

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday, March 18, 2019

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2019. Mayor Jodi Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Randy Mechels, Lilah Gripne, Dave Blanchard, Bob Byers and Deputy Clerk Deb Blake.

Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the council minutes of March 4, 2019 and the March bills. Motion unanimously carried.

Council added to the agenda a Conditional Use Permit request for Bob Floerke as recommended by Planning and Zoning.

Paul Saffert of Bolton and Menk updated the council on the wastewater treatment facility. Paul briefly explained the history of the plant and how to accommodate the current and future needs of the significant users. The city has a growing system and needs to protect the river.

Paul presented the council with the following bids for the wastewater treatment facility improvements:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| • Rice Lake Construction | \$11,224,200.00 |
| • Magney Construction | \$11,536,700.00 |
| • Eagle Construction | \$12,795,666.00 |
| • Gridor Construction | \$12,810,200.00 |

Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the bid from Rice Lake Construction for the contract amount of \$11,224,200.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Gripne stated there is a Conditional Use Permit request by Bob Floerke to build a two unit dwelling on a single lot. Planning and Zoning held a public hearing on March 11th and approved the request.

Council member Blanchard motioned Gripne seconded to approve the Conditional Use Permit request as presented by Planning and Zoning. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Byers motioned Gripne seconded to approve the following Resolution Supporting the 2020 Census:

RESOLUTION #19-03-18;01
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2020 CENSUS

WHEREAS the US Census Bureau is required by the US Constitution to conduct a count of the population and provides a historic opportunity to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American Democracy;

WHEREAS the City of Long Prairie is committed to ensuring every resident is counted;

WHEREAS federal and state funding is allocated to communities, and decisions are made on matters of national and local importance based, in part, on census data and housing;

WHEREAS census data helps determine how many seats each state will have in the US House of Representatives and is necessary for an accurate and fair redistricting of state legislative seats, county and city councils and voting districts;

WHEREAS information from the 2020 Census and American Community Survey are vital tools for economic development and increase employment;

WHEREAS the information collected by the census is confidential and protected by law;

WHEREAS a united voice from business, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educator, media and others will enable the 2010 Census message to reach more of our citizens;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Long Prairie is committed to partnering with the US Census Bureau and the State of Minnesota and will:

1. Support the goals and ideals for the 2020 Census and will disseminate 2020 Census information.
2. Encourage all City residents to participate in events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the 2020 Census and increase participation.
3. Provide Census advocates to speak to City and Community organizations.
4. Support census takers as they help our City complete an accurate count.
5. Strive to achieve a complete and accurate count of all persons within our borders.

Adopted at Long Prairie, Minnesota this 18th day of March, 2019.

Deb Blake, Deputy/Clerk

Jodi Dixon, Mayor

Motion unanimously carried.

Council discussed a request by Kris Genk owner of McDonald's for a designated semi-truck parking space on 3rd Avenue South. Genk feels semi-trucks can't make the turn into the lot and a designated parking space would allow them a more convenient place to park. Chief Kevin Langer stated he has been monitoring that space and it is has been open most of the week. Council member Byers stated his concern over exiting traffic from the McDonald's lot with a semi-truck blocking the view to the east.

Council member Byers motioned Mechels seconded to table making a designated parking space for semi-trucks along 3rd Avenue South. Motion unanimously carried.

Council reviewed the following bids for replacing the outside exterior lights (wall packs) on the building:

Replace nine wall packs and photo eyes (security lighting on the outside of the building)

- ARC Electric \$4,077.17
- All Service Electric \$2,621.00

Council member Blanchard motioned Mechels seconded to approve the bid from All Service Electric for replacing the outside exterior lights (wall packs) on the building. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Mechels updated the council on the interviews for the City Administrator position. Interviews are complete and the committee has a recommendation for the position. Pending acceptance and a background check, Mechels suggested a special council meeting be held on Thursday, March 21st at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the position.

Public Works Director Chad Bosl stated the new blade is working well and is in good condition. We will be keeping it. The cones have been bolted down over the broken street lights and they are busy patching potholes. Bosl will have an update on the street lights at the next meeting.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated the owner of the Hart Mall is working on fixing the building's issues with the falling bricks.

Council member Gripne questioned if the public works was aware of the ice building up on the gutters and over the door at the old city hall. Bosl stated they have been over there working on fixing the problem.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated the Park Board had appointed Tony Towle to the Park Board pending council approval.

Council member Byers motioned Mechels seconded to appoint Tony Towle to the Park Board. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Gripne stated the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit on March 11th for 923 Meadowlark Lane. EDA meets this Thursday, March 21st at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Dixon stated the Senior Center had a fund raiser for the Food Pantry and raised over \$100 and 7 boxes of food. A Proclamation for Service Recognition Day will be held at 3:30 p.m., April 2, 2019, recognizing six individuals for their 4,220 hours of volunteering as Foster Grandparents. Mayor Dixon will be collecting items from local businesses for gift bags to give to the volunteers. Students from the ALC met with the Mayor and Department Heads for career

day. Seven members of CNN met with the Mayor for a walking tour down Main Street and a ride-a-long with Chief Langer for a documentary on undocumented immigrants. The documentary will air sometime later this year.

Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Debra Blake
Deputy Clerk

Jodi Dixon
Mayor