

City of LeClaire, Iowa
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 7, 2021 – 6:11 p.m.
Council Chambers
325 Wisconsin St
LeClaire, IA

Mayor: _____ Ball: _____ Blair: _____
Gerard: _____ Gravert: _____ Long: _____
Salvador: _____ Laserfiche: _____

Mayor Ray Allen called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 325 Wisconsin Street. Present: Council Members Amy Blair, Dennis Gerard, Sara Gravert, Barry Long and Ryan Salvador, City Administrator Chris Ball, City Clerk Tracy Northcutt, Police Chief Shane Themas, Library Director Ellen Miller, Fire Chief Jim Bradley and City Engineer Leo Foley. Absent: None.

Discussion Items:

A. Chapman Minor Plat Sketch Plan Review

Chris Ball, City Administrator, indicated that Mr. Chapman was directed to revise the plans submitted at the Planning & Zoning meeting held May 13, 2021. Chapman will present revised plans to Planning & Zoning at a later date.

B. Green Tree Brewing Sketch Plan Review

Chris Ball, City Administrator, stated that Green Tree Brewery, 309 N. Cody Road, submitted plans to expand the only the patio to the north. Mayor Allen questioned if there were plans for construction of a building. Richard Day, Green Tree Brewery owner, stated that it would be used only for a patio. In the cooler months, they erect a temporary enclosure but no permanent structure will be on the proposed expansion. Council does not object to these plans.

C. Color Blaze 5K

Chris Ball, City Administrator, indicated that Mindy Woods would present information on the Color Blaze 5K to be held August 7, 2021, starting and ending at Hollyhock Park. Ms. Woods indicated that the event was held in 2018 & 2019 successfully. Neighbors are notified in advance and organized volunteers do clean up. Currently there are 226 registrants, and the number of participants is expected to be 500. Ongoing communication with Police will take place on the need for traffic control. This event was approved at the Park & Recreation Board meeting held on June 2, 2021. Council does not object to this event.

D. Police Department Increase – Full Time Officer

Shane Themas, Police Chief, indicated discussions of adding a full-time officer have been had in various committees for several years. The Mercer Study, an increase in population, increases in business and development and other programming have shown the need for this additional officer. Chief Themas stated that it could take up to a year or longer to get an officer hired and requested authorization to move forward with the hiring process. Council did not object to begin the process of hiring an additional full-time officer.

E. Correction to Meredith Viljoen term for Library Board

Chris Ball, City Administrator, explained that a discrepancy between the records at City Hall and the Library Board's records has been discovered. The resolution incorrected indicated that it was to fill an unexpired term that was to expire June 30, 2021. However, the correct term was for a full six-year term to fill an expired term to expire June 30, 2026. A formal resolution correcting this will be brought forth June 21, 2021.

F. City Administrator Report

Chris Ball, City Administrator, gave an overview of the following items:

1. Pickleball Courts at Huckleberry Park are progressing well.
2. Staff is addressing nuisance abatement issues that include nonfunctional vehicles, overgrown grass and weeds as well as other nuisance items. Ball directed folks to contact him with the addresses of any properties of concern.
3. The work on Valley Drive is postponed due to the closure of the 35th Street bridge by IDOT. The City was not notified of this closure but made the decision to delay the work on Valley Drive so public safety access would not be diminished.
4. More meetings are being held with IDOT regarding sidewalk plans for downtown. Once a clearer idea of the cost of proposed solutions has been made, staff will present options to the Council for approval.
5. Finance Committee met with the Property & Casualty Insurance Representative. Costs are 11% higher than last year due to a higher mod rate and substantial claims.
6. The City will renew its agreement with Aetna to provide group health insurance benefits to employees. A formal resolution will be presented on June 21, 2021.

G. Other

1. Barry Long, Council Member, requested an update on the HMA Overlay project. Chris Ball, City Administrator, stated that it is moving along quickly. Ball will report back with detailed information from the contractor.
2. Ryan Salvador, Council Member, requested an update on the speed bumps at the ball diamonds. Chris Ball, City Administrator, indicated that he would follow up with staff.
3. Sara Gravert, Council Member, requested an update on the retaining wall at the ball fields. Chris Ball, City Administrator, stated that it was not in the budget for 21-22 and will follow up to find out when it is slated for repair.

Adjournment

Moved by Gerard, seconded by Salvador, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

Attest:

Ray C. Allen, Mayor

Tracy A. Northcutt, City Clerk