

LILYDALE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 8, 2023

Present: Mayor John Diehl and Councilmembers Deborah Cornell, Lyle Hanzal, Mary Kleinberg and Bill Kleinman; Mary Schultz, City Clerk and Kathy Mutch, administrative assistant

Also Present: Bridget Nason, attorney; Police Captain Wayne Wegener; Kirstin Sersland, Xcel Energy; and Julie Seykora

Agenda: Moved by Councilmember Hanzal and seconded by Councilmember Cornell to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments: None

April 10, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes - The last sentence of the History Project Update was clarified and corrected. Moved by Councilmember Kleinman and seconded by Councilmember Kleinberg to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 City Council Meeting, as revised. Motion carried 5-0.

April 17, 2023 City Council Special Meeting Minutes –The minutes were corrected to “belts and suspenders” (and not “suspension”) on page 1. Moved by Councilmember Hanzal and seconded by Councilmember Cornell to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2023 City Council Special Meeting as revised. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Report –Captain Wegener report there were 65 calls with four cases opened relating to property in April. A table-top exercise on emergency management training is being organized for mid-July. Councilmembers will receiving training on relevant emergency processes such as train derailment.

Attorney Report - Bridget Nason stated a meeting is scheduled this week for review of the ordinances and stormwater management plan for consistency. Staff have already reviewed the ordinances and one comment was received. Comments are needed prior to submitting the plan to the Lower Mississippi Watershed District on stormwater management.

A followup on the ordinances after last month’s council meeting did show that not all of the revisions were made. The issue is being resolved and time has been set aside to make the revisions.

The city planner has been contacted to set up a meeting to discuss revisions to the zoning ordinance. Councilmembers were reminded to return their code books for updating.

Engineer Report – Mayor Diehl asked for comments on the need for the city engineer to attend all council meetings or only the meetings when there is an agenda item she may be asked to comment on.

Councilmember Hanzal expressed concern that by not having her regularly scheduled she may not be available when needed. Agenda packets are prepared the week prior to the council meeting giving advance notice and time to arrange her schedule. Ms. Schultz assured the council Ms. Koehler is organized and typically has materials to her ahead of time.

Mayor Diehl summarized consensus by council members for the city engineer to attend council meetings when there is an agenda related to engineering matters or the council asks her to attend. City Administrator Schultz will talk to Ms. Koehler about this arrangement.

Xcel Energy Meter Replacement – Mayor Diehl explained the city was notified about a meter replacement by Xcel Energy. The city has two accounts with Xcel, one for city hall and another for the sewer lift station. Unless the city objects Xcel is going to change the current meters for an electronic metering system called “Smart Meters”. The meters can be read by a computer at a home office. Mayor Diehl reached out to Xcel to attend a council meeting on this change.

Kirstin Sersland, Xcel Energy Community Relations Manager, provided a thorough and informative presentation on Xcel Energy’s “carbon-free 2040” plans. Her presentation focused on 1) the purpose of smart meters; 2) does the new technology allow Xcel the ability to monitor and regulate use; 3) how is Xcel going to achieve carbon free by 2040; 4) and what is the city’s option if it chooses to opt out. Ms.Sersland clarified the meters will be changed whether the city chooses a Smart Meter or a non-communicating meter.

Various questions asked by council members during the presentation required follow-up. Mayor Diehl inquired once Xcel has the information what is Xcel going to do with it?

Councilmember Kleinman inquired if the Smart Meter uses the homeowner’s wi-fi system?

Councilmember Hanzal asked how Xcel knows what item is using extra power and indicated he was not comfortable with that capability and would like to know more. He also commented on the challenge for multi-tenant buildings and electric vehicles. Ms. Sersland indicated Xcel has a clean transportation team and would share the contact information with Ms. Schultz.

Mayor Diehl asked Ms. Sersland to elaborate on how Xcel can tell consumers how they are using energy and how Xcel measures total output; what consumers are using now and what is it expected to be in 2040? What is the difference between net zero natural gas and 100% carbon-free electricity.

A booklet titled “Energy Future in Minnesota” was given to councilmembers containing additional information with QR codes to dig deeper into energy. Three categories Xcel is focused on to transition to clean energy by 2050 are electricity, natural gas in buildings and transportation.

Mayor Diehl thanked Ms. Sersland for her comprehensive, well done and very much appreciated presentation. Ms. Sersland will send her further responses to the questions she was unable to answer to city Administrator Schultz.

Moved by Mayor Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve proceeding with the installation of Smart Meters by Xcel Energy. Motion carried 5-0.

Community Clean-Up Event – Councilmember Kleinberg reported a small, committed group of seven met on Saturday morning, May 6 from 10-12 noon for a spring clean-up project. Kleinberg noted the group had fun and their efforts were of benefit to the community. As more residents become aware of these efforts Kleinberg believes the group will expand and another clean-up day is already being considered. Ms. Kleinberg thanked Mary Schultz for creating and circulating flyers to residents.

A to Z Home Inspection Final Payment Agreement – A final payment agreement for services by Mike Andrejka, was presented. This agreement will close and finalize the work done by Mike Andrejka following his retirement and no future requests will be made. Mr. Andrejka has not reviewed this draft. Councilmember Hanzal questioned if the city has collected documents and paperwork from Mr. Andrejka that may be needed or referred to in the future.

Moved by Mayor Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Kleinman to approve the draft agreement with A to Z Home Inspection and authorize the Mayor and legal counsel to make additional changes as indicated in negotiations with Mr. Andrejka. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk's Report – The April report includes payment from Northern Dakota County Cable Commission (NDC4). NDC4 recommends the funds be used for cable-related purposes. In the past the funds have been used for technology. In 2022 the funds were used for the history project. Funds received from First American Title were on behalf of Bigos to replenish its escrow account. The funds will be transferred from the general fund into a site improvement fund. Disbursements to the City of Mendota Heights for police/fire, snow removal and salting.

Moved by Councilmember Hanzal and seconded by Councilmember Cornell to approve the April 2023 financial reports, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Building Permits - Six building permits were issued in April.

Conference – City Administrator Schultz recently attended the Minnesota City County Management Association conference. The conference gave her an opportunity to meet colleagues from different cities and counties throughout Minnesota and establish relationships that may serve as future resources. Two speakers of interest to her were Suri Surinder who talked about a framework in which to view leadership; John Barry who talked about the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.

Mayor's Report - Mayor Diehl shared he recently received an annual report from DARTS. DARTS, located in West St. Paul, provides services to residents in need throughout Dakota County such as transportation.

Mayor Diehl received a communication from Terry Wallace, an art dealer and long time representative of Carolyn Francis, a former citizen, actress and artist who grew up in Lilydale. She passed away recently and before she passed Mr. Wallace told her he would try to get some of her paintings into public institutions in her memory. A painting of Lilydale which Ms. Francis was fond of may be donated to the city to be displayed.

Moved by Mayor Diehl and seconded by Councilmember Kleinberg to approve acceptance of this painting should it materialize to be held appropriately and authorize Mayor Diehl to act on behalf of the city. Motion carried 5-0.

Committees. Mayor Diehl shared a draft mission statement on the Committee on the History of Lilydale, requested input from council members, and suggested a similar template be used for future committees; ie, Homeowners Association Committee and a Business Committee.

Moved by Mayor Diehl to adopt the mission and operating statement for the history committee. Councilmember Hanzal suggested deferred action until council members have sufficient time to read through the document. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Schultz, City Clerk