

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday, July 15th, 2019

The Long Prairie City Council met in session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, July 15th, 2019. Mayor Jodi Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members, Randy Mechels, Lilah Gripne, David Blanchard, Bob Byers and City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray.

Council member Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to approve minutes from July 1st, 2019 with one correction regarding Art Rowan's comments, thanking the city for posting no parking signs on 4th Street S.

(Appointments)

Brain Newville discussed with the council on the no decision to deem a Dog owned by Amber Eischens a Dangerous Dog. The council discussed what the definition of a Dangerous Dog was and because there were no other complaints or incidents about this dog, there was no decision made by the council. If there are other complaints or incidents regarding this dog and this information is brought to the attention of the council, the council may revisit the issue to deem this a Dangerous Dog.

(New Business)

Council member Gripne motioned Blanchard seconded to approve the Pay Request No. 1 of \$704,483.90 to be paid to Rice Lake Construction Group for the Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project.

Council member Mechels motioned and Gripne seconded to approve for Ehlers the removal of David Venekamp as a signer on the City of Long Prairie and add Theodore Gray and Debra Laumeier as signers.

Council member Byers motioned and Gripne seconded to approve the funding for the Community Concern for Youth Program of \$2,855.00.

An update on the Bjerga Feed building was presented by City Administrator Ted Gray. It was mentioned that Chad Twardowski Excavating was getting the city an updated estimate on the demolition of the building, the MPCA had been contacted regarding the documents needed prior to destruction, and there was a meeting set up to discuss the Redevelopment Grant Program that is offered through the Minnesota Economic Development Authority. There were questions raised by the Council regarding why the city would demolish the building if the city does not own it? What is the dollar amount of the property taxes owed on the property? Other topics were discussed regarding what the property would be used after demolition, would it be sold for another business to build? Would it be turned into a parking lot? Would there be a possibility of a joint effort between the city and the county to split the costs of the demolition? Is there a grant or deed program out there for the city to use? After these questions were discussed, **Council member Mechels motioned that the city at this point in time will not continue with demolition of the building and allow it to be tax forfeited. Seconded by Byers**
Yes Votes: 5; Blanchard, Byers, Mechels, Gripne, and Dixon
No Votes: 0

The Council reviewed the ordinance changes to Chapter 11, Environmental Control and Public Safety (Foul, Nauseous, and Unhealthful Substances). Questions were asked on what type of written warning could be given out prior to having yards mowed/cleaned up? How high can we raise the fee for being out of compliant with the ordinance? Is it possible to have the grass/snow removal clean up higher out to a vendor? City Administrator Ted Gray will be doing research on these questions and present the answers back to the council.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Council Member Mechel's reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion. Mechel's spoke with Chad regarding the increase in usage and how that has affected the plant. Mechel's commented that there maybe a need for another Public Works Employee to help with additional duties added by this Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mayor Dixon also completed a ride around with Chad Bosl.

Public Safety

Fire Department: Jim Kreemer addressed the council, thanking City Administrator Ted Gray for working with the League of MN cities on two insurance claims for repairs to the fire truck 140. Jim stated they are still two open positions on the fire department.

EDA: There will be a meeting at 5:15 pm, Wednesday July 17th.

Community: The Senior Center raffle was very successful. The Senior Center also was recently painted. There was discussion on why there are not fireworks and a parade for July 4th, the council discussed the cost of the fireworks and we don't have place to store them legally before the event.

The CNN news story aired on July 12th regarding the Long Prairie area.

Administration: A report was given by City Administrator Ted Gray on the progress of the water meters, we are below 50 meters left to change. The question was asked if there is only one meter in multi family housing, why is each individual unit charged a usage fee? Administrator Gray will be doing research on this and reporting back to the council.

The city is looking at options to correct the ramp that was constructed at Dr. Larson's Eye Clinic downtown.

Council Member Byers motioned Blanchard seconded to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Motion unanimously carried.

Ted Gray
City Administrator/Clerk

Jodi Dixon
Mayor