

City of Long Prairie
Council meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, March 20, 2017

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 20, 2017. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Tony Towle, Randy Mechels, Lilah Gripne and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Thomes. Councilor Hines was not in attendance.

Councilor Gripne motioned and Towle seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Councilor Towle motioned Mechels seconded to approve the council minutes of March 6, 2017, and the March bills. Motion carried.

Kent Louwagie of Bolton & Menk discussed the 2017 projects as follows:

- Water Meter Improvements – Kent is looking for a motion from the council to start the process to look at adding water meters for the City of Long Prairie. We are looking at an AMI system that allows data collection to be accomplished from a fixed location to City Staff proposed improvements would include replacing the entire water meter system, and also provide a fixed base Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. An AMI system allows data collection to be accomplished from a fixed location, whereas an AMR system would require City Staff to drive around with a data collector to read meters. If the City wishes to proceed with this project, we will coordinate with City Staff to review the various water meter products and AMI systems that are available. Based on the review, we will prepare the necessary bidding documents and solicit bids for the project and bring back to council for final approval.

Councilor Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to have Bolton & Menk proceed with the water meter improvements as presented. Motion carried.

- Library Sanitary Sewer Replacement & 1st Street South Settlement Correction

Councilor Towle motioned Gripne seconded to approve the \$91,920 correction. Motion carried.

- 2nd Avenue North Improvements (4th Street to Todd Street) – This project is estimated at \$586,000. There are a lot of roots in this area and this is a very old section of the city that needs to be replaced. There has also been a few backups in this area.
- 1st Street South – This includes extending the street and additional 240 feet south beyond the currently planned construction limits, generally to the south line of the Dan's Prize property. This project is estimated at \$39,990. This is a request that was done through Dan's Prize.
- Utility Extension – This includes extending sanitary sewer and watermain further south beyond the currently planned construction limits, to Lake Charlotte Road, and west along Lake Charlotte Road to Buelow Trail. This project is estimated at \$376,640.

Councilor Towle motioned Mayor Rasmussen seconded to move forward with this portion

of the project. Motion carried.

Councilor Towle motioned Mechels seconded to allow Kent to start the designs, plans and specs. Motion carried.

Council discussed the decorative light poles versus the overhead lights in the downtown area. Council would like to see a bid proposal for new lights and poles downtown. Council will look at a combination of decorative with the overhead and see if we can replace one light versus both of them. A proposal will be brought back to council in regards to the light poles downtown. City staff needs to get a count of how many poles we will be replacing and what they will look like. All of these will be in LED format.

Councilor Mechels motioned Mayor Rasmussen seconded to approved the following resolution of support for the Good Food Access Fund Campaign as requested by Centra Care:

**Resolution #17-03-20:01
Resolution of Support for the Good Food Access Fund Campaign**

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans live in low-income areas with insufficient access to a reliable source of nutritious food; and

Whereas, insufficient access to healthy food creates challenges for Minnesota

- Small town and rural communities, where residents often must travel over 30 miles to reach the nearest food store
- Urban communities, where grocery access is often limited to highly processed packaged foods, and very little, if any, fresh produce and other foods necessary to maintain a healthy diet
- Minnesota residents who cannot drive or who have limited access to transportation and must depend on others to obtain food for them

Whereas, Minnesota spends an estimated \$2.8 billion per year on obesity-related healthcare costs; and

Whereas, by increasing access to healthy food and economic opportunities, Minnesota could save up to \$11 billion in diet-related healthcare costs; and

Whereas, recognizing that there is no one-size fits-all solution for Minnesota communities, we must create flexible strategies to improve nutritious food access across communities and incorporate a diversified and culturally appropriate food supply based on community input.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that City of Long Prairie supports the Good Food Access Fund goal to secure significant new funding from the Minnesota legislature for a healthy food financing policy to increase the availability of affordable and nutritious food in underserved areas across the State of Minnesota.

RESOLUTION DECLARED AND ADOPTED. DATED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ TITLE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS:

_____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____

Roll call: Yes; Mechels, Gripne, Rasmussen. No; Towle. Motion carried.

Councilor Mechels is very much in favor of the meters that public works is looking to move forward with. Mechels also wants to start meeting on the Broadband and just get to know what's going on with that.

Councilor Towle stated that on March 28th the police department was starting with their new part time employee Kristy Brackett. Fire truck pumper #140 is needing to be repaired again. Police Officer Josh Nice was done as of 3/1/17 and that's why March 28th Kristy will be starting. She will be working on her FTO training.

Councilor Gripne noted there was no Planning and Zoning meeting. EDA meeting went very well. They are starting to put together their Ad hoc committee for the downtown plan and there will be more to come at their April 16th meeting.

Sometime in April, Mayor Rasmussen noted that the Community Concern for Youth meeting will be in place. Tourism is working on the music in the park getting ready to go that started. Mayor Rasmussen also noted about going to an airport conference this spring.

Administrator Thomes noted to the council that she'll be going out and accepting the EDA grant in the amount of \$2,500,000. There was also discussion about spring cleanup and Administrator Thomes will work with Public Works Director Dan Spieker to move forward with a spring cleanup day. We are looking at April 29th for spring cleanup. Administrator Thomes will work with Dan Spieker on the chairs in the council chamber as they continue to lower.

Councilor Towle motioned Mechels seconded to adjourn at 8:25. Motion carried.

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor