

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
JULY 27, 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 July was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:30 PM in the La Crescent City Hall, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, July 27, 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), Cherryl Jostad, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner (via telephone), Dale Williams and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: None. Also present was City Administrator Bill Waller, City Attorney Skip Wieser, Police Chief Doug Stavenau 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 – JULY 13, 2020
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH JULY 23, 2020
- 1.3 CASH BALANCE/ACTIVITY REPORT – APRIL 2020
- 1.4 LIBRARY REPORT – APRIL 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 Williams 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
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 3.1 – FIRE DEPARTMENT PENSION INCREASE

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council a Memorandum from the La Crescent Fire Department Relief Association regarding a pension increase for the La Crescent Fire Department. The La Crescent Fire Department met on January 27, 2020 for its annual Relief meeting. As part of the business for the evening, a pension increase was discussed and then a motion was made to increase the pension from \$2,800 per eligible year to \$3,200 per eligible year. This vote was passed by its membership. The Relief members then met on February 27, 2020 to ratify this vote per the bylaws and the motion passed. The La Crescent Fire Department Relief Association is recommending the City Council ratify this pension increase. The Relief Association indicates they have adequate funds available to support this increase without any financial impact to the City under the given economy and market conditions and health of the Fire Department. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, as follows:

MOTION TO RATIFY A PENSION INCREASE FROM \$2,800.00 PER ELIGIBLE YEAR TO \$3,200.00 PER ELIGIBLE YEAR FOR THE LA CRESCENT FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

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

and none voted against the same. Member Ryan Hutchinson and Mayor Mike Poellinger abstained from voting. The motion was declared duly carried by a 3-0 vote..

ITEM 3.2 – ASSESSMENT RELEASE

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council that the Horse Track Meadows Developer has agreed to the imposition of special assessments as part of the Development. The assessments will not show up with the City Assessors until early 2021. Therefore, an Assessment Agreement has been recorded putting potential buyers on notice of the assessments. When lots are sold in this interim period, the City will receive payment of the assessment upon completion of lot sales. It was recommended to City Council to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute an Affidavit of Release upon receipt of payment. The legal description will be inserted into the document at the time of execution. This will allow the Mayor and City Administrator to sign without further Council authorization. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad, as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A RELEASE OF LAND FROM ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT REGARDING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS UPON COMPLETION OF LOT SALES IN HORSE TRACK MEADOWS.

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 3.3 – UPDATE ON LA CROSSE SEWER AGREEMENT

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council documents regarding the Sanitary Sewer Conveyance Agreement with the City of La Crosse. City Attorney Wieser reviewed an email communication received from the City of La Crosse addressed to the City of La Crescent dated July 2, 2020. It has been represented to the City Attorney’s office that a correspondence of similar substance was sent to the Town of Campbell. Also reviewed was a position letter sent by the City of Onalaska to La Crosse dated July 14, 2020. This item was informational, and no action was taken.

ITEM 3.4 – RELAY FOR LIFE REQUEST

City Council reviewed an Agenda Request from Randy Rosenberg requesting the use of Old Hickory Park for a limited Relay for Life event. The event would use portions of the sidewalk to place luminaries and would like to request no parking along those areas. Mr. Rosenberg was present and addressed City Council with his request. The event would be held on Friday, August 14, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with a rain date of August 15, 2020. Face masks would be required, and social distancing guidelines enforced. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF OLD HICKORY PARK FOR A LIMITED RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M. WITH A RAIN DATE OF AUGUST 15, 2020 AND TO AUTHORIZE NO PARKING ALONG THE AREA OF THE EVENT FOR THAT DATE.

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 3.5 – CITY NEWSLETTER

City administrative Assistant Boettcher reviewed with City Council the Summer 2020 La Crescent Newsletter that she developed and was mailed out to City residents. With COVID-19 the Spring/Summer edition was put on hold. If another Newsletter is sent this year, Ms. Boettcher would anticipate it going out

sometime in October or early November. It is hoped the Newsletter will be back on track for Spring/Summer of 2021. This item was informational, and no action was taken.

ITEM 3.6 - COVID-19

City Administrator Waller reviewed with City Council that the City of La Crescent will receive \$389,434 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities (CARES) Act funding. The funding is designed to provide economic help to entities struggling because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program covers the period of time from March 1 through November 15, 2020. To date, the City has spent approximately \$33,113 in funds toward the COVID-19 pandemic. City Administrator Waller also reviewed with City Council future anticipated expenditures and presented for discussion staffing whose time was substantially different than the original use intended. The list reviewed was not exhaustive, and not in final form and like everything related to COVID-19 will continue to change. The provision to allow for reimbursement of staff time is currently being reviewed and evaluated to provide further clarification regarding the eligibility of this expenditure. There is also potential that other staff time could be identified and added. Any additional costs related to the re-opening of City Hall was not addressed in detail. The breakdown totals approximately \$393,313, which slightly exceeds the amount of CARES Act funding that the City will receive. Under the program guidelines, CARES act funds could be used to make grants to small businesses and non-profit organizations to reimburse the cost of business interruption caused by required closures. This item was presented for discussion and direction, and no action was taken.

City Council also reviewed the following:

- a. Emergency Executive Order 20-78 extending the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency.
- b. Emergency Executive Order 20-81 requiring Minnesotans to wear a face covering in certain settings.
- c. Minnesota Department of Health face covering requirements.
- d. Frequently asked questions regarding the requirement to wear face coverings.

City Council then reviewed an Agenda Request from Jeremy Chipps regarding COVID-19. Mayor Poellinger allowed Mr. Chipps to address the Council. No action taken.

ITEM 5.1 – MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Member O’Donnell-Ebner updated City Council on hiring for the La Crescent Library. No action taken.

ITEM 6.1 – EXPLORE LA CROSSE

City Council reviewed the Agenda from the July 14, 2020 La Crosse County Convention & Visitors Bureau Board Meeting, which included the Minutes from the June 16, 2020 Board Meeting. No action taken.

ITEM 8 – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Eileen Krenz of the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce updated City Council on mask distribution.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad, 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 6:11 PM.

APPROVAL DATE: _____

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator