

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday November 4th, 2019

The Long Prairie City Council met in session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, November 4th, 2019. Mayor Jodi Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members, Lilah Gripne, Don Rasmussen, Randy Mechels and City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray.

Council member Rasmussen motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes from October 21st, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

(Appointments)

Dr. Jon Larson from Larson Optometry addressed the council regarding the handicapped accessible concrete ramp. Jon explained why the ramp was put in and that he worked with a contractor on the design and received approval from the city. There was discussion with Council member Rasmussen and Jon on the issues of how the permit was signed off on. Jon asked for the city to stand behind and take credit for the error that occurred on the permit. Jon made a proposal to the council; he would construct a new ramp and build to the correct building code. He asked if the city would be willing to cover his damages from the first concrete ramp that was constructed. Administrator Gray read back the estimate of costs, the original ramp was \$3,000.00, the new ramp would be around \$7,100.00. The council agreed with Jon's frustration and showed agreement towards this proposal. Administrator Gray mentioned he would have to work through legal issues that could occur but would look for options to resolve this matter.

(New Business)

There was discussion held regarding the appointment of the new council member to replace David Blanchard. Administrator Gray read the names of the interested parties in the council member position, Dattrick Mitchell, Renee Kreemer, David Wright, and Art Rowan. The discussion was focused around the availability of the interested parties to be able to attend all the regular meetings. It was mentioned that all the individuals would make excellent council members.

Mayor Dixon motioned Mechels seconded to nominate David Wright to replace David Blanchard for the City Council. A roll call vote was called.

Yes: Mechels, Rasmussen, Dixon

No: Gripne

Motioned was carried by a 3 to 1 vote.

Council member Rasmussen motioned Gripne seconded to approve Pay Request Number 5 of \$963,670.50 to Rice Lake Construction Group for Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the Their Well Proposal of \$17,539.00 for the rehabilitation of well number 6. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the allocation of \$1,750.00 to donate to the Initiative Foundation for the year 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

Kent Louwagie from Bolton and Menk presented to the council on an issue with a culvert located at 1st Ave SW and Venewitz Creek. This area has been causing some issues in the spring with flooding. The area sits in the flood zone and Kent explained what that means along with what the 100-year flood conditions are. Administrator Gray stated that the flooding problems that occurred are coming from Venewitz Creek, not the Long Prairie River. Gray stated the water during the spring the was flowing over the road and very close to the Long Prairie Lumber. For Bolton & Menk to complete the necessary research to see what the fix would be for this issue, the cost would be around \$10,000.00 or less. At this time the council is tabling this research project.

There was discussion regarding the pay increase for Doug Rakow.

Council member Mechels motioned Dixon seconded to approve the recommendation from Police Chief Kevin Langer to allow new police officer Doug Rakow to start at the Step 2 wage schedule, which is a pay rate of \$22.64. Motion unanimously carried.

There was discussion regarding the Administrator Gray's 6-month probationary period. A letter was given to council showing the milestones completed as well as one final milestone that needed to be completed which is an accounting class. Council member Mechels stated the importance of this education and that it will greatly help in the future for Administrator Gray. Gray has been looking into several schools in the area for an accounting class to fulfill this final standard.

Council member Mechels motioned and Gripne seconded to approve the probationary completion for Administrator Gray and the pay increase of \$2.40 per hour. Motion unanimously carried.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Council Member Mechels read a report from Public Works Director Chad Bosl on what the public works staff was been completing this fall. Majority of the work has been winterizing and cleaning up leaves. The new Wastewater Plant Project is still making progress.

Public Safety Police: Administrator Gray read a report from Police Chief Kevin Langer. The letter stated there was 262 Incidents in October, Halloween went well, the officers completed an adverse weather/night shoot, the department will be participating in the career day, there is a Community Listening Session with Judges and Court staff on November 6th, they will be disposing of all prescription drugs collection on November 13th in Alexandria, and winter parking regulations have gone into effect as of November 1st.

Public Safety Fire: Fire Chief Jim Kreemer gave a report regarding the fire department. They are looking for one more fire fighter. The fire department has scheduled their refresher course for first responders on February 1st and 2nd of 2020.

Planning & Zoning: Planning and Zoning will be holding a meeting on Friday November 8th at 8:00 am in regards to a lot split.

Community Concerns for Youth/Senior Center: The Senior Center kitchen is up and running and the first meals have been made.

Council member Mechels motioned and Dixon seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20. Motion unanimously carried.

Ted Gray
City Administrator/Clerk

Jodi Dixon
Mayor