

**City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, May 7, 2012**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 7, 2012. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Art Rowan, Tony Towle, Lilah Gripne, Bob Klick, and City Administrator/Clerk David Venekamp.

Council member Towle motioned Klick seconded to approve the council minutes of April 16, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve a solicitation permit to Joey Claussen doing business as Hawks Great Hawks for door to door sale of meats. Motion unanimously carried pending the outcome of a background check.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to approve Centra Care Health System's request to the state for a raffle permit for July 17, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed a construction agreement for public improvements to 8th Street between T.H. 27 and T.H. 287. The agreement would be with Todd County since this is a County State Aid Highway and the county would be involved in sharing some of the cost of the improvement.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to approve the construction agreement with Todd County for improvements to 8th Street. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed 3 price estimates for different sections of possible future public improvements. The estimates are:

- Area #1 - 8th Street from T.H. 27 to T.H. 287 at a cost range of \$425,000 to \$450,000
- Area #2 - 2nd Avenue NE including 8th Street and a portion of 7th Street NE at a cost range of \$860,000 to \$900,000
- Area #3 - 7th Street NE including a section of 4th Avenue NE at a cost range of \$820,000 to \$850,000

Venekamp stated that the city should be able to undertake areas #1 and #2 in 2016. The expiring bond issue in 2016 should be sufficient to cover the city's annual share of improvements to areas #1 and #2.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to approve pay request #9 to Di-Mar in the amount of \$283,579.58 for work on the wastewater treatment facility.

The council discussed the condition of 3 houses owned by Ernie Valencia. The city had taken Ernie Valencia to District Court for the repair and maintenance of these properties. On January 12, 2012, the District Court ruled in the city's favor and that the city had the right to repair the properties. The next step for the city council is to set a hearing with Ernie Valencia on these properties and also to set forth conditions for compliance of the properties; and, if not complied with, the action that the city will take to make these houses comply with the city ordinances.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE
RESOLUTION 12-05-07-09

RESOLUTION SETTING HEARING FOR ENFORCEMENT
OF COMPLIANCE ORDER PURSUANT TO CITY CODE SEC. 15.214

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie, as follows:

FINDINGS

- A. The City is authorized to enforce housing and property requirements set forth in the Long Prairie City Code, Chapter 15.
- B. The following properties are located within the City of Long Prairie:
 - 1. 305 Fourth Street SW
 - 2. 308 2nd Ave. SW
 - 3. 305 First Street SW
- C. Deficiencies and code violations were observed at each of the above properties.
- D. Compliance Orders, identifying the properties, violations, remedial requirements, and time line for correction, dated June 9, 2008, were sent to the owner(s) of the properties.
- E. The above properties were not brought into compliance.
- F. The City commenced an action in the District Court, Todd County, for determination that the properties were not in compliance. An Order was entered by the District Court on January 23, 2012, finding the properties were not in compliance and authorized the City to proceed with remedial action as provided by ordinance.
- G. The above properties are still not in compliance.
- H. City Code Sec. 15.214 (6) requires the City set this matter for hearing and provide at least ten (10) days notice to all owner(s) of the properties prior to taking any further action.

BASED UPON THE ABOVE FINDINGS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA:

- 1. The City Administrator shall set this matter for hearing at a date and time within the requirements of Chapter 15, and upon setting the matter for hearing, shall cause notice to be sent to all owner(s) of the properties. Said hearing date shall be 7:30 p.m. June 4, 2012.
- 2. At the hearing, the City shall consider whether to take remedial action against the above properties, and in considering any such action, shall determine:

- a. Whether the properties remain in non-compliance;
- b. The appropriate remedial action; and
- c. Whether to assess the costs of remediation against a property as provided by ordinance.

Motion unanimously carried.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie, on May 7, 2012.

ATTEST:

David Venekamp
City Administrator

Don Rasmussen
Mayor

Council member Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve the terms and conditions of accepting airport improvement program grants through the FAA and to sign the program grant agreement. Motion unanimously carried

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated he had the opportunity to drive several of the police vehicles during a demonstration of the vehicles in St. Cloud. Kevin stated of all the vehicles present, the department would like to have a Chevrolet Tahoe as their next police department vehicle. The estimated cost of the Tahoe under state bid is \$29,000.

City Administrator Venekamp stated he had looked at the cost of leasing the vehicles through the state versus outright purchasing and it appears that a purchasing of the vehicles would be more beneficial to the city from a cost standard than leasing them. Under the purchasing scenario, the city would be purchasing a new vehicle very 2 years and holding each vehicle at least 4 years.

Council member Rowan motioned Gripne seconded to authorize the purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe for the police department at an approximate price of \$29,000. Motion unanimously carried.

The council discussed the possibility of sharing the purchase of carpet for 2 offices at Minnesota Abstract which is located in the old city hall/library building. The estimated cost of the carpet would approximately \$1,600 and would be shared between the city and the abstract company.

Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to approve of the carpet purchase and the sharing of the carpet expense. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Towle motioned Klick seconded to approve the application of the Long Prairie Lions for a gambling license for Prairie Fest. Motion unanimously carried.

The council noted the receipt of a refund from the League of MN Cities for worker's compensation premiums. The city received a dividend of \$8,307. The last time the League returned a dividend was in the year 2000.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated that the Minnesota Post Board will be auditing the police department this Friday. The department is involved in the bike rodeo and a booth at the Health Wellness. Kevin also stated that the department handled 244 incidents in the month of April.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer stated the department held their last Train the Trainer for the 800 megahertz radio system on April 28th. The department also attended the Big Rig Show in Sauk Centre. Jim estimated approximately 150 people showed up to view the rigs. David Wright is also back from Kuwait bringing the total number of firemen to 22.

Council member Klick stated the city had a handicapped accessibility access built into Locke's Park. The liquor store has also picked out shirts and a logo.

Mayor Rasmussen stated that there will be a motorcycle weekend in Long Prairie on August 16th, 17th, and 18th. On August 16th, there will be a band performing down at the Veterans' Memorial. Rasmussen stated they would like to close off the intersection of 1st Street and Central Avenue as well as portions of those blocks adjoining that intersection to allow for the setup of the band and individuals attending the event.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

David Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor