

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

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 7, 2017. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Lilah Gripne, Devin Hines, Randy Mechels, Tony Towle and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Thomes.

**Councilor Towle motioned Mechels seconded to adopt the agenda as is. Motion carried.**

**Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to approve the council minutes of July 17<sup>th</sup> with the following changes:**

- **Council member Towle was not in attendance at the last council meeting**
- **Under the report from Bolton & Menk we had 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and it should have been 1<sup>st</sup> Street**

**Motion carried.**

Council discussed a variance request by James Himes to proceed with a variance request to the Planning and Zoning. Planning and Zoning brought forward a recommendation to the city council. The application was located at 232 6<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Long Prairie. The request was to construct a new detached storage building. The dimensions are 12 x 24. The Property owner has an existing 12 x 24 detached building. The square footage of the building is 288 square feet. This is located in an R-1 District and the property total square footage is 17,072.98 square feet. The recommendation from the Planning Commission was to approve the variance permit to construct an additional detached accessory structure which will be 9 feet separation from the existing accessory structure. The property owner will need to also remove the 2 small sheds from behind the existing shed. Along with that, they will also need to make sure that they have gutters and down spouts on the building.

**Councilor Towle motioned Hines seconded to approve the variance request from the Planning Commission. Council member Towle, Hines, Mechels and Rasmussen where all yeh. Council member Gripne was a nay. Motion carried.**

**Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to approve the Contractor's Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$164,624.09. Motion carried.**

The city's main lift station is experiencing significant issues and is in immediate repair. While these repairs are necessary for the lift station to continue to operate, the lift station is beyond its service life and should be replaced. The recommended improvements to the main lift station includes replacement of pumps, structure, electrical equipment, valves and new variable frequency drives. The preliminary estimate to replace this lift station is about \$550,000 to \$600,000. If the City does continue to proceed with this process, replacement of the main lift station, the estimated time will take 3 to 5 months for data collection design with a submittal to the MPCA around the end of the year. The expected construction will start spring of 2018 and be completed by fall of 2018.

**Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to go ahead and make this improvement.**

But the immediate improvement that needs to be taken care of as of now is:

- Quote for the equipment: \$15,404
- Quote for the labor: \$ 3,879

This is a total of \$19,283 to temporary keep the main lift station working until we can bond to completely rebuild the lift station.

**Councilor Towle motioned Gripne seconded to go ahead and temporarily get the lift station in working order in the amount of \$19,283. Motion carried.**

Council discussed building square footage. Any detached accessory structure used as a tool storage shed, playhouse and similar uses does not exceed 120 square feet, permits shall not be required. This was the statute in state building code in 2007. In 2015, the state building code changed a little bit. Which they've changed the accessory structures square footage from 120 square feet to 200 square feet. In doing this, any detached accessory structure used as a storage shed, playhouse, similar uses, not exceeding the 200 square feet, shall not be required to need a permit. This was just general information for the city council.

There was a request by MnDOT to talk about future plans of the city's trail system going over T.H. 71 and their bridge. MnDOT is looking at reconstruction of the bridge in 2020. As the discussion went, MnDOT asked the city to submit a plan where this trail is going in order for them to add it in to their construction plan for 2020 to allow the city to have a walking biking bridge versus a share the road bridge. Council reviewed this proposed trail

**Councilor Mechels motioned Towle seconded to go forward with submitting this to MnDOT. Motion carried.**

Out at Lake Charlotte Park, there is a border around the playground equipment. It is a black edging and the city is out of that edging. The equipment roughly costs \$692.75.

**Councilor motioned Gripne Towle seconded to approve the playground equipment purchase. Motion carried.**

**Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to approve the American Legion's renewal of their license. Motion carried.**

**Councilor Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to approve the following memorandum:**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE  
AND  
MINNESOTA TEAMSTERS PUBLIC AND  
LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEES' UNION, LOCAL #320**

This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into between the City of Long Prairie (hereinafter "City") and Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees' Union, Local No. 320 (hereinafter "Union").

**WHEREAS**, The City and the Union are parties to a collective bargaining agreement in effect from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

1. If any other bargaining unit or non-union unit at the City of Long Prairie Receives any benefit or wage percent greater than Teamster Local #320, the same shall apply to Teamster Local 320 members.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Agreement on the dates set forth by their respective signatures.

CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE

MN TEAMSTERS LOCAL #320

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Kopp/Business Agent      Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Union Steward                              Date

**Motion carried.**

Mayor Rasmussen also asked Tony and Randy Mechels to work with Administrator Thomes on the Union Negotiations for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Both agreed to it.

**Councilor Hines motioned Towle seconded to approve the Temporary Liquor License for St Mary of Mt. Carmel.**

**Councilor Hines motioned Towle seconded to approve the following resolution:**

**Resolution #17-08-07-01  
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Long Prairie has received the following donations during the month(s) of July, for the following purposes:

| <b>Donor</b>       | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Purpose</b> |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Impact Technology  | \$500.00      | MS Tram        |
| LP Lions           | \$1,000.00    | Water Show     |
| Sellnow Law Office | \$500.00      | Water Show     |
| LP Packing Plant   | \$800.00      | MS Tram        |
| Dan's Prize        | \$250.00      | MS Tram        |
| CTC                | \$250.00      | MS Tram        |

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA THAT:** the City Council of the City of Long Prairie acknowledges and accepts the donations received the month of July.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** the City Council of the City of Long Prairie expresses its thanks and appreciation for the donations to all Donor(s) listed.

Adopted this 7th day of August, 2017, by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Thomes  
City Administrator/Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Rasmussen  
Mayor

**Motion carried.**

The City had an opportunity to purchase two 30 KW generators that can be linked together that would make 60KW of power. The cost of these two units were \$3,000. The city now would like to go forward and getting them modified so that they can be connected to the city hall, water plant, wastewater plant, or any lift station needed.

**Councilor Mechels motioned Towle seconded to go ahead and get them inspected and modified. Motion carried.**

Councilor Mechels briefly talked about the work that public works has been doing. The lift station problems that they've been having at the main lift station and replacing the hydrants. The broadband effort also is moving forward. CTC is looking at doing a meet and greet on August 16<sup>th</sup> at Lake Charlotte Park starting at 2:00 p.m.

Councilor Towle asked Fire Chief Jim Kreemer and Fire Chief Kreemer noted that they are in the process of hiring another firefighter and his name is Dave Otte.

Police Chief Kevin Langer noted 417 incidents. National Night Out was a big success and briefly discussed the homicide investigation and going forward the protocol if there are any more incidents such as this is the police department will get in touch with City Administrator Thomes and Administrator Thomes will forward information on to all the council members. The tornado sirens are working very well. There has been no issues.

Councilor Hines noted that everything is looking great at the liquor store. Carpeting will be installed here shortly. The new counters look wonderful. Everything is going fine at the library. There will be a park and rec meeting next week.

Councilor Gripne noted that there is no meeting scheduled at this time for Planning and Zoning. EDA is working on the downtown plan and working on community get togethers.

Administrator Thomes noted that the audit will be ready next council meeting. Community Concern For Youth will have something in the next city council packet. Everything is going well with music in the park.

Mayor Rasmussen noted that he is working with the fire department and police department on doing scenario out at the airport yet this fall.

**Councilor Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to adjourn at 7:57. Motion carried.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Thomes  
City Administrator/Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Rasmussen  
Mayor