

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

The Long Prairie City Council met in session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, October 7th, 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 September 16th, 2019, with a correction to change the date from August 19th, 2019 to September 16th, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

(New Business)

Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to Approve Pay Request #4 for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements of \$296,162.50, payable to Rice Lake Construction Group. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Blanchard motioned Rasmussen seconded to Approve Pay Request #2 for the Long Prairie Municipal Airport Runway 34 Extension Project of \$310,496.39, payable to Kraemer Trucking & Excavating, Inc. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to Approve Resolution 19-10-07-01 for Authorization to Execute MNDOT Airport Maintenance and Operation Grant Contract. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Mechels motioned Blanchard seconded to approve the new health insurance rates option 1 and 2, to include both single and family coverage and to terminate plan option number 3. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Blanchard motioned Mechels seconded to approve the Snow Removal Contract from Chad Twardowski Excavating INC. of \$125.00 per hour, per truck, with a \$500.00 minimum, plus storage of truck throughout the term of the agreement. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Rasmussen motioned Mechels seconded to Approve Transient Merchant Permit for Taueria El Guerrerito. Motion unanimously carried.

There was discussion on the website proposal from Golden Shovel. At the last EDA meeting, the EDA Committee voted to contribute 25% of the total cost and annual maintenance cost. Mayor Dixon noted that other cities are updating their websites at this time and this would be a benefit to get started on this project soon.

Council member Rasmussen motioned Mechels seconded to approve the proposal and invoice from Golden Shovel for the development of a new website, along with a pro-rated maintenance fee pending completion of website. Motion unanimously carried.

The Council reviewed a letter presented by Jerry Vearrier regarding 115 Central Ave. Council Member Gripne gave a history of the buildings and the ordinances involved with the request of rental units/apartments in the store fronts in the downtown area. The ordinance states that store fronts cannot be used for apartments, but there are buildings that are grand fathered in. The Council directed Administrator Gray to send out a letter explaining the ordinances to Mr. Vearrier.

The council discussed the concrete ramp located at 240 Central Ave, Larson Optometry. Administrator Gray gave a history of how the concrete ramp was constructed and that the projected was not compliant with the building codes. Direction was given by the council for the city to cover the cost of the removal of the concrete ramp and to bring the sidewalk back to code.

The council discussed the possibility of having DJV Municipal Consulting LLC gaining remote access to assist the City from home. Council member Mechels asked for more information to be gathered from the City's computer consulting firm, XS Consulting. The information mentioned by council member Mechels to be included was the cost of the secure connection, how secure that connection would be, making sure our Fund Accounting software is compatible, and what type of remote connection would we be using. Administrator Gray will gather information regarding this to be presented to the Council.

Administrator Gray presented some answers to the possibility of a dog park in town. The question at the previous meeting held on September 16th, was on the liability of a dog park for the City. The dog park would be covered under the City's insurance if issues would arise. It is possible for the City to receive property, but not take full ownership and add a dog park to that property. Questions were asked regarding cleanliness of the park and possible diseases. There are some diseases out there that can affect dogs at this park if they are not properly vaccinated. Administrator Gray will reach out the League of MN Cities for additional information to presented to the council.

The Council is looking into dates for an ordinance work session. The council agreed that an 8:00 am meeting would work best for everyone to attend. Administrator Gray will work on a date to have the work session.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Chad Bosl gave an update on public works projects; all decorative lights have been removed and they will be putting back up three of the large streetlights. Rain has slowed work at the Wastewater Treatment plant, otherwise public works is working on winterizing different facilities around town.

Public Safety Police: Councilmember Blanchard gave a report that the LP Police is participating in the Centra Care Mass Casualty drill to take place at Dan's Prize on October 22nd. The Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Schools Homecoming Parade will take place on Friday October 11th from 1:30-3:30. Officer Bryan Lashinski will be resigning from the Long Prairie Police Department and will be starting a job with Todd County on October 14th. The Long Prairie Police Department has offered the position to replace officer Lashinski to a current part time employee.

Public Safety Fire: Fire Chief Jim Kreemer gave a report on the upcoming week, Fire Prevention Week. There will be an open house at the Fire Hall from 5-7 on October 9th. Jim extended a thank you to Chad Bosl and the Public Works staff for taking care of transportation of a fire truck to a repair shop and back.

Health & Community Wellness: Mayor Dixon gave a report stating that she will be attending a meeting with Legislators on October 14th in Staples to discuss Community Concerns for Youth. Mayor Dixon has looked into options to update Christmas Lights for Highway 71, which will be presented at the next meeting. A request was made for a 3rd grade classroom to come visit City Hall and to ask questions about local government. Mayor Dixon will work on confirming dates for this class.

EDA: The Business Appreciation Breakfast is on Tuesday October 8th at 7:00 am.

Council member Mechels motioned and Blanchard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:08. Motion unanimously carried.

Ted Gray
City Administrator/Clerk

Jodi Dixon
Mayor