

**City of Long Prairie
Council meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, March 19, 2018**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 19, 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 Mechels seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions:

Under old business:

- **Trinity Lutheran Church**
- **Update on sidewalk ordinance**

Motion carried.

Councilor Towle motioned Hines seconded to approve the council minutes of March 5, 2018 and the March bills. Motion carried.

Nicole Bjerke and Dan Swenson of CentraCare Health were in attendance for the meeting. Dan Swenson discussed the \$664,604.62 which is the amount of money the city contributed to the CentraCare Project for road, sewer, and water. Dan thanked the city for helping. The \$664,604.62 was the city's portion of the project and CentraCare contributed \$1,683,425.11. Nicole stated that each donor receives a plaque from the foundation and the council can help choose a location, at the new hospital, where it will be placed. CentraCare is still asking the city to consider a donation of matching, a cash donation, or tax abatement of some sort.

Councilor Mechels motioned Towle seconded to have Administrator Thomes work with Dan Swenson and bring back a proposal to the council within 60 days. Roll call: Yes; Hines, Mechels, Rasmussen, and Towle. Gripne abstained. Motion carried.

Administrator Thomes presented an example of the assessment amount for Trinity Lutheran Church. The council or Administrator Thomes could share with Trinity Lutheran Church board members that are asking about the assessment. With that, Administrator Thomes stated, depending on the bituminous, costs could change a little bit. This will give Trinity Lutheran Church a better perspective of what kind of money they will need for an assessment.

Administrator Thomes, Councilor Gripne, Councilor Towle, Chief Kevin Langer, and Jim Kreemer are all going to be working on updating the sidewalk policy for this summer.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to appoint Jane Olson as the new commissioner for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Long Prairie. Motion carried.

Councilor Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to approve the update to our website working with GovOffice for a total of \$8,745. That will be distributed over the next 3 years. Motion carried.

Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to approve the gambling permit for Todd County Pheasants Forever. Motion carried.

There was a question from National Joint Powers asking for Option 1 or Option 2 for the rental code inspector position.

- Option 1 – NJPA does the inspections and prepares reports for the city and the city can prepare the letters to the property owners for the City to send. City enforces and handles communication to property owners. This is the option that the council decided to go with.

Councilor Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to go with Option 1. Motion carried.

Mayor Rasmussen motioned Towle seconded to approve the Liability Waiver so the police department can continue with self-defense training. Motion carried.

Council discussed using Soldiers Field from October to April for a dog park. This has been deferred over to the Park Board. This will be one of their first items to discuss when the Park Board reconvenes in April.

Councilor Towle motioned Hines seconded to pay for the IIMC membership for Administrator Thomes. Motion carried.

Mayor Rasmussen talked about the Mayor's Conference that he will be attending and the MNTAP Airport Conference in Duluth that he will be attending.

Councilor Mechels noted the following:

- Broadband will continue the installation as soon as the frost gets out of the ground this year

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer noted the following:

- The retirement of Cubby Lemke
- They are looking for another person to get on the fire department

Police Chief Kevin Langer noted the following:

- Community Concern for Youth meeting

Councilor Gripne noted the following:

- The next EDA meeting is Thursday, March 22nd at 5:15
- Still working with the Planning and Zoning Commission on training.

Mayor Rasmussen noted the following:

- Community Concern has a meeting March 27th in Staples – Mayor Rasmussen and Kevin Langer will be attending
- Tourism is also working with the Golf Course on preparing a golf scramble amongst other cities

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor