

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA  
FEBRUARY 27, 2023

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 27th, 2023.

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

Also present were City Engineer Tim Hruska, Community Development Coordinator Larry Kirch, Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager, and Police Officer Darin Daveau

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 13, 2023
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – FEBRUARY 24, 2023
- 1.3
- 1.4

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 Administrator, 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 3.1 – VALOR COMMENDATION AWARD – DARIN DAVEAU**

Police Chief Ahlschlager presented Police Officer Darin Daveau with the Valor Commendation Award for his act of professionalism, courage, and bravery in the line of duty.

**ITEM 3.2 – CLOSED SESSION**

It being 5:32 pm, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

**A MOTION TO CLOSE THE REGULAR PORTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION AS PERMITTED BY MINNESOTA STATE STATUTE 13D.05, SUBD. 3(B) FOR PURPOSES OF PRESERVING ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE RELATING TO ACTIVE LITIGATION REGARDING THE MATTER OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT V. RYAN QUANRUD AND THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION OAH22-3600-38728 WITH THE ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT IN THIS MATTER.**

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

Council then convened in closed session for litigation matters pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(B) under the attorney-client privilege exception to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law to discuss litigation strategy.

The following persons were in attendance: Mayor Mike Poellinger, Council Members Ryan Hutchinson, Teresa O’Donnell-Ebner, Dale Williams, City Administrator Bill Waller, City Finance Director Kara Tarrence, Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager, Susan Tinadal from the law firm of Iverson Ruevers (via Zoom), and City Attorney Skip Wieser. The closed session adjourned at 6:03 pm.

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

**MOTION TO END THE CLOSED SESSION AND RESUME THE OPEN SESSION.**

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

Ryan Hutchinson	Yes
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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 – RUN FOR THE ONE – 5K RUN REQUEST**

Police Chief Ahlschlager reviewed with Council a request from Bluff County Family Resources to hold a 5K event called “Run For The One”. The event would be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 10:00 am. The route would be a loop that begins and ends at Old Hickory Park. The event is in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The La Crescent Police Department would assist with providing an escort, traffic control and security. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE BLUFF COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCES TO HOLD A 5K EVENT CALLED THE ‘RUN FOR THE ONE’ TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023 BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM WITH THE ROUTE BEGINNING AND ENDING AT OLD HICKORY PARK WITH THE LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING AN ESCORT, TRAFFIC CONTROL, AND SECURITY.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 3.4 – CITY I/T PROVIDER RECOMMENDATION**

Police Chief Ahlschlager requested approval from Council to begin the process of changing City Hall’s I/T provider from Locknet to Morris Electronics. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF CHANGING CITY HALL’S I/T PROVIDER FROM LOCKNET TO MORRIS ELECTRONICS.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 3.5 – DONATION REQUEST**

Police Chief Ahlschlager reviewed with Council a request for a city donation in the form of “Ride to School” with a police officer for the Benefit for Hayden Event to be held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm at the TimeOut Tavern. Following discussion, Member Hutchinson made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE A CITY DONATION IN THE FORM OF “RIDE TO SCHOOL” WITH A POLICE OFFICER FOR THE BENEFIT FOR HAYDEN EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:00 PM AT THE TIMEOUT TAVERN.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 3.6 – 2022 POLICE DEPARTMENT YEAR-END REPORT**

Police Chief Ahlschlager reviewed with Council the 2022 Police Department year-end report. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2022 POLICE DEPARTMENT YEAR-END REPORT.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 3.7 – DONATION RESOLUTION**

City Council reviewed a Resolution regarding the acceptance of donations to the City for the month of February 2023. Following review and discussion, Member Hutchinson introduced the following Resolution and moved its passage and adoption as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-23-09**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS MADE TO THE  
CITY OF LA CRESCENT WIESER MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN  
FEBRUARY 2023**

WHEREAS, the City of La Crescent (“La Crescent”) is required by Minn. Stat. § 465.03 to accept donations by Resolution;

WHEREAS, the following donations were made to La Crescent in the month of February 2023 to the Wieser Memorial Park Improvement Project to be used for the specific purpose of improvements to the park shelter and bathroom facilities:

1. An Anonymous donor wishes to donate \$25,000.00
2. Tessa and Adam Peterson wish to donate \$100.00

WHEREAS, La Crescent agrees to accept the donations for Wieser Memorial Park Subject to the conditions identified above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of La Crescent hereby accepts the donations stated above for Wieser Memorial Park subject to the conditions identified above.

ADOPTED this 27th day of February 2023.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

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

**ITEM 3.8 – LOCAL PLANNING STUDY RECOMMENDATION**

Community Development Coordinator Larry Kirch reviewed with Council the Request for Proposal results for the Walnut Street Plan and is recommending that Council approve entering into a Professional Services Agreement with MSA Professional Services, Inc., in the amount of \$27,000.00 to develop a Walnut Street Corridor Plan. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,000.00 TO DEVELOP A WALNUT STREET CORRIDOR PLAN.**

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Administrator, all 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 3.9 – WORK/PLANNING SESSION**

City Administrator Waller led a work/planning session on the following:

- Re-start planning for the new City Hall/Library project
- Review pending 2023/2024 improvement projects
- Review recycling/refuse collection, utility billing, and the replacement of water meters

This was informational only, no action taken.

**6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- 6.1 City Council reviewed the Natural Resource Advisory Group January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes.
- 6.2 City Council reviewed the Root River Trail Committee January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes.
- 6.3 City Council reviewed correspondence from Explore La Crosse.

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
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 7:21 PM.

APPROVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED:

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Administrator