

**City of Long Prairie  
Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M., Monday, June 4, 2012**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 4, 2012. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Lilah Gripne, Bob Klick, Art Rowan, Tony Towle, and City Administrator/Clerk David Venekamp.

**Council member Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve the council minutes as corrected for May 21, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.**

**Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to approve pay estimate #10 to Di-Mar Construction in the amount of \$211,618.20 for work on the wastewater treatment facility. Roll call: Yes; Gripne, Klick, Rowan, Towle, Rasmussen. Motion unanimously carried.**

**Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to approve the following individuals for election judges for the primary and general election for 2012: Mary Saetre (head election judge), Glenda Lucas (head election judge), Judy Dinkel, Deb Blake, Deb Laumeyer, Louise Sadlovsky, Joe Claseman, Joretta Hinrichs, Mary Noble, and Mary Borgheinck. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council reviewed an ordinance rezoning approximately 55 acres from residential to agricultural which lies northeast of the Whispering Prairie Addition. The council had, earlier this year, held a public hearing on the petition to rezone the property. At that hearing, the council agreed to rezone the property providing the owners had access to the property without the use of a city street for their farm implements. The owner has acquired property and constructed a road on that property allowing him access to the area for rezoning without the use of city streets.

**Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to adopt the following resolution rezoning the property:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 12-06-04-01  
AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY WITHIN  
THE CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE.**

**WHEREAS**, an application for rezoning of certain property as described in Attachment A, in the City of Long Prairie, Minnesota has been filed with the City; and

**WHEREAS**, in the application it was requested that the property be rezoned from (R-1) Residential to (A-O) Agricultural; and

**WHEREAS**, the landowner of the property has submitted all required documents in connection with the rezoning request; and

**WHEREAS**, the Long Prairie Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed the request and recommended the approval of the request to the Long Prairie City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Long Prairie City Council held a public hearing on the proposed rezoning and has provided notice of the public hearing by publication as required by city code; and

**WHEREAS**, a condition of the rezoning set by the council at the public hearing was the establishment of an access point to the property other than by a city street (Prairie Lane) has been met.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA:**

**Section 1.** That certain property as described in Attachment A in the City of Long Prairie, County of Todd, State of Minnesota, is hereby rezoned from (R-1) Residential to (A-O) Agricultural pursuant to the zoning ordinances and the City zoning map shall be amended accordingly.

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David Venekamp  
City Administrator

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Don Rasmussen  
Mayor

ATTACHMENT A

PART OF N2 SE4 DESC AS BEG AT SW COR OF N2 SE4, N 498.91 FT, E 622.83 FT, N 825.73 FT TO N LINE, E 911.84 FT, SE 67.74 FT, NE 100 FT, SE 227.94 FT, E 760 FT TO E LINE, S 1216.81 FT TO S LINE, W 1987.06 FT, W640 FT TO BEG, EX PART PLATTED AS WHISPERING PRAIRIE & EX COMM AT NE-RLY COR OF LOT 1 BLK 3 WHISPERING PRAIRIE, SE152.82 FT TO E-RLY MOST COR OF LOT 1 BLK 3 AS PT OF BEG; THENCE NE 100.63 FT, SE66.41 FT, SW 100.63 FT TO NE LINE OF WHISPERING PRAIRIE, NW 66.41 FT TO BEG & EX COMM AT S QTR COR OF SEC 16, N 1821.86 FT TO N LINE OF WHISPERING PRAIRIE, E622.83 FT, SE 152.82 FT, TO E-RLY MOST COR OF LOT 1 BLK 3 WHISPERING PRAIRIE AS PT OF BEG; THENCE NW 152.82 FT, N 825.73 FT TO N LINE OF NW4 SE4, E 100 FT, S 790.46 FT, SE 128.50 FT, SW 100.63 FT TO BEG  
55.16 ACRES

36-0000600

**Motion unanimously carried.**

The council reviewed possible improvements to the Todd Field Airport. The improvements include the rehabilitation of the surfaces of the airport runway, taxiway and aprons. The bituminous surfaces were constructed in the early or mid 1970's and the condition of the surface is below average for airports. The airport commission would be seeking funding from the FAA which would pay 90% of the cost of the project. The local share, the remaining 10%, is estimated at \$280,000. Of that amount, the city and county split, on a 60/40 split, with the city paying 60% of the cost and the county 40%. Under that scenario, the estimated cost to the city for the rehabilitation would be \$168,000 and the county's share would be \$112,000. The airport commission would like the support of the city and the county in helping finance this project.

**Council member Rowan motioned Gripne seconded to proceed with the airport rehabilitation with the city paying their share of the project estimated at \$168,000. Roll call: Yes; Gripne, Klick, Rowan, Towle, Rasmussen. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council held a hearing on Ernie Valencia's properties located at: 124 2<sup>nd</sup> St N, 305 4<sup>th</sup> St SW, 308 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW, and 315 1<sup>st</sup> St SW. The city had contacted Ernie previously about fixing

up the exterior of these properties. The city ended up going to court over the properties and recently received judgment from the judge to proceed with the repair or fixing up of the properties. Since that time, Ernie has fixed up 3 of the properties with the 4<sup>th</sup> property about half way completed.

Ernie Valencia stated the city council has other properties in the community that are in as bad of shape as his properties and the city does not appear to be doing anything with those properties. Ernie indicated the city itself has a building which is in need of repair or paint. Ernie stated that all of the interiors of his properties are in good shape and when he does fix up the exterior of the properties, he also makes sure that he addresses any issues in the houses.

The council discussed with Ernie the amount of time he would need to finish the siding on the one house that is not completed. Ernie indicated he felt that he could have it done within the next 30 days.

**Council member Towle motioned Klick seconded to allow Ernie 30 days in which to finish the repairs to the house located at 305 4<sup>th</sup> St SW. Motion unanimously carried**

Ernie also stated he has owned the lumber yard for 22 years and that the city has only once, in those 22 years, treated the gravel road (1st Ave. SW) in front of his place for dust control. Ernie stated he pays enough taxes in the city that he felt the city should treat this road on a regular basis. Ernie indicated the city blacktopped 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. SW between TH 71 and Venewitz Creek several years ago. At that time, the contractor had told him it would have cost only \$50,000 to bituminous in front of his property.

City Administrator Venekamp stated they did not blacktop in front of his property because there wasn't any water or sewer in the street and the city council would not blacktop a street without the underground utilities being in place. Venekamp asked Ernie if he wanted the council to consider a public improvement project (water, sewer, storm sewer, street improvements) past his property and he stated he did not.

The council stated they would look into the cost of dust control for the gravel street along Ernie's property.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated the department has received the necessary paperwork to dispose of a Crown Victoria vehicle that was impounded by the police department. Kevin stated he also is looking at training for a couple of the officers on child sexual assault. Kevin and Duane are the only 2 officers with the training and Kevin stated it would be good to have some of the younger officers go through it.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer stated the fire department will be doing a burn of a house for Long Prairie Packing. The packing company is paying the cost associated with the house burn. FEMA had also reviewed the 2008 grant the department received and found that there was an additional \$3,500 in extra funds available. The department has been given permission to spend the FEMA funds for the purchase of 7 pagers. Jim stated the state had asked the fire department to provide a ladder truck to assist with the fire efforts at the Sartell paper mill. The department went on Friday and assisted in that endeavor.

Council member Klick stated the new docks have been installed at the swimming beach and the storage building at Lake Charlotte Park has been removed. The park board had also approved the installation of 700' of cement bike pathway which has been completed.

Lyle Danielson stated the EDA and Chamber will be involved in the open house for R-Way. R-Way is having an open house for the public and the council is invited to attend on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Council member Rowan stated there will be a book sale at the Pet Vet location June 14<sup>th</sup> though the 16th.

**Council member Klick motioned Grippe seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

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David Venekamp  
City Administrator/Clerk

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Don Rasmussen  
Mayor