

City of LeClaire, Iowa
City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 5, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 325 Wisconsin St, LeClaire, IA

Mayor: _____ Blair: _____ Bloom: _____ Gravert: _____ Long: _____ Salvador: _____
Bockenstedt: _____ Laserfiche: _____ Publication: _____

Mayor Gerard called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 325 Wisconsin Street. Present: Mayor Dennis Gerard, Council Members Amy Blair, Bill Bloom, Sara Gravert, Barry Long, City Administrator Dennis Bockenstedt, City Clerk Tracy Northcutt, Police Chief Shane Themas, Fire Chief Shane Bleeker, Public Works Director Mark Dale, Parks & Rec Director Greg Ludwig, and Library Director Melita Tunnickliff and City Engineer Leo Foley. Absent: Council Member Ryan Salvador. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Resolution 23-097

Moved by Long, seconded by Blair, approving the June 5, 2023, Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-098

Moved by Long, seconded by Gravert, approving all the Council Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Public Appearances – None

Mayor’s Report – None

Council Reports

Resolution 23-099

Moved by Blair, seconded by Bloom, approving Murf’s Turf, LLC to seed the acquired property in Huckleberry Park in an amount not to exceed \$22,350.00, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-100

Moved by Blair, seconded by Gravert, approving Lovewell Commercial Fence & Rail to erect fencing around the acquired property in Huckleberry Park in an amount not to exceed \$14,000.00, as presented. Mark Dale, Public Works Director, indicated that old fencing could not be used as there would not be enough. Additionally, he explained that the fencing would go up after the seeding in the fall. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-101

Moved by Blair, seconded by Long, setting staffing levels for the City of LeClaire for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, as presented. Dennis Bockenstedt, City Administrator, stated that Parks & Rec Seasonal staff have been added to this authorization. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-102

Moved by Blair, seconded by Bloom, approving the sale of General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2023A, pursuant to purchase agreement, as presented. Heidi Kuhl, Northland Securities, indicated the sale process went well. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-103

Moved by Blair, seconded by Long, naming depositories, establishing maximum deposit amounts, and identifying positions authorized to conduct business on behalf of the City of LeClaire, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-104

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Long, accepting the State of Iowa bid award from Morton Salt Co. for winter resupply of 600 tons of rock salt in the amount of \$96.39 per ton for a total of \$57,834.00, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-105

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Blair, awarding and amending the City Center Plaza Project to Bill Bruce Builders Inc., Eldridge, IA, in an amount not to exceed \$834,393.84 and amending to \$560,096.55, as presented. Melita Tunnickliff, Library Director, read the attached statement expressing support for the project. Dennis Bockenstedt, City Administrator, indicated that \$500,000 is budgeted for this project and

funds from interest earnings or unallocated Automated Traffic Enforcement could be used for the unbudgeted amount. Leo Foley, City Engineer, V&K, stated that the project is set to begin this summer and be completed June 2024. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-106

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Blair, amending Resolution 22-073, an Engineering Services Agreement with Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. for the Veterans Memorial Complex Retaining Wall Project in amended amount not to exceed \$73,299.75, as presented. Leo Foley, City Engineer, V&K, indicated that the change from a retaining wall to a redesign of the field layout is the basis of the amendment. The revised project will be less expensive than the retaining wall. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Ordinance 835-Chapter 142-Use of Public Right-of-Way -2nd Reading

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Bloom, approving the second reading in title only, amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of LeClaire, Iowa, by creating Chapter 142 – Use of City Right-of-Way, as presented. Dennis Bockenstedt, City Administrator, explained that this ordinance will be for any entity such as utility companies or individuals who use public right of way for their own use. This will allow the City to have better records on private groups using right-of-way. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Mayor Gerard called a Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment. Roll call was taken with Council Members Blair, Bloom, Gravert, and Long present. Absent: Salvador. No written or verbal comments were submitted by the public. Moved by Long, seconded by Blair to close the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Ordinance 836 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment -1stReading

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Bloom, approving the first reading in title only, amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of LeClaire, Iowa, by repealing Ordinance 553 adopted on November 16, 1998, and adopting a total comprehensive ordinance entitled “The Zoning Ordinance of the City of LeClaire, Iowa”, as presented. Mayor Gerard requested an executive summary of the changes. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-107

Moved by Bloom, seconded by Long, fixing the date for a public hearing on the proposal to enter into an amended and restated agreement for private development with GRT QC Property, LLC and Fareway Stores, Inc., and providing for publication of notice thereof for June 19, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-108

Moved by Bloom, seconded by Blair, approving the exclusive use of the middle and southern sections of the Levee and parking lots for the Patriot Riverfest Special Event to be held June 10, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-109

Moved by Bloom, seconded by Long, approving W.F. Scott Decorating, Inc., Rock Island, IL, for interior painting of City Hall in an amount not to exceed \$18,500.00, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Adjournment

Moved by Long, seconded by Blair, to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Dennis Gerard, Mayor

Attest:

Tracy A. Northcutt, City Clerk



6/5/2023

For the last five years the LeClaire Community Library staff, Board of Trustees, and Friends of the LeClaire Community Library, as well as patrons who participated in numerous focus group meetings have expressed their support of Plaza renovations. City Center Plaza improvements were mentioned in the recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a project for which plans are underway.

In the Parks and Rec study there was an online survey of our citizens preferred recreation programs. The top of the list was “Family Activities,” and other preferences were “Enrichment/Learning” and “Senior Activities”, all of which are also priorities of the Library.

There was also a Parks Assessment, which evaluated our parks based on four criteria: Accessibility, Character, Connectivity, and Usability. The City Center Plaza will be ADA accessible to the latest standards. The Plaza, being located between the Library and City Hall, has character and connectivity as the center of the civic and intellectual life of our city. However, it fails badly when it comes to usability – lacking shade, seating, flexibility, and comfort.

Due to its location, the Plaza is seen by all who visit City Hall, and by all visitors to the Library, which last year counted over 27,269 visits. But the current state of the plaza, with a hard surface of cracked concrete, rusty railings, and a lack of shade, does not make a good impression. I see people trying to sit in the Plaza, young people congregating on their bikes, children trying to play, but they never stay long. People who use the free wifi the Library provides to the Plaza tend to sit in their cars instead of outside.

All of our Summer Reading Programs during the pandemic (6/2021 – 9/2021) were held in the Plaza. Attendance was 147 people for 10 Storytimes, and 595 people for all other programs, including petting zoos, music concerts, dancing (QC Ballet Folklorico), and Hula Hoop classes.

Since then, we have used the Plaza less, due to the deficits listed above. With the improvements to the Plaza programming can be expanded to include events like a Farmer’s Market, or Movies in the Park, etc.

Assets of a renovated City Center Plaza would include:

- No capacity limit (our library building capacity is 120 which we exceed at times and have to turn people away from a program)
- Permanent seating
- Grassy surface
- Updated accessibility (including automatic doors paid for with a library grant)
- Wifi available across the entire plaza
- Good location for messy programs (like tie-dying T-shirts and Fossil Dig Fun)
- Good location for nature programs (like studying butterflies or star-gazing)

Melita Tunncliff, Library Director

