

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
MAY 26, 2020

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the second meeting of the City Council of the City of La Crescent for the month of May was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:30 PM in the La Crescent City Hall, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

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. Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Administrator, the following members were present: Members Ryan Hutchinson (via telephone), 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, City Engineer Tim Hruska (via telephone), and City Administrative Assistant Angie Boettcher.

Also in attendance via telephone were: Jack Miller, Houston County Commissioner; Cindy Cresswell Hatleli, Houston County Assessor; Leilani Powell, Property Appraiser for Houston County; an unidentified commercial appraiser from the Houston County Assessor's Office, and Teresa Walter, Houston County Commissioner.

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 – MAY 18, 2020
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH MAY 21, 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. 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 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.

At 5:30 PM the City Council reconvened the annual Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting continued from April 18, 2020 and due to scheduling constraints adjusted the agenda for the meeting to allow for Item 3.2 – Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Review to be heard prior to the Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting being resumed.

ITEM 3.2 – BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REVIEW

City Engineer Hruska reviewed with City Council the projections regarding the on-going maintenance costs associated with each of the bridge alternatives outlined in the Wagon Wheel Trail Pedestrian Bridge Crossing Over TH 61 report that was reviewed by City Council at the last City Council Meeting. This item will be added to the agenda for the June 2nd Planning Commission meeting. It is the City’s intent to place this item on the agenda for the June 8th City Council meeting, at which time it is expected that the City Council will select one of the three bridge alternatives so that design of the project can proceed. For City Council information, the City has a \$2.5 million grant agreement with the Minnesota DNR that has a project completion date of December 31, 2021. This item was informational, and no action was taken.

ITEM 3.1 – BOARD OF APPEAL/EQUALIZATION MEETING

At 5:40 PM the City Council resumed the annual Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. Cindy Cresswell Hatleli and Leilani Powell from the Houston County Assessor’s Office reviewed with City Council a listing of property owners. At the time of the meeting, the County had not provided the City with any recent updates despite numerous requests. The City Council reviewed the appeals of those residents who were in attendance. City Council then reviewed the following appeals:

Keith Myhre at 705 12th Court North, La Crescent. The Houston County Assessor’s Office made a recommendation in value of \$414,000.00. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR AND REDUCE THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE TO \$414,000.00 FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY KEITH MYHRE AT 705 12TH COURT NORTH, LA CRESCENT.

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.

Jeremy and Ruth Chipps at 1406 Willow Street. No additional information was provided by Houston County. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad, as follows:

MOTION TO NOT MAKE A DECISION REGARDING THE MARKET VALUATION ESTABLISHED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY JEREMY AND RUTH CHIPPS AT 1406 WILLOW STREET, LA CRESCENT.

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.

City Council reviewed the remaining properties on the lists prepared by City Staff. Leilani Powell of the Houston County Assessor's Office will contact individuals on the list that were not addressed prior to the meeting. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARKET VALUATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES AS PRESENTED BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR ON MAY 26, 2020:

PROPERTY OWNER	PARCEL #	ADDRESS	PROPOSED 2020 EMV	Agreed EMV
Agarwal, Sangeeta	25.1919.000	1014 Jonathon Lane	191,400	No Record
Berns, Thomas	25.0478.003	431 3rd Street South	148,500	135,100
Bissen, Steve	25.0119.000	326 2nd Street North	198,000	189,300
Boser, Kevin	25.1266.023	190 Cornforth Road	297,100	244,000
Daley, Shawn	25.2193.000	739 4th Street North	411,200	393,100
Davis, Terry	25.0429.000	216 Hill Street South	174,400	139,900
Decker, Rachel & Brent	25.1327.000	1118 Juniper Street	197,400	No Change
Ferrier, Kent	25.1304.000	822 11th Street South	273,700	258,600
Foltz, Dean	25.1255.010	Shore Acres Road	110,000	6,000
Forss, Jean	25.1322.000	818 12th Street South	153,500	No Record
Fort, Timothy	25.2170.000	1244 County 25	137,400	No Record
Frey, Robert	25.2142.000	1500 Valley Lane	295,100	283,600
Garbers, William & Jennifer	25.0850.000	113 Hillview Blvd	234,900	230,800
Gibson, Randy	25.1822.000	746 Shore Acres Road	291,500	No Change
Gibson, Randy	25.1891.000	28 Mc Intosh East	580,500	527,300
Haggerty, Rance	25.1271.001	4th Street North	1,800	No Change
Haggerty, Rance	25.1433.000	699 4th Street North #2	183,900	No Change
Hanifl, Ryan	25.0648.000	Shore Acres Road	245,000	225,000
Hanifl, Ryan	25.0648.001	Shore Acres Road	195,000	No Change

Hebrink, Cindy	25.1359.000	820 14 Street South	227,400	No Record
Heilman, Shawn	25.2000.000	604 13th Street North	433,500	No Change
Heth, Euginia	25.0502.000	607 3rd Street South	172,700	No Record
Howe, James	25.1688.000	205 Haralson Lane	295,300	No Record
Hurley, Michael & Nancy	25.0796.000	538 6th Street South	126,100	No Change
Hurley, Sarah	25.0126.000	418 2nd Street North	225,900	209,700
Iverson, Elsie	25.0248.000	34 Elm Street North	171,500	No Record
Klankowski, Angel	25.0017.000	102 Walnut St North	202,300	181,100
Klug, Peter & Emily	25.1773.000	517 August Hills Drive	368,500	349,500
Konzem, Gregory	25.1887.000	48 McIntosh Road East	455,500	No Record
Kost, Mike	25.0266.000	523 1st Street North	148,800	142,700
Kreibich, Lucille	25.0730.000	515 7th Street South	137,800	No Record
Miller, Jane	25.0371.001	427 1st Street South	159,300	No Change
Miller, Jane	25.2080.000	808 Cedar Drive	170,700	No Change
Moser, Darren	25.1653.000	188 Eagles Bluff Rd	299,000	271,400
Nolan, Janene	25.2127.000	819 Wildwood Court	255,100	No Record
Pfaff, Jenny	25.1821.000	742 Shore Acres Road	352,200	No Change
Poellinger, Tom	25.1829.000	770 Shore Acres Road	963,500	Withdrawn/No Change
Radecki, John	25.0027.001	187 1st Street North	161,300	No Record
Ren, Zhang	25.1998.000	621 13th Street North	38,500	No Change
Rouleau, Tina	25.1616.000	738 4th Street North	325,900	No Change
Steffes, Gerald	25.1967.000	1145 Cedar Drive	314,800	257,900
Steffes, Judith	25.1261.010	1226 Spruce Drive	171,800	132,200
Storlie, Judy	25.0311.000	28 Elm Street South	242,000	222,500
Teachout, Nathan (Jacob Turvey)	25.2199.002	1295 County 6	181,200	No Change
Techel, Alice	25.0582.000	1008 Oak Street South	159,700	No Record
Tetzlaff, Michelle	25.1220.000	515 5th Street South	118,500	No Record

Those properties that Houston County Assessor did not review are labeled as No Record.
Those Market Valuations will remain unchanged.

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.

City Council then reviewed the appeal for the property of Ryan Hutchinson at 610 McIntosh Rd, La Crescent. The Houston County Assessor's Office made a recommendation in value of \$258,000.00.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR AND REDUCE THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE TO \$258,000.00 FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY RYAN HUTCHINSON AT 610 MCINTOSH RD, LA CRESCENT.

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

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

Member Ryan Hutchinson abstained from voting and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried by a 4-0 vote.

City Council then reviewed the appeal for the property of Cherryl Jostad at 117 Hillview Blvd, La Crescent. The Houston County Assessor's Office made a recommendation in value of \$146,200.00. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR AND REDUCE THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE TO \$146,200.00 FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY CHERRYL JOSTAD AT 117 HILLVIEW BLVD, LA CRESCENT.

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

Member Cherryl Jostad abstained from voting and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried by a 4-0 vote.

City Council reviewed the property at 509 N Chestnut Street owned by the La Crescent Hotel Group. The City Council packet contained a recommendation to reduce the estimated market value to \$2,000,000.00. \$2,000,000.00 will provide the City the needed tax revenue to satisfy the TIF and special assessment obligation and was the preliminary number used when developing the property. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner, as follows:

MOTION TO REDUCE THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE TO \$2,000,000.00 FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY THE LA CRESCENT HOTEL GROUP AT 509 N CHESTNUT STREET, LA CRESCENT.

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.

The market valuation reduction was based in part on the pre-development analysis provided by the Houston County Assessor, along with this was the number that was used in all of the tax increment modeling that was done as part of the development of the project.

ITEM 3.3 – REVIEW 2020 SUMMER RECREATION SEASON

City Administrator Waller reviewed with City Council the following recommendations regarding the City's 2020 Park & Recreation season and the City's park facilities:

1. Playground equipment - open to the public with the attached posting. It is not feasible for the City due to lack of funds and staff to clean and sanitize all of the City's playground equipment on a regular basis.
2. Tennis courts - open to the public with the attached posting. Same finding as in number 1.
3. Bathrooms at Old Hickory Park and Abnet Field - closed to the public. Same finding as in number 1.
4. Shelter at Old Hickory Park and Abnet Field open to the public with the attached posting. Same finding as number 1. Waive the rental fee for the shelter at Old Hickory Park for 2020 as the bathrooms will not be open. Continue to require reservations - ask for number of attendees.
5. Water fountains - not turned on. Same finding as in number 1.
6. Portable toilets in City parks - not utilized in 2020. Same finding as number 1.
7. Basketball court at Old Hickory Park - reinstall basketball hoops. Open to the public with attached posting. Same finding as number 1.
8. Soccer fields at Old Hickory Park - nets to be installed and fields striped. Open to the public with attached posting. Same finding as number 1.
9. Sand volleyball courts at Old Hickory Park - nets to be installed. Open to the public with attached posting. Same finding as number 1.
10. Baseball/softball fields at Veterans Park, Old Hickory Park, and Abnet Field, open to the public with attached posting. Same finding as number 1.
11. City Aquatic Center - originally planned to open May 23, 2020. Currently closed thru May 31, 2020, pursuant to Governor's Executive Order 20-56.
 - a. Opening Date - TBD
 - b. Closing Date - TBD
 - c. Capacity - TBD
 - d. Residents only - determination of land area will be based on allowable capacity
 - e. Use laptop to initially establish registration of eligible residents, including possible photos.
 - f. Adult present at entry to enforce residency requirements.
 - g. No swimming lessons.
 - h. Time previously allotted to swimming lessons to be re-allocated to public swim time.

- i. Hours for open swim - 9:00 am – noon; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.
 - j. No concessions.
 - k. Continue to limit what people can bring into the pool area.
 - l. No deck furniture.
 - m. Climbing wall closed.
 - n. Water slides – increase minimum height requirement. Consider alternating use of slides from day to day.
 - o. Locker rooms closed.
 - p. Family restroom open - cleaned each hour.
 - q. High-touch surface areas cleaned and disinfected morning, noon, and after-noon, pursuant to Minnesota Department of Health requirements.
 - r. Provide hand-washing station at entrance to pool.
 - s. Establish social distancing standards at entrance to pool.
 - t. Install signage in accordance with recommendations from the CDC.
 - u. City of La Crescent COVID-19 exposure prevention, preparedness, and response plan reviewed and modified to address aquatic center and distributed to all employees.
12. Basketball, volleyball, and swim team cancelled for 2020. Golf lessons, tennis lessons, baseball, softball, and log rolling continued with a modified format. Limited to groups of 10, with 8 participants and 2 coaches. No games or competitions. Emphasis of programming to be skill development. Additional time allocated for cleaning and sanitizing of equipment between sessions. Participation fees to remain the same. Seasons begin week of June 22 and end last week of July.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GUIDELINES AND FINDINGS CONTAINED IN NO. 1 OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CITY’S 2020 PARK & RECREATION SEASON AND THE CITY’S PARK FACILITIES STATED ABOVE WITH CONTINUED REVIEW OF AVAILABILITY OF RESTROOMS AT CITY PARKS.

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 3.4 – ANNEXATION PETITION – 550 HICKORY LANE

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council a Petition requesting annexation by the property owners at 550 Hickory Lane. Before the adoption of an Ordinance, the City will need to hold a public hearing and provide 30 days written notice to La Crescent Township and contiguous property owners. It was recommended that the Petition be accepted and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for July 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner, as follows:

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION FROM THE PROPERTY OWNERS AT 550 HICKORY LANE AND TO CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 13, 2020 AT 5:30 PM AT CITY HALL.

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 3.5 – TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a temporary liquor license application from Lancer Youth Hockey Association (LYHA) for August 1, 2020 at the La Crescent Community Ice Arena. LYHA had initially applied for a license for April 18, 2020 but was denied due to MN Executive Order 20-20/Covid19. This would be subject to the requirements of the State at the time of the event. The application appears to be in order, and it was recommended to City Council to approve the application and authorize that it be forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR LANCER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE LA CRESCENT COMMUNITY ARENA ON AUGUST 1, 2020 SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE AT THE TIME OF THE EVENT AND THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

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 3.6 – GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a gambling permit application from the Lions Club of La Crescent for October 3, 2020 at the La Crescent Event Center. This would be subject to the requirements of the State at the time of the event. The application appears to be in 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 THE LIONS CLUB OF LA CRESCENT FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE LA CRESCENT EVENT CENTER ON OCTOBER 3, 2020 SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE AT THE TIME OF THE EVENT AND THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO THE MINNESOTA GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD.

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 3.7 – COVID-19

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council a recommendation that in order for City bars and restaurants to be open and provide service outdoors requires that in the interim the City Council delegate the authority to City Staff to review and approve dining requests. At the June 8, 2020 City Council Meeting the Council will review a formal resolution. The purpose of the delegation is to permit a business to open quickly without the need to wait for a future City Council meeting. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Hutchinson, as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, CITY ATTORNEY AND CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO ADMINISTRATIVELY APPROVE OUTDOOR DINING REQUESTS FOR CITY OF LA CRESCENT BARS AND RESTAURANTS AS LONG AS THE BUSINESS HAS APPROPRIATE INSURANCE AND ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH MINNESOTA GOVERNOR WALZ' EXECUTIVE ORDERS.

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 – EXPLORE LA CROSSE

City Council reviewed the Agenda from the May 19, 2020 La Crosse County Convention & Visitors Bureau Board Meeting, which included the Minutes from the April 21, 2020 Board Meeting. No action taken.

ITEM 6.2 – PARK & RECREATION MINUTES – MAY 21, 2020

City Council reviewed the Park & Recreation Minutes from the May 21, 2020 meeting. No action taken.

ITEM 8 – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

There was no report from the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner, 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 7:39 PM.

APPROVAL DATE: _____

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator