

City of Long Prairie
Council meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, September 8, 2015

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 8, 2015. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Art Rowan, Devin Hines, Tony Towle, and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Thomes. Councilor Gripne was absent from the meeting.

Councilor Towle motioned Rowan seconded to approve the council minutes of August 17, 2015. Motion carried.

Kendra Delage submitted a request for the homecoming parade on September 25th. The parade route from 9th St. NE, to 2nd Ave NE, to 6th St NE, down Central Ave, and long 1st St N ending at the Elementary School. These roads will be blocked off from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00p.m.

Councilor Rowan motioned Towle seconded to approve the closing of the streets on September 25th between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for the Long Prairie Homecoming Parade. The streets to be closed are the same as last year. Motion carried.

Council discussed the open house informational meeting on September 15th to discuss any of the assessments for the 2016 road project. Bolten & Menk submitted a letter to go back to MnDOT in regards to the Hwy. 27 improvements. This will be done in 2017 or 2018.

Councilor Rowan motioned Hines seconded to approve the letter and to send back to MnDOT. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rasmussen motioned Towle seconded to approve pay request #2 in the amount of \$5,462.50 to Eagle Construction Company for work on the water treatment facility. Motion carried.

Todd Hagen of Ehlers addressed the council on the bond for water treatment plant and refinancing the \$1,305,000 General Obligation Water Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2015A. The city has looked at refinancing the 2007A Revenue Bond and to add new monies of the water treatment plant.

Councilor Rowan motioned Hines seconded to approve Resolution 9-8-15:02 \$1,340,000 General Obligation Water Revenue and Refunding Bond Series 2015A. Motion carried

Roll call: Yes, Hines, Towle, Rowan, and Rasmussen.

Council discussed the bid that was made for the armory building. At this point, the bid has been rejected and the National Guard Armory has started negotiations with the county to see if they would be interested in purchasing the Armory.

Council reviewed the liquor store financials and the monthly report.

Councilor Rowan motioned Rasmussen seconded to approve a quilt raffle by Jody Bebault under the Long Prairie Combined Funds which is a 501C3. Motion carried.

Councilor Rowan motioned Hines seconded to approve a temporary on-sale liquor license for St Mary of Mt Carmel Church Parish Festival. Motion carried.

Council discussed the quote from Cobblestone hotel to do a feasibility study. There was a request to do the feasibility study for the possibility of having a new hotel in Long Prairie. The study is in the amount of \$7,500 with a retainer of 50% upfront to start the project. The outline of the project is to determine how large the hotel would be and what would be some of the amenities in the hotel that Cobblestone would build. There were two options to pay for the study: the city council could start the study and bring the recommendation to the EDA and have the EDA review it and they would bring a motion back to the council; or the council could just pass this off to EDA and have EDA review everything and then bring it back to the council. The council chose to go forward with starting the feasibility study and then working with EDA on how the funds will be split. In the meantime, the first half would be coming out of the general fund.

Councilor Rowan motioned Towle seconded to approve \$3,750 to start the feasibility study for Cobblestone Hotels. Motion carried.

Council discussed union negotiations. At this point, Mayor Rasmussen appointed Tony Towle and Art Rowan to be the union negotiators for the city council. Council requested Administrator Thomes to send an email back to the union representative and say that they would like to start the negotiations after we get the request for the police negotiations; so we can do public works and the police department together.

Council discussed the broadband grant resolution. The due date for this is September 15, 2015. We have the engineer's proposal for the 2016-2017 Long Prairie Area Broadband Project to Jumpstart Todd County Fiber. The council reviewed the broadband proposal and the next step is for the council to approve the resolution for the grant 09-08-15:01 City of Long Prairie 2015 Border to Border Broadband Development Grant Application.

Councilor Rowan motioned Towle seconded to approve the following motion:

**RESOLUTION 9-8-15:01
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE 2015 BORDER TO BORDER
BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Long Prairie act as the legal sponsor for project(s) contained in the Broadband Development Grant Program to be submitted on September 15, 2015 and that the City Administrator/Clerk and Mayor are hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for funding of this project on behalf of City of Long Prairie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City of Long Prairie has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to adequate project administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sources and amounts of the local match identified in the application are committed to the project identified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City of Long Prairie has not violated any Federal, State or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the state, City of Long Prairie may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above

referenced project(s), and that City of Long Prairie certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulation as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FUNALLY RESOLVED that the undersigned is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the applicant. I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by _____ of City of Long Prairie on September 8, 2015.

SIGNED:

WITNESSED:

(Authorized Official)

(Signature)

(Title) (Date)

(Title) (Date)

Motion carried.

The city has received a numerous amount of support letters and surveys back in regards to this project. It was a very fun project to be working on with knowing that the city has this type of support for the broadband.

Administrator Thomes reviewed the 2016 budget with the council. The total budget proposed for 2016 is \$610,749. There was a difference of \$5,449 more than 2015's levy of \$604,300. Of that \$5,449 is relating to the modifications of the tornado sirens. The city's budget for expenditures for all government operations is \$1,607,678 which is \$67,619 more than last year's budget of \$1,540,059. The governmental operations due not include water funds, sewer funds, liquor, tax increment funds, or debt service funds. Reason for the increase in levy is the city's bond payment has increased by about \$16,000. We purchased new accounting software, a tornado siren, and our security cameras. The city also had an increase in local government aid of \$7,245 and had stimulus money for road projects of \$21,000. That offsets the additional increase of the \$67,619. Councilor Rowan motioned Towle seconded to adopt the following resolution #15-09-08:03 Adopting the Proposed 2015 Tax Levy, Collectible in the Year 2015:

Councilor Rowan motioned Towle seconded to adopt the following resolution #15-09-08:03 Adopting the Proposed 2015 Tax Levy, Collectible in the Year 2016 in the amount of \$610,749:

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

Councilor Hines stated the public works director, Dan Spieker, felt everything went well for our yearly inspection with MPCA.

Councilor Rowan asked Police Chief Kevin Langer to give his report for the month of August, there were 368 incidents. Part-time Officer Swiggum has accepted a position with the City of

Sauk Rapids. The active shooter scenario went very well. Kudos to Ryan Hanson for doing such a good job of putting everything together. There was also a comment from Chief Langer talking about in-squad computers. They are having some difficulties with their current in-squad computer and they may have to replace this year.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer noted there is a 2016 grant in the amount of \$3,500 for sectional training for the new firefighters. There were two new firefighters, Jason Sellnow and James Ruiz. They currently have two firemen out on medical leave. The fire department will be going over on Thursday to provide a meal to the Staples Fire Department for them helping out with the wake of Sean Saarela.

Councilor Towle noted that there was nothing for Parks & Rec. Window screens at the Library need to be looked at. We will have to have Dan Spieker take a look them. The card reader at the liquor store was giving them a little bit of an issue. Pam was working on getting that taken care of.

Mayor Rasmussen noted the airport is still working on the 500 foot extension. Gas price, at this point, is down to \$3.75.

Administrator Thomes just finished up the grant for the broadband and finished working on the budget.

Councilor Rowan motioned Towle seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor