

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Tuesday September 3rd, 2019

The Long Prairie City Council met in session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 19th, 2019. Mayor Jodi Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members in attendance where, Lilah Gripne, David Blanchard, Don Rasmussen, and City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray.

Council member Blanchard motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes from August 19th, 2019.

Council member Gripne motioned Blanchard seconded to approved Resolution #19-09-02-01 acknowledging donations.

(Appointments)

Jeremy Weber from the Hart Mall addressed the council. Jeremy gave an update on the upcoming construction to remove bricks from the Hart Mall. Jeremy would need to have the decorative light pole removed and has made arrangements with the post office to have the mailbox removed from the corner. The city will need to place barriers around the parking spots to allow Jeremy to bring in a boom truck to remove the bricks. The main goal is to secure the portions of the bricks for the winter to eliminate optional hazards. Jeremy then gave a timeline of events from when the bricks started falling off in mid-March. In May, Jeremy addressed the council and stated that there were issues with the structure of the building, a structural engineer had stated that there were issues with the cities curb and gutter that had caused saturation around the building. A statement from Braun Interec and Engineering company gave an opinion that 50% of the damage was caused by the city curb and gutter. In June there were issues with a pipe that ran into the Hart Mall which was connected to the City Storm Drain. During a rainstorm in June, water ran into the basement of the Hart Mall, causing damage. Insurance Claims had been filed with the League of Minnesota Cities for the structure issues and the water damage from the storm sewer. It was stated by Jeremy that it took a week for our insurance adjuster with the League of Minnesota Cites to contact him. This was an error due to the two claims being filed within two weeks of one another. Jeremy then addressed the council with frustration towards council member Gripne and Rasmussen, as well as the city's Fire Chief Jim Kreemer. Jeremy questioned why council member Rasmussen was appointed on the council since he had recently been voted out as mayor. City Administrator Ted Gray responded to the claim by explaining that the council voted to have Rasmussen fill the open position and that he would be an asset due to his knowledge and experience with the council and city matters. Jeremy made claims regarding the council questioning and slandering him during meetings and around the community. The meeting in question was from August 19th, 2019, Fire Chief Jim Kreemer asked a question regarding the repairs to the Hart Mall and when they would be completed in regards to public safety. City Administrator Ted Gray read the minutes from August 19th, 2019 back to Jeremy stating the question was in regards to public safety. There were also questions from Jeremy to Jim Kreemer regarding a Knox Box for the Hart Mall. Jim would help Jeremy with the Knox Box. Jeremy expressed his concern to the council that the council had a lack of questions for him while he was working on this project. He then got back to a schedule of events finished laying out other issues. Jeremy stated that the Lender he was working with had recently left during the middle of his loan request. He expressed issues with trying to find contractors to work on this

project which has caused more delays. Jeremy finished by stating that council members have been saying he is making larges sum of money on this building. He stated he is currently renting the commercial space at \$1,170.00 a month, but his expenses are \$1,090.00 a month. Jeremy yielded back his time to the council and apologized for his emotions due to his frustrations.

Deb Bruder addressed the council regarding questions for the new apartments. Her address is 833 2nd Ave NE. Deb brought up several issues regarding lights from the parking lot shinning into her home. She brought up possible noise issues and garbage/littering. Deb had brought photos to show us pictures of her property and where her concerns where, such as a small drainage ditch from the parking lot. She also asked about the possibility of the fence and if the council could do anything to enforce that. Administrator Gray and Council Member Gripne would review the ordinances and report back to Deb about these concerns.

(New Business)

Kent Louwagie from Bolton Menk attended the meeting and addressed the council regarding items 1-4 in the agenda.

Council member Blanchard motioned Gripne seconded to Approve Invoice from Braun Intertec of \$3,025.00 for Construction Materials Testing for the Long Prairie WWTF Improvements.

Council member Blanchard motioned Gripne seconded to Approve Invoice from Braun Intertec of \$3,692.00 for Construction Materials Testing for the Long Prairie WWTF Improvements.

Council member Gripne motioned Blanchard seconded to Approve pay request #3 for Water Meter Replacement of \$87,581.82 to Core & Main. Discussion was had regarding the completion of this project. The City was sending out the first bills with the new readings from the meters that were installed.

Council member Gripne motioned Blanchard seconded to Approve pay request #3 for Wastewater Treatment Facility of \$602,452.00 to Rice Lake Construction Group.

Council member Gripne motioned Blanchard seconded to Approve the purchase of three PollPad Systems of \$3,900.00 plus \$375.00 for yearly maintenance fee.

Council member Blanchard motioned Gripne seconded to Approve Christie Home Historical Society Budget of \$4,000.00

Council member Rasmussen motioned Gripne seconded to Approve the Renewal of Liquor, Wine, Club or 3.2% Licenses for the American Legion Post 12

Council member Blanchard motioned Gripne seconded to Approved the assessment for 206 2nd ST S of \$7,000.00 to be paid over 5 years at a rate of 6%.

(Council Reports)

Public Safety Fire: Fire Chief Jim Kreemer gave a report on Mass Casualty drill put on by Centra Care that is to take place on Friday from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. There was to be a fire department meeting on Wednesday.

Public Safety Police: Councilmember Blanchard gave a report that the LP Police responded to 357 incidents in August.

Liquor Store: Councilmember Rasmussen gave a report that the Liquor store will need cooler upgrades, these issues will be discussed with Pam Liquor Store Manager.

Health & Community Wellness: There will be a Wellness Committee meeting 9-12-19. The Senior Center made \$1,025.00 on their garage sale, a Thank you to all who stopped by.

EDA: Invites for The Business Appreciation Breakfast were sent out last week

Council member Blanchard motioned and Grippe seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Ted Gray
City Administrator/Clerk

Jodi Dixon
Mayor