

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, 2019. Mayor Jodi Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Randy Mechels, Bob Byers, Lilah Gripne and Interim City Administrator David Venekamp. Council member Dave Blanchard was absent.

**Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the council minutes of February 4, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.**

**Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the February bills as presented. Motion unanimously carried.**

Long Prairie Chamber Manager Lou Brunkhorst informed the council of events surrounding Prairie Days which will be held May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lou stated they would like to close off Central Avenue and some of the side streets on Saturday.

**Council member Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to approve the closing off of Central Avenue and the side streets on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and the parade route for Prairie Days from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously carried.**

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer presented the following price quotes for the purchase and installation of a standby generator at city hall:

Lennes Bros. Electric Inc. (Briggs and Stratton generator)	\$36,985.00
Northern Star (Cummins generator)	\$45,498.67
ARC Electric (Cummins generator)	\$55,579.00
ARC Electric (Caterpillar generator)	\$57,275.00
ARC Electric (MTU generator)	\$54,330.00

Kreemer stated the Briggs and Stratton generator is more of a residential generator whereas the other generators were commercial generators. Kreemer recommended the council award the quote to Northern Star.

**Council member Mechels motioned Byers seconded to approve the quote of Northern Star for the purchase and installation of the Cummins standby generator in the amount of \$45,498.67. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council reviewed the Conditional Use Permit and Variance request by John Timmerman. Mr. Timmerman is requesting the Conditional Use Permit to allow for multiple dwellings in a commercially zoned District C-1. He is also requesting a variance to the required parking space of the ordinance. Mr. Timmerman is proposing to build two – eight unit apartment complexes with a total of not less than 32 parking spaces of 180 square feet per parking space on the vacant lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of 9th Street and T.H. 27. The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on his request on February 11<sup>th</sup> and the Commission recommended the approval of the Conditional Use Permit and Variance for Mr. Timmerman.

**Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the Conditional Use Permit and Variance for Mr. Timmerman for Parcels #36-0092200, #36-0091600 and #36-0091700 as requested. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council reviewed a public works equipment schedule. The equipment schedule provides for the funding and replacement of vehicles required in the public works department over the next 16 years.

One of the items that is scheduled for replacement in the schedule was a motor grader which was to be replaced in 2018. Public Works Director Chad Bosl had contacted several companies to review their available used motor graders. Chad recommended the council purchase a 2013 John Deere 772G from RDO Equipment Company of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. The purchase price of the unit is \$159,000 with a trade-in of \$20,000 for the city's 1990 Dresser 850 making the total amount due of \$139,000. Mr. Bosl stated the unit still has about six months of warranty on the grader. RDO will also allow the city to use the grader for a couple of weeks to make sure that everything works and that the city is satisfied with the unit.

**Council member Byers motioned Mechels seconded to approve the purchase of the 2013 John Deere motor grader from RDO for \$139,000 after trade-in. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council discussed the possible installation of new downtown streetlights. The current streetlights have decayed and rusted out on the bottoms of several of the lights. Over the past year, some of those lights have actually tipped over due to the amount of decay and rust in the base of the lights. The council instructed the public works director to work on getting prices for the replacement of the street lights.

Mayor Dixon stated the Christmas lights are also in poor condition and that she would like to try and do a fund raiser for the purchase of new Christmas lights. The Christmas lights would also need to be able to hang on the new street lights should the city replace them.

Mayor Dixon informed the council the Senior Center will be holding a fund raiser for the food shelf on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 7 p.m. and the council is invited to attend.

**Council member Byers motioned Gripne seconded to approve a gambling permit for Todd County Pheasants Forever for a raffle on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Post. Motion unanimously carried.**

Public Works Director Chad Bosl informed the council the 2016 Mac truck, which has 4500 miles on it, has a broken bell housing. Bosl has been working with the dealer, salesman and the truck company concerning possible warranty on the repair of the truck.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated they have had some concerns about the narrowness of the street on 4<sup>th</sup> Street South from the Baptist Church down to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Residents along the street are parking on both sides of the street making it difficult for the plows to remove snow as well as for traffic to pass. The council stated they would review the situation and discuss it at the next meeting.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer stated the water line on the main pumper froze and would cost approximately \$4,000 to fix. Kreemer also indicated the department is handling more and more requests by the ambulance service to assist in lifting of patients. The department responded to 23 lift assists in 2018 and they also provided a backup driver for the ambulance 11 times. Kreemer suggested that a meeting with the ambulance and hospital staff to discuss the amount of calls the department is handling and fact they do not receive any reimbursement for the calls.

Council member Byers stated the park board is looking at a possible replacement for a park board member should that person decide not to continue on the board.

Council member Gripne stated the EDA will be meeting this Thursday and they will be touring the Wellness Center at the hospital.

The council discussed the part-time wages for the cleaning staff at city hall and the library. The current rate of pay is \$12.50/hr. The wages for the cleaning staff have not been raised in at least five years. Venekamp stated they would like to see a raise in the area of \$5 bringing the part-time wage up to \$17.50 per hour. Those cleaning the offices spend approximately 10 hours or less a week cleaning.

**Council member Gripne motioned Byers seconded to increase the wages of the cleaning staff for the library and city hall buildings to \$17.50 per hour. Motion unanimously carried.**

City Administrator Venekamp stated the city received a grant from EDA in the amount of \$2.5 million for improvements to the wastewater treatment facility. This is part of the funding for the expansion of the treatment facility which is expected to be around \$13 million dollars.

City Administrator Venekamp also questioned whether the council would like to obtain prices on sealcoating of streets this summer. It was been five years since the city did sealcoating on their streets. The council suggested they would like to review price quotes for sealcoating.

**Council member Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

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David Venekamp  
Interim City Administrator/Clerk

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Jodi Dixon  
Mayor