

**City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, October 15, 2018**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, October 15, 2018. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Randy Mechels, Lilah Gripne, Tony Towle, Devin Hines and Deputy Clerk Deb Laumeayer.

Councilor Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the council minutes October 1, 2018 & consent calendar. Motion carried.

Todd Hagen from Ehlers discussed the sale of the 2018A WWTF GO Bond. In the year 2026 the city could prepay them. Ehlers will be investing the money until the city needs the funds for the project. Baird out of Wisconsin was the purchaser of the issue.

David Determan of Todd County Public Health presented an option for the city to adopt a resolution to eliminate e-cigarettes use in all public indoor space within the city limits. Determan informed the council of the seriousness of students using e-cigarettes and the health risk that is associated with using them. Council did not act on this matter at this time.

Kent Louwagi of Bolton & Menk gave the council an update on the water tower inspection and water meter improvements. Louwagi stated that there is no need for immediate action at this time. The City should readdress the water tower in approximately 3 to 5 years. Louwagi then gave an update on the water meters. The contracts are at the contractors and a pre-meter meeting will be scheduled in early November.

The Council reviewed a letter from Todd County Auditor/Treasurer's Office regarding a special assessment refund request on PID #36-4002900. The County is calling upon the City to deliver a refund of the \$1,028.19 as interest applied to a special assessment put forth by the City for the street improvement project commonly known as the Todd County Fairgrounds. Todd County Commissioners affirm their intent to provide payment of \$34,273.05 in full without further interest by November 30, 2018.

Councilor Towle motioned Hines seconded to reimburse the County in the amount of \$1,028.19. Motion carried.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve pay request No. 1 in the amount of \$62,104.00 to Rice Lake Construction Group for RAS Pump Replacement. Motion carried.

First Baptist Church is sponsoring Trunk and Treat on Halloween from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and they are asking for permission again to have no parking on 4th St S from Hwy 287 to 6th Ave S on the west side of the road. The reason for this is to have less traffic congestion for their hayrides.

Councilor Towle motioned Rasmussen seconded to approve the no parking on 4th St S from Hwy 287 to 6th Ave S on Halloween for Trunk and Treat. Motion carried.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve CentraCare Health Long Prairie raffle on December 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Mayor Rasmussen closed the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to reopen the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Rasmussen stated that he and the council reviewed the performance of City Administrator Thomes and the Council voted unanimously to terminate her position with the City of Long Prairie.

Mayor Rasmussen stated he would like to authorize the Council to hire a temporary City Administrator.

Motion by Council member Gripne seconded by Council member Towle to hire David Venekamp as interim City Administrator. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rasmussen stated that Venekamp will start Tuesday, October 16th with pay negotiable. The council will get together to start the hiring process for a new administrator.

Councilor Mechels asked what they should do if they are contacted by the media. Mayor Rasmussen said they should contact City Attorney Joe Krueger.

Councilor Mechels gave a report on public works. Mechels said they were flushing hydrants and the west side of town and north of Hwy 27 had been jetted. They are also sweeping streets. He also state that broadband was down for a while in the city due to a contractor who cut the cable in error.

Councilor Towle reported no parking goes into effect November 1st with signs being posted. Police Department will be interviewing three candidates for part-time help. Long Prairie Grey Eagle Homecoming parade was a success.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer reported the fire department will be at the Baptist Church for Trunk and Treat. New fireman Nathan Alnes passed his physical. He lives out of the response time but was given two years to move within the response time. Firemen's physicals will be done November 28. They will do two guys every 15 minutes. The department is still using CentraCare Long Prairie for new fireman physicals.

Councilor Hines reported liquor store manager Koska will be on vacation in November and Park Board will not meet again until January 21, 2019 at 6:00.

Councilor Gripne reported EDA meets the 3rd Thursday in November. They have one applicant and are short two members. Manufactures breakfast had a good turnout and Tom Vandeventer of Day Break Foods was guest speaker.

Mayor Rasmussen reported the airport runway did not get done due to rain and weather conditions. Will start again next spring.

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

Deb Laumeyer
Deputy Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor