

**City of Long Prairie
Council meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, February 5, 2018**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 5, 2018. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Tony Towle, Lilah Gripne, Devin Hines, Randy Mechels and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Thomes.

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

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve the council minutes of January 16, 2018. Motion carried.

Mayor Rasmussen called to order a public hearing at 7:02 p.m. for a variance request for the Twists. Councilor Hines abstained and took a seat at the back of the room. The request by the Twists is to allow four dogs according to the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disability Act. That is the request. Our city attorney was in attendance at the meeting and there was a discussion about the variance request. There were a few people in the audience that were neighbors to the Twists that were in favor of the Twists going forward with this variance and City Administrator Thomes read 3 letters from residents that were not in favor of this Variance request. City Attorney noted to the council when it came time for the decision that outside of the issues with dogs barking and fence issue, that the only real issue is there has been a Variance brought forward in regards to the Fair Housing Amendment Act relating to companions and the physical and mental impairment.

Councilor Mechels motioned Towle seconded to approve the variance for six months and at that time, the council will come back and take a look at the variance application. They're hoping that within this six month time period the Twist house will sell. Council also asked if there would be a possibility if they could leave their dogs out a little bit later in the morning so that early morning barking would be not an issue anymore. Roll call: No; Gripne. Yes; Mechels, Towle, and Rasmussen. Hines abstained. Motion carried.

Pam Koska addressed the council concerning Sunday liquor and having the liquor store open on Sundays. At this point, they feel that the 6 month review is not long enough so we are going to do it another 6 months. We don't see any huge increase by it being open on Sundays but we are seeing a marginal increase. So we will just keep on reviewing Riverside Liquor being open on Sundays for another 6 months.

Councilor Towle made a comment about his check last council meeting for his flex benefits. Yes, he did receive a check.

Recommendations for the position of water/sewer and collections system supervisor. There was a request to just have employee Chad Bosl be the public works director. There was a little bit of a discussion about hiring Chad for the public works director.

Councilor Mechels motioned Towle seconded to approve the hiring of Chad Bosl as public works director. Roll call: No; Hines. Yes; Towle, Mechels, Gripne, and Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Chad Bosl will be on a 1 year probation to monitor and make sure everything goes smoothly his first year.

Council reviewed a proposal from Automatic Systems upgrade at the water, wastewater treatment plant converting to the fiber optics. The quote is for \$39,486 to update lift stations, water plant and wastewater plant so we can get it converted over to fiber.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve the upgrade. Motion carried.

Councilor Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to approve the raffle for the Long Prairie Senior Center. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the yearly contract from Hach for the Spectrophotometer. This is used to test the phosphorus, ammonia, chlorides out at the wastewater treatment plant.

Councilor Towle motioned Hines seconded to approve the contract with Hach. Motion carried.

The police department is looking at going with a Canon Image Runner C5235 in the amount of \$3,498.00. This is a color machine and it also does 11 x 17 and will be networked so the police department can print right from their desk.

Councilor Mechels motioned Hines seconded to approve the Canon Image Runner. Motion carried.

Riverside Liquor has made a request for a new POS computer tower. It's been over 5 years since our main POS system has been switched out. The total cost including installation will be \$1,309.98.

Councilor Mechels motioned Hines seconded to approve this. Motion carried.

There was a request to purchase upgraded blades for our snowplows from TOWMASTER. The current blades were in such poor shape that we needed to get them updated in order for the upcoming snows that forecasted.

Councilor Mechels motioned Towle seconded to approve the new blades for the plows. Motion carried.

Administrator Thomes will be attending the MCFOA Conference along with the Whole Community Long Term Recovery from a Disaster Workshop. The conference is the March 20 - 23 and the Recovery is March 1st.

Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to approve the conference and the workshop. Motion carried.

Administrator Thomes noted the LSC meeting was going to be on February 6th at city hall from 11:00 – 1:00. Administrator Thomes invited a couple council people to attend that meeting.

Wastewater treatment plant is having some issues with some of their clinoid and weren't sure if they were working right so they had to get some vendors out there and get the problem looked at. Otherwise the public works is working on plowing the streets from the small snowfall that we had.

Chief Kevin Langer noted the following for the police department:

- 333 incidents for the month

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer noted the following for the fire department:

- The Township meeting will be on February 7th at 7:30
- Unit 140 pumper is back and they think they have resolved the problem
- There's going to be 4 firefighters going through Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 training

Councilor Gripne noted the following for Planning & Zoning, & EDA:

- John Kringen was voted as Vice President of EDA

Mayor Rasmussen noted the following for Administration, Community Concern for Youth, Tourism and Airport:

- Tourism will have an upcoming meeting
- Community Concern for Youth there is usually a meeting in April
- Airport is looking forward to starting their bidding process in March

Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor