

**City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, August 20, 2012**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 20, 2012. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Bob Klick, Art Rowan, Tony Towle, Lilah Gripne, and City Administrator/Clerk David Venekamp.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of August 8, 2012, and the August invoices. Motion unanimously carried.

Fire Department Chief Jim Kreemer stated the fire department is asking the council to increase the hourly rate for fire department members for responding to fire calls and for training. The present hourly rate for fire fighters is \$6.00 per hour with the chief at \$7.00. The proposed increase would be for \$8.00 for fire fighters and \$9.00 for the chief. The last time the rates were increased was 1992. Most of the departments in the surrounding cities reimburse their fire fighters between \$8 to \$10 per hour.

Jim also stated the department would like to increase the yearly reimbursement for the fire fighters holding various positions within the department. Those proposed increases would take place January 2013 and are as follows:

| | PRESENT PAY | PROPOSED PAY | LAST INCREASE |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| (Yearly rate) | | | |
| Chief | \$2400.00 | \$2600.00 | 1996 |
| Lieutenants | \$250.00 | \$300.00 | 1994 |
| President | \$300.00 | \$350.00 | 2005 |
| Treasurer | \$300.00 | \$400.00 | 2005 |
| Secretary | \$600.00 | \$700.00 | 1994 |
| Training | \$350.00 | \$450.00 | 1994 |
| 1 st Driver | \$100.00 | \$150.00 | 2003 |
| 2 nd Driver | \$50.00 | \$100.00 | 2003 |
| Small Engine | \$100.00 | \$200.00 | 2002 |
| Air Pack | \$100.00 | \$200.00 | 2002 |

The council questioned Jim concerning the amount of run charges and run calls by the department. Jim stated the current run charge is \$400 per hour and that some of the adjoining fire departments are looking at increasing the run charge.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to approve both the hourly and yearly rates for the fire department as presented. Roll call: Yes; Klick, Rowan, Towle, Gripne, Rasmussen. Motion unanimously carried.

Jim Kreemer presented the council with two quotes on the purchase of three 1½ inch hose nozzles and spray foam for the department. Jim stated the low bidder for the nozzles and foam

was Heiman Fire Equipment. The cost of the three nozzles was \$1,485 and for ten five gallon pails of class A foam it was \$889.50 for a total of \$2,374.50.

Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to purchase three nozzles and ten five gallons buckets of foam for \$2,374.50 from Heiman Fire Equipment. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed a variance request by St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church. The church was requesting a variance of 11 feet to the property line setback along 4th Street South. The variance would allow the construction of an addition onto their existing garage. City ordinances require a 25 foot setback from the property line in a residentially zoned area.

Council member Rowan stated the Planning and Zoning Commission heard the variance request on Monday, August 13th, and they unanimously approved the variance request.

Council member Rowan motioned Gripne seconded to grant the variance request as requested by St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed an offer on a parcel of land owned by the city which is north of County Road 5. The council had discussed the possible sale of the property at their last meeting. The individual interested in purchasing the property has offered the city \$2,000 for the purchase.

Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to offer the property for \$3,000 and that the purchaser would need to pay their closing costs. Roll call: Yes; Klick, Towle, Gripne, Rasmussen. No; Rowan. Motion carried.

The council discussed possible attendance at the 2012 League of MN Cities Regional meeting. The council agreed to wait until the agenda has been finalized prior to determining who will attend the meeting.

City Administrator Venekamp questioned whether the council wanted to set a separate council meeting for review and adoption of the proposed 2013 budget and levy. The council suggested that they could incorporate it into their September 4th council meeting as part of the council agenda.

Council member Gripne stated the police chief would like to be on the agenda for the next council meeting to discuss an increase in part time police wages. Gripne stated the department is having difficulty in finding part time workers.

Council member Towle stated that the Sentence to Serve Crew will be pouring the curbing at the library on Wednesday.

Jim Kreemer stated the waffle breakfast on Sunday served approximately 530 people. The department is looking at the possibility of having the breakfast next year also.

Council member Klick stated several individuals attended the park meeting with a petition of approximately 170 signatures asking the park board to install a skate park. The park board stated they would look into the matter and also asked the individuals to do further research on the skate board parks in surrounding areas. Klick also indicated that Bob Wolf has resigned from the Planning and Zoning Commission and the commission is now down two members from its full board.

City Administrator Venekamp stated the Senior Citizen Center has asked if the council would be willing to pick up a couple of bills for repairs to the air conditioning unit at the senior citizens center. The bills total approximately \$440.

Mayor Rasmussen motioned Towle seconded to approve payment of the bills for the Senior Citizen Center as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

David Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor