

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Kirby presiding. Council Members present: Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Also participating: City Administrator, Joe Roby; Police Chief, Aaron Thieke

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Williams to agenda as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.
4. **Presentations:**
 - 4A. June 2023 Police Chief Report

Chief Thieke presented City Council with June's police report. Chief Thieke also thanked City Council, City Staff, and the citizens of Le Sueur for allowing him to serve for the community for the past 17 years as a Police Officer, Sergeant, Captain, and Police Chief. Council Members thanked Chief Thieke for his years of service and wished him well in future endeavors. He was then presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.
5. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Council Member Touhey seconded by Council Member Schlueter to approve the following consent agenda as presented:
 - 5A. City Council Minutes 07/24/2023
 - 5B. Disbursements Through July 24, 2023 Meeting
 - Purchases over \$25,000
 - i. Minnesota Public Facilities Authority – 2007 WWTF Debt Service \$1,165,692.25
 - ii. MMPA c/o Avan Energy – July 2023 Purchased Power - \$847,784.18
 - iii. ASTECH Corp – 2023 Street Maintenance Pay App #1 - \$145,248.68
 - iv. Minnesota Public Facilities Authority – Well 8 Debt Service - \$120,418.24
 - v. Nielsen Blacktopping – 2023 Street Maintenance (Patching) - \$78,193.17
 - vi. Le Sueur County Highway Dept – CSAH 22 Final Payment - \$67,535.24
 - vii. MN Department of Revenue – July 2023 City Sales Tax - \$56,276.00
 - viii. Neo Water Treatment – FX300 Wastewater Material - \$40,837.00
 - ix. Stuart C Irby Co. – 15KV Wire - \$37,950.12
 - 5C. Approve Payment Application #1 – 2023 Street Maintenance Project (Sealing)
 - 5D. Approve MMPA Alternate Representative
 - 5E. Approve 2023 Le Sueur County Municipal Maintenance Agreement
 - 5F. Approve Final Payment – CSAH 22 Turnback Project

Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion carried 7-0.
6. **Public Comment:** None
7. **City Administrator Update:**

Administrator Roby presented that new Public Works Manager, Joel Schmidt, began his employment in Le Sueur on 8/7/2023. Mr. Roby thanked all involved making Giant Days safe and successful. The Public Works Director position has been posted but Foster Transburg will be serving as Interim Public Works Director until the position is filled. Mr. Transburg will be overseeing all utilities, facilities, and public works, while recreation and airport will report to City Administrator. Foster will also be attending a future meeting to share safety program details. Administrator Roby informed City Council that he will be out of the office for the remainder of the week. Mr. Roby took time to recognize Chief Thieke again for his dedication to the community for so many years. Finally, Administrator Roby informed Council that he along with city staff attended a meeting with legal counsel to discuss cannabis. Mr. Roby took comments from City Council members and informed Council that an ordinance will be coming to a future meeting.

8. Regular Agenda:

8A. 1st Reading of Ordinance 600 Cemetery Expansion Rezone

Administrator Roby presented City Council Ordinance 600 that would rezone property acquired by Mound Cemetery. Mound Cemetery purchased about 10,000 square feet of 500 Elmwood Avenue from Steve King that is zoned I-1 but to finish lot line adjustments the acquired property must be rezoned to PI. Planning Commission held a public hearing in January and is recommending City Council approve the rezone.

Motion by Council Member Schlueter seconded by Council Member Huntington to approve as presented and waive the first reading . Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8B. Oak Terrace Rezone and Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Administrator Roby presented City Council with Resolution R2023-028 amending the comprehensive plan for the properties located at 811 S. 4th Street and 404 Turril Street from low density residential to high density residential. The amendment is being recommended for any future expansion of Oak Terrace Assisted Living facility.

Motion by Council Member Schlueter seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve Resolution R2023-028 as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

Administrator Roby presented City Council with Ordinance 601 amending the zoning map to rezone 811 S. 4th Street and 404 Turril Street from R-2 to R-4.

Motion by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Schlueter to approve and waive the first reading of ordinance 601 as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8C. 1st Reading of Ordinance 602 – Rezone parking lot at 219 S. 2nd Street

Administrator Roby presented City Council with ordinance 602 rezoning the recently purchased parking lot at 219 S. 2nd Street from P-I to B-1B. The property is no longer owned by the City of Le Sueur and therefore cannot be zoned P-I. Giant LLC., has purchased the property and would like to combine both their parking lot and dental office into one parcel which requires the zoning amendment to allow the combination of the two lots.

Motion by Council Member Touhey seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve and waive the first reading of ordinance 602 as presented. Voting in favor: Huntington, Kirby, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8D. Interim Police Chief Appointment

Administrator Roby reported to City Council that he and Chief Thieke had met with current Belle Plaine Police Chief, Terry Stier, to inquire if Chief Stier would be interested in acting as Interim Police Chief until the position is filled in Le Sueur. Chief Stier has many years of qualification to serve the community and an interim is needed as the hiring process will not be complete before Chief Thieke's last day.

Motion by Council Member Huntington seconded by Council Member Swanberg to enter into an agreement with the City of Belle Plaine for Chief Stier's services to act as Interim Police Chief until the position gets filled. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8E. Interim Public Services Changes

Administrator Roby presented City Council with the recommended changes to public services that include appointing Foster Transburg to Interim Public Services Director and Pete Burns to Interim Water/Wastewater Manager. Mr. Transburg will oversee facilities, utilities, and public works. Recreation and airport would report to Administrator Roby.

Motion by Council Member Sullivan seconded by Council Member Swanberg to approve the recommended public services changes. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8F. SafeAssure Contract

Administrator Roby presented City Council with a contract from SafeAssure. The city currently utilizes resources from several training organizations but with SafeAssure it would all be consolidated and offered at a significant savings (\$16,000 per year).

Motion by Council Member Williams seconded by Council Member Touhey to approve the recommended SafeAssure Contract as presented. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8G. Pay Application #2 – Nielson Blacktopping

Pay application #2 to Nielson Blacktopping was presented to City Council for approval. The payment is for the amount of \$79,062.35 and is for patch work completed as part of the 2023 Street Maintenance Street Project.

Motion by Council Member Huntington seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve the pay application to Nielson Blacktopping in the amount of \$79,062.35. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8H. Pay Application #1 – Selly Excavating

Pay Application #1 from Selly Excavating in the amount of \$42,439.40 was presented to City Council for approval of payment. The payment is for improvements to Doppy Lane.

Motion by Council Member Swanberg seconded by Council Member Touhey to approve the payment of pay application #1 to Selly Excavating. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

8I. Personnel Action- Full-Time Police Officer Hires

Staff is recommending the hiring of Stephanie Kvare and Ryan Hillesheim as full-time Police

Officers for the Le Sueur Police Department.

Motion by Council Member Huntington seconded by Council Member Sullivan to approve the recommended hiring of Stephanie Kvarre and Ryan Hillesheim as two full-time Police Officers. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Motion carried 7-0.

9. Comments/Reports/Items of Appreciation:

- Huntington: Nothing
- Schlueter: Attended Planning Commission meeting and held a public hearing regarding the earlier discussed parking lot rezone. Received the results from the City Forum. Discussed cannabis laws and zoning requirements.
- Sullivan: Nothing
- Swanberg: Thank you to Chief Thieke for his 16 years of service, Sibley County is getting a good man. Thank you to everyone who helped make Giant Days a success. Thank you City Staff as well. Welcome to the new employees and thank you to all the summer seasonal employees.
- Touhey: Got lots of comments about how great the Giant Days celebration was. Thank you to public works for their quick response to problems.
- Williams: Thank you to all who collaborated to make Giant Days a fun weekend and thank you to the street sweeper for picking up all the wet candy left behind after the parade. Summer in the Valley on Thursday. Working on plan of corrections for HRA.
- Kirby: Wanted to mention a lot of what others commented regarding Giant Days and a lot of things can be controlled but weather cannot and he couldn't remember the last time it rained during the parade keeping people from coming out to enjoy it.

Motion by Council Member Huntington to adjourn meeting at 7:52pm. Voting in favor: Kirby, Huntington, Schlueter, Sullivan, Swanberg, Touhey, and Williams. Voting no: None. Motion passed 7-0.

Lindsey Dhaene
City Clerk