in person and Terry Erickson, the City's Community Development Director, appeared via Zoom and reviewed the application with City Council. If the application is approved, Semcac will provide the administrative support for the project. The funds can be used for water heater and furnace replacements, and roofing, siding and window replacements. The funds can also be used to address lead paint issues and any health and safety issues. In order to proceed with the application process, it was recommended to City Council to adopt Resolution No. 02-21-08 which authorizes the submittal of the full application and to complete the Conflict of Interest Disclosure form and the Citizen Participation Plan. City Council reviewed these 3 documents.

Mayor Poellinger opened the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments. Mayor Poellinger closed the public hearing. Following discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-21-08

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FULL APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SMALL CITIES PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent act as the legal sponsor for the project contained in the Application to be submitted on March 12, 2021 or before and that Mike Poellinger, Mayor, and Bill Waller, City Administrator are hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for funding of this project on behalf of the City of La Crescent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent has not violated any Federal, State or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the State, the City of La Crescent may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the approved project, and that the City of La Crescent certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mike Poellinger, Mayor, and Bill Waller, City Administrator, or their successors in office, are hereby authorized to execute such agreements, and amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Applicant.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of La Crescent on the 22nd day of February, 2021.

SIGNED:

WITNESSED:

Mike Poellinger, Mayor
Date: February 22, 2021

(Title)
Date: February 22, 2021

Bill Waller, City Administrator
Date: February 22, 2021

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 and the resolution duly passed and adopted.

Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM RELATING TO THE SMALL CITIES GRANT APPLICATION.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FORM RELATING TO THE SMALL CITIES GRANT APPLICATION.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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.

ITEM 3.2 – CALL FOR SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL/BOARD OF APPEAL MEETING

City Administrator Waller reviewed with City Council a recommendation that the City Council call for a Special City Council meeting at 5:30 pm, on Monday, April 19, 2021, for the purpose of conducting the City's Board of Appeal/Equalization meeting. It was recommended that the meeting be held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall so that the meeting can be conducted virtually via Zoom. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 5:30 PM, ON MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THE CITY'S BOARD OF APPEAL/EQUALIZATION MEETING WITH THE MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL SO THAT THE MEETING CAN BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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.

ITEM 3.3 – PURCHASE AGREEMENT – SOUTH 7TH STREET PROPERTY

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council a draft of a purchase agreement related to the proposed sale of City owned property to Julie Tully at 716 South 7th Street, along with two alternatives that have been prepared that present conceptual uses for the property. The City is not sure of how to place a value on the property and is wondering if having an appraisal conducted on the property would give the City a basis for determining a value. The 30' wide option really only has value to the existing property owner. The 52' option is nearly an approved building lot in the City, would seem to have significantly more value, and may warrant seeing if there might be other interest in the property. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO NOT SELL THE PROPERTY AT SOUTH 7TH STREET AT THIS TIME.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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.

ITEM 3.4 – GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a gambling permit application from Ability Building Center for May 22, 2021 for a raffle drawing to be held at Schmitty's TimeOut Tavern. The application appears to be order and it was recommended to City Council to approve the application and authorize that it be forwarded to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE A GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR ABILITY BUILDING CENTER FOR MAY 22, 2021 FOR A RAFFLE DRAWING TO BE HELD AT SCHMITTY'S TIMEOUT TAVERN AND THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO THE MINNESOTA GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 – REQUEST TO USE VETERANS PARK PARKING LOT

City Council reviewed a request to use the city parking lots located behind Schmitt's TimeOut Tavern and across from the Best Western from Ability Building Community (ABC) of Houston County to have their fundraiser, Best of the Fests, on May 22, 2021. This event will include a tent set up to provide covering for a band, and festers to occupy. They also plan on having food venders on site as well. ABC has been working together with Schmitt's TimeOut Tavern on the planning of this event and ABC will be covered under TimeOut Tavern's Liquor License. ABC also is requesting the use of the City's picnic tables and garbage cans. ABC will be compliant with whatever COVID-19 requirements are in place at the time of the event. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS PARK PARKING LOTS FOR ABILITY BUILDING COMMUNITY (ABC) OF HOUSTON COUNTY TO HAVE THEIR FUNDRAISER, BEST OF THE FESTS, ON MAY 22, 2021, AND TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE CITY'S PICNIC TABLES AND GARBAGE CANS.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 – WEDDING REQUEST – VETERANS PARK

City Administrator Waller reviewed with City Council a request from Denika Kerska to hold her wedding ceremony in the green space at Veterans Park on Saturday, August 21, 2021. Ms. Kerska indicated the ceremony is scheduled for 4:00 pm, with set-up likely to start around 1:00-2:00 pm. She anticipates that they would have everything cleaned up by 6:00 pm and therefore would be using the park space from 1:00 to 6:00 pm on August 21. They are expecting approximately 125 people for the ceremony. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM DENIKA KERSKA FOR THE USE OF THE GREEN SPACE AT VETERAN'S PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021 FROM 1:00 TO 6:00 PM FOR HER WEDDING.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 – VETERANS PARK – UPDATED REQUEST

City Council reviewed an updated request from Brady Lowe regarding his park reservation approval for July 31, 2021. Mr. Lowe had been approved to use the northwestern portion of Veterans Park. With the uncertainty of having indoor events due to COVID, Mr. Lowe would like to extend the space to use in the park to include the baseball field, and the open space west of the skate park area and south of the baseball field in case they need to have some of the event outdoors. The updated request would be the use of Veterans Park, northwestern corner and add the baseball field and the open field area south of the baseball field for Saturday, July 31, 2021 with set-up at 8:00 am and event at 4:00 pm. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE UPDATED REQUEST FROM BRADY LOWE FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK, NORTHWESTERN CORNER AND ADD THE BASEBALL FIELD AND THE OPEN FIELD AREA SOUTH OF THE BASEBALL FIELD FOR SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021 WITH SET-UP AT 8:00 AM AND EVENT AT 4:00 PM FOR HIS WEDDING.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 – ANNEXATION ORDINANCE – WIESER PARK

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council proposed Ordinance No. 550 annexing Wieser Park which has been transferred from La Crescent Township to the City. Following further discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following Ordinance, and moved its passage and adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 550

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA ANNEXING LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT LOCATED IN LA CRESCENT TOWNSHIP, HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES § 414.033 SUBDIVISION 2(1), PERMITTING ANNEXATION BY ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of La Crescent, pursuant to MSA Section 414.033 Subd. 2(1), declares land, owned by the City of La Crescent (hereinafter "City"), to be annexed to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City is the sole owner of the following legally described property (hereinafter "Property"):

A PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 104 NORTH OF RANGE 4 WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT:

STARTING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9, THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE SECTION LINE A DISTANCE OF 1298.6 FEET TO THE CENTER OF THE PINE CREEK ROAD, THENCE SOUTH 71° 20' EAST A DISTANCE OF 401.4 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 61° 54' EAST A DISTANCE OF 1074.7 FEET TO A 1/16TH LINE FENCE, THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID FENCE LINE A DISTANCE OF 76.9 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE ON THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE PINE CREEK ROAD, THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL BEING CONVEYED HEREIN, THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID ROAD A DISTANCE OF 503.6 FEET, THENCE SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 565.1 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER, THENCE EAST ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER TO THE EAST LINE THEREOF, THENCE NORTH ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE EASTERLY 192.4 FEET AND LAND ALREADY WITHIN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the City wishes to annex into the City the Property, which is becoming urban and suburban in character with current expansion of the City, and abuts the city limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Property is not presently included within the corporate limits of any incorporated city and is not in a flood plain or shore land area; and

WHEREAS, the Property is used for a public park and therefore does not generate any real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Property is not presently served by municipal water supply system and municipal sewer system; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that annexation is in the best interest of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. The City Council hereby determines that the annexation will be to the best interest of the City and of the property affected, that the Property described herein is owned by the City, abuts upon the city limits, and is becoming urban or suburban in character, and that none of said Property is now included within the limits of any city and does not abut upon the limits of any other city.

SECTION TWO. The corporate limits of the City of La Crescent are hereby extended to include the Property described as follows and the same is hereby annexed to and included within the City as effectually as if it had originally been a part of:

A PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 104 NORTH OF RANGE 4 WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT:

STARTING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9, THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE SECTION LINE A DISTANCE OF 1298.6 FEET TO THE CENTER OF THE PINE CREEK ROAD, THENCE SOUTH 71° 20' EAST A DISTANCE OF 401.4 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 61° 54' EAST A DISTANCE OF 1074.7 FEET TO A 1/16TH LINE FENCE, THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID FENCE LINE A DISTANCE OF 76.9 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE ON THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE PINE CREEK ROAD, THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL BEING CONVEYED HEREIN, THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID ROAD A DISTANCE OF 503.6 FEET, THENCE SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 565.1 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER, THENCE EAST ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER TO THE EAST LINE THEREOF, THENCE NORTH ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE EASTERLY 192.4 FEET AND LAND ALREADY WITHIN THE CITY.

The above described property consists of a total of 4.682 acres, more or less. Copies of the corporate boundary map showing the property to be annexed and its relationship to the corporate boundaries and all appropriate plat maps are attached hereto.

SECTION THREE. The Property is used as a public park and does not generate any real estate taxes. La Crescent Township has deeded the park to the City of La Crescent. Since La Crescent Township never received real estate taxes for the property, the City of La Crescent also will not receive real estate taxes for this Property. The requirements of Minnesota Statute § 414.036 are hereby waived.

SECTION FOUR. The City Administrator and City Attorney are hereby directed to file certified copies of this Ordinance with the Chief Administrative Law Judge, Secretary of State, La Crescent Township Clerk, and the Houston County Auditor.

SECTION FIVE. This Ordinance takes effect upon its passage and publication and filing of an approval of the Administrative Law Judge.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of La Crescent, Minnesota, this 22nd day of February, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Jostad and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 ordinance was declared duly passed and adopted.

City Attorney Wieser then reviewed with Council the Summary Ordinance for publication. The Council made the following findings of facts: that publication of the summary informs the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance.

Member O'Donnell-Ebner then made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson as follows:

MOTION THAT A PRÉCIS FORMAT OF SAID ORDINANCE 550 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 Administrator, all 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 ordinance was declared duly passed and adopted.

ITEM 3.9 – LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM RESOLUTION

City Administrator Waller reviewed with City Council that in the most recent Special Session, the Minnesota Legislature provided \$75,000,000 in funding for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). The LRIP provides funding for capital construction costs for three types of projects, one of which is reconstructing city streets that are routes of regional significance. It was recommended to City Council to consider submitting the 2022 street reconstruction project to this program. The 2022 street reconstruction project includes the reconstruction of Walnut Street from South 1st Street to North 4th Street and then extending onto Walnut Place. While alternatives are presently being prepared, the project will include provisions for both pedestrians and bicyclists, a newly defined intersection for Main and Walnut Street,

along with numerous streetscape features. The project begins where the third phase of the Wagon Wheel improvement project ends and connects that project and the City's central business district with the City's new hotel and event center. The project will serve as an economic catalyst for the community. In order to proceed, it was recommended to City Council to adopt Resolution 02-21-09 in support of the LRIP grant for the Walnut Street Improvement Project. Following discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-21-09

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LRIP) GRANT FOR MUNICIPAL ROAD PROJECTS

WHEREAS, in a 2020 special session, the Minnesota legislature approved \$75 million Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds. Counties, cities, and townships are eligible to apply for up to \$1.25 million in LRIP project funding; and

WHEREAS, a 2022 Street Reconstruction Project is proposed for Walnut Street from South 1st to North 4th Street and continuing onto Walnut Place;

WHEREAS, the project will include alternatives for both pedestrians and bicycles, and a new intersection at Main and Walnut Streets;

WHEREAS, the 2022 Street Reconstruction Project will begin at the end of the Third Phase of the Wagon Wheel Improvements Project and will connect La Crescent's Central Business District to the new hotel, Event Center and Veterans Park;

WHEREAS, the 2022 Street Reconstruction Project will benefit all users and benefit the tourism and commerce for the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of La Crescent supports the above described 2022 Street Reconstruction Project and supports the request for LRIP funds. The City of La Crescent will fund all project costs not covered by LRIP grant funds.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of February, 2021.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 and the resolution duly passed and adopted.

ITEM 3.10 – RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT – WINONA COUNTY

City Administrator Waller reviewed with City Council an email from David Kramer, County Engineer for the Winona County Highway Department, regarding the state Local Road Improvement Program solicitation, with applications due March 3, 2021. Mr. Kramer is working on a Winona County LRIP application for resurfacing and guardrail replacement on County State-Aid Highway 1 on the north side of La Crescent. CSAH 1 is part of the Apple Blossom Scenic Drive and is part of the Mississippi River Trail bicycle route. There have been an increasing number of complaints and queries regarding the condition of the pavement and when it will be resurfaced. City Council reviewed a Resolution similar to one that Mr. Kramer submitted for the February 23 Winona County Board agenda. It was recommended to City Council to also provide a resolution supporting the project. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-21-10

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT FOR CSAH 1 PROJECT**

WHEREAS, in a 2020 special session, the Minnesota legislature approved \$75 million Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds. Counties, cities, and townships are eligible to apply for up to \$1.25 million in LRIP project funding; and

WHEREAS, a 2023 project is proposed to resurface and replace guardrail on County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 1, from CSAH 12 to the Houston County line; and

WHEREAS, CSAH 1 is a designated scenic byway – the *Apple Blossom Scenic Drive* is part of the *Mississippi River Trail* bicycle route and provides access to the county's *Apple Blossom Overlook Park*. New surfacing, including paved shoulders, would benefit all road users and benefit area tourism and commerce.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crescent City Council supports the CSAH 1 project and supports the request of LRIP funds. Winona County will fund all project costs not covered by LRIP grant funds.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of February, 2021.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Jostad and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 and the resolution duly passed and adopted.

ITEM 3.11 – 2021 VECTOR CONTROL AGREEMENT

City Administrative Assistant Boettcher reviewed with City Council the 2021 purchase contract regarding mosquito abatement services. The contract is once again through Driftless Region Vector Control and compensation remains the same as last year with a total of \$3,000.00. It was recommended to City Council to approve the proposed contract. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2021 PURCHASE CONTRACT FOR MOSQUITO ABATEMENT SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND DRIFTLESS REGION VECTOR CONTROL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000.00.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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.

ITEM 3.12 – 2021 LICENSE RENEWAL

City Council reviewed a proposed license renewal for 2021 for Kavaloski Heating & Cooling LLC for Gas Installers. The application appears to be in order, and it was recommended to City Council to approve the license renewal application. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE A LICENSE RENEWAL FOR 2021 FOR KAVALOSKI HEATING & COOLING LLC FOR GAS INSTALLERS.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, 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 3.13 – DNR VARIANCE OBJECTION UPDATE

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council that he has not received a response from the Wisconsin DNR regarding the City of La Crescent's objection to the City of La Crosse's request for a variance from the DNR Administrative Code. This item was informational, and no action was taken.

ITEM 3.14 – FLEXIBLE BENEFITS AMENDMENT

City Administrator Waller reviewed with City Council a Memorandum from Debbie Shimshak, City Finance Director, outlining the Flexible Benefits Plan Consolidation Appropriations Act (CAA) Amendment that was signed into law on December 27, 2020. This law impacts Section 125 cafeteria plans and this guidance is designed to provide temporary flexibility for employers and employees and assist with the National response to the 2019 COVID-19 outbreak. These changes permit, under certain circumstances, prospective changes to the health and dependent care FSA elections. These changes are not mandatory; however, Benefit Plan Administrators feels the majority of their groups will want to offer this relief to members participating in the FSA Plan. It was recommended to City Council to approve the execution of a resolution temporarily amending the Flexible Spending Plan to include these changes. This change would be effective January 1, 2021. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXECUTION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTING RESOLUTION TEMPORARILY AMENDING THE FLEXIBLE SPENDING PLAN TO THE HEALTH AND DEPENDENT CARE FSA ELECTIONS.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, 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 6.1 – STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES – EXPLORE LA CROSSE

City Council reviewed the Agenda from the February 16, 2021 La Crosse County Convention & Visitors Bureau Online Board Meeting, which included the Minutes from the January 19, 2021 Online Board Meeting. No action taken.

ITEM 6.2 – STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES – PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 2/16/21

City Council reviewed the Minutes from the February 16, 2021 La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission meeting. No action taken.

Houston County Commissioner, Dewey Severson, updated City Council on COVID-19 funding to local businesses and reported that 20% of Houston County has been vaccinated, which is 4,100 total in Houston County.

ITEM 8 – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sarah Danielson of the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce gave an update to City Council regarding the Chamber’s Annual Meeting.

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 Administrator, 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 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL DATE: _____

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator