

City of Long Prairie  
Council meeting  
7:00 P.M., Monday, December 07, 2015

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 07, 2015. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Art Rowan, Tony Towle, Devin Hines, and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Thomes. Council member Lilah Gripne was not in attendance.

**Councilor Towle motioned Rowan seconded to approve the council minutes of November 16, 2015. Motion carried.**

Mayor Rasmussen called to order a public hearing at 7:02 p.m., for the Public Hearing relating to Resolution #15-12-07:01 Adopting the Final 2015 Tax Levy, Collectible in the Year 2016. Total levy amount \$610,749.00. Council opened up the discussion to talk about the final tax levy for 2015 payable in 2016. There were no changes. Present for the meeting were: Lyle Danielson, Kent Louwagie, Kevin Langer, Jim Kreemer, and Terry Lanoue.

**Councilor Rowan motioned Hines seconded to approve Resolution #15-12-07:01:**

**RESOLUTION #15-12-07:01  
ADOPTING THE FINAL 2015 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE  
IN THE YEAR 2016**

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie, County of Todd, Minnesota, that the following sums of money are proposed levied for the current year, collectible in 2016 upon the taxable property in the City of Long Prairie for the following purposes:

Levy Purpose	
General Fund	\$ 285,749
2010 G.O. Bond	145,000
2012A G.O. Bond	<u>180,000</u>
Total Levy	\$ 610,749

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Brenda Thomes  
City Administrator/Clerk

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Donald Rasmussen  
Mayor

**Roll call: Yes; Hines, Towle, Rowan, Rasmussen. Motion carried.**

**Public Hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.**

Terry Lanoue from Long Prairie Sanitation presented the council with a plan to increase garbage rates by 38% starting January 1, 2016. The board of Commissioners voted to raise the tipping fee at the Transfer Station by \$25.00 per ton. This equates to about a 38% increase beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> for Long Prairie Sanitation providers. Terry has put together two options.

## Option One:

### Residential rate increase

The average household generates nearly 2000 pounds of garbage per year, which will increase our cost \$2.08 per household (\$25.00 per ton divided by 12 months). There are 783 households that currently have our service, which equates into a \$1,566.00 increase. The following is the breakdown of current households and our proposed increases:

- 35 gallon carts            Proposed increase of \$1.00
- 40 gallon carts            Proposed increase of \$1.00
- 65 gallon carts            Proposed increase of \$2.00
- 96 gallon carts            Proposed increase of \$3.00

## Option Two:

### Residential rate increase

Long Prairie Sanitation is proposing a reduced rate increase for consideration of an extension to the current contract. If an extension is approved Long Prairie Sanitation would reduce the residential proposed increase by 50%:

- 35 gallon carts            Proposed increase of \$.50
- 40 gallon carts            Proposed increase of \$.50
- 65 gallon carts            Proposed increase of \$1.00
- 96 gallon carts            Proposed increase of \$1.50

### Commercial Rate Increase

A customer has a 2 yard container dumped every week and is charged \$85.00 per month. Rate increase would be as follows:

Monthly rate \$85.00

- Tipping fee portion -  $\$85.00 \times 35\% = \$29.75$
- Service fee portion -  $\$85.00 \times 65\% = \$55.25$

Proposed increase

- Tipping fee -  $\$29.75 \times 38\% = \$11.30$
- Service fee -  $\$55.25 \times 4\% = \$2.21$

Total increase = \$13.51 per month

**Councilor Rowan motioned Hines seconded to grant the rate increase of 38% and go with option #2. Roll call: Yes; Rowan, Hines, Towle, Rasmussen. Motion carried.**

Summit Fire has agreed to the prices that Fire Inspection Services had presented. That is Summit's normal charge for the inspection services. They will take care of the inspections at the old city hall and library.

The union contract for the police officers had only a couple of changes for 2016-2017. The main change is a rate increase of 3% for 2016, 1.5% for January 2017, and another 1% in July 2017 which comes out to about a 2.25% increase. Article 23.1 insurance will stay the same for 2016 and 2017. The police officer's scale for '16 and '17 have been adjusted for the 3% increase for 2016 and the 1.5% in January 2017 and 1% in July 2017. The step increase will be the same on their anniversary dates. That was the biggest change. The clothing allowance increased from \$800 to \$825 for 2016 and \$850 for 2017.

The council discussed adding a 6<sup>th</sup> officer and looking into the retirement. Making a change to retirement from 25 years to 20 years. Council will take a look at that once it gets into the New Year.

The public works union contract is the same for insurance. The call back has changed just a little bit. Employees that work the end of the shift on Friday will receive an additional \$10.00 pay and the employee that works on Sunday from midnight to the start of the next shift will also get a \$10.00 increase or a flat pay of \$10.00. Any employee called in or scheduled to work before the normal start of a shift at 7:00 a.m., shall receive time and a half their normal rate of pay for all hours worked up to the regular starting shift. This does not apply in the summer time when they start early. Sick leave has stayed the same. The wage increase we have dropped Step 1 and made Step 2 Step 1 and top scale now for public works is \$25.02 in 2016 and \$25.40 in 2017. In 2016 public works gets a 3% increase and then in 2017 1.5 in January and 1% in July. Also, their Class D license increased to \$.50, Class C license increase to \$1.00, Class B license increased to \$1.50, Class A license increased to \$2.00. Part time help flowed through also with a 3% for 2016, 1.5% in January 2017, and 1% in July 2017.

**Councilor Rowan motioned Towle seconded to approve the contract for Public Works and the Police Department. Roll call: Yes; Hines, Towle, Rowan, Rasmussen. Motion carried.**

**Councilor Rowan motioned Towle seconded to treat all managers, city administrator, and administration staff the same as the police and public works in regards to wage increase for 2016 and 2017. Roll call: Yes; Towle, Rowan, Hines, Rasmussen. Motion carried.**

**Councilor Towle motioned Hines seconded to approve liquor renewals for Irish's Place, Holiday Station Stores, Inc., and America Legion Post 12. Motion carried.**

Kent Louwagie from Bolton & Menk stated the water treatment facility project is 55% completed and they are looking to do the two remaining cells together.

**Councilor Towle motioned Rowan seconded to approve Pay Application No. 5 to Eagle Construction Co, Inc. Motion carried.**

**Councilor Rowan motioned Hines seconded to approve the following business licenses:**

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|------------------------|---|
| • American Legion      | General Corporate License                 |
| • Riverside Liquors    | Cigarette License                         |
| • Northern Star Coop   | Cigarette License                         |
| • Casey's              | Cigarette License                         |
| • Holiday Gas Station  | Cigarette License & Beer Off Sale License |
| • Prairie Foods Center | Cigarette License                         |

