City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, June 2, 2014

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2014. 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 Brenda Thomes.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of May 19, 2014. Motion unanimously carried.

The council discussed a variance application by McDonald's for a sign as presented by the planning and zoning commission. The planning and zoning commission had their site visit and meeting on May 27th at 4:30 p.m. at 306 Lake Street for a site visit and then finished with the meeting at city hall. The planning and zoning commission approved the variance request and the motion passed unanimously. The planning and zoning also discussed the future conditional use permit that will be submitted to Centra Care. The commission would like to see, along with the conditional use permit: a certificate of survey, easement information relating to the power lines and wetland delineation.

Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to approve the variance application for McDonald's sign. Motion unanimously carried.

A committee was formed after the last council meeting to review the Minnesota Water Agency Response Network (MnWARN) program and listened to the presentation from Mike Roers of Minnesota Rural Water. In the event of an emergency, our city will have the opportunity to reach out to other communities for assistance with the utilities. There are several communities around Long Prairie who are members of MnWARN, such as: Sauk Centre, Little Falls, and Wadena.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to approve the agreement and resolution #14-06-02-10 a resolution authorizing governmental units to be a party to the Minnesota Water Agency Response Network (MnWARN). Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Towle motioned Rowan seconded to approve the temporary on-sale liquor license for Long Prairie Lions for Prairie Fest. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Rowan stated that the public works department was working on the mowing and repairing of mail boxes. They have been working very hard trying to play catch up with the mowing since there has been so much rain.

Fire Chief Jim Kreme stated a hiring committee has been formed for the fire department for the two positions of firefighters. They will be interviewing next week Wednesday, June 11, 2014.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated there were 350 incidents for the month of May. Langer requested the council approve city staff to continue with the COPS Grant to see if we can have a grant for another fulltime police officer. The police department would like to explore the possibility of increasing the police department to 6 fulltime officers. By applying for this COPS Grant, the grant will provide 75% of the officer's salary and fringe benefits costs; with a maximum of $125,000 per officer position over the 3 year grant period. The city would be required to cover the 25% locally for a cash match for the 3 years. The city then would be required to retain the position for the officer for a minimum of an additional 12 months. The police department would reduce their part-time help during this time which over the three years would be a significant savings for the police department. Out of those funds, we could possibly fund a portion of the fulltime officer and budget for the 4th year of paying for the fulltime police officer. Langer explained to the council his reasoning for the fulltime officer is that he will be looking at retirement sometime after the 3 year term is up; and, also, if he would possibly win the Sheriff's election come this fall.

Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to approve application for the COPS Grant. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Rowan stated the public works department has been working on some water leaks in the city and they should have them repaired shortly.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer informed the council that he is getting bids for the doors to put keypads at the fire hall on the south side door and later will look at the north door. Kreemer expressed to the council that he would like the council to look at adopting a rental ordinance. Kreemer had met with the fire marshal and they discussed the need for a rental ordinance for the health and safety of the city.

Council member Gripne stated the liquor store is still doing research on looking for new vests and shirts. They still have not found anything yet. The financial statement was sent over to the liquor store on Monday.

Council member Klick reiterated that McDonalds did come in for a variance for the sign permit. He also noted that the summer reading program starts June 9th and runs through August 9th. On June 14th there will be a magic/comic show for the kids.

Mayor Rasmussen stated that he is making a change to the planning and zoning commission. He will appoint Lilah Gripne as the liaison to the planning and zoning and also a member of the planning and zoning. Bob Klick will move over as liquor store liaison starting June 2nd. The airport is working on removing and repaving the airport. The milling of the runway, apron, and taxi lane is 100% complete; culvert replacement is 75%; turnaround excavation is 60%; and subgrade replacement is only at 5%. The work began on May 27th with all pavement work complete, excavation for runway 34 turnaround is in progress; culverts for the turnaround and dual culverts for east taxi lane are installed; and some preliminary grading of subgrade has been performed.

City Administrator/Clerk Thomes stated that city hall staff will take back doing the planning and zoning minutes starting with the next planning and zoning meeting. The EDA and Long Prairie Chamber will be relocating at the library. They are now in a back room and will be moving up to the front office. This will give the Chamber a lot more visibility and will be easier for the public to access their office.

Council member Rowan motioned Towle seconded to go forward with putting up a street light on the eastside across from the Sheriff's Department. Motion unanimously carried.

There will be a park board meeting at 6:00 p.m., June 16, 2014

There will be an EDA board meeting at 4:30 p.m., June 19, 2014.

The next council meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday June 2, 2014.

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

Brenda Thomes City Administrator/Clerk	Don Rasmussen Mayor