

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday, December 22nd, 2025
City Council Meeting Held in Person & Via-Teleconference

The Long Prairie City Council met in person and by phone at City Hall, 7:00 pm, on Monday December 22nd, 2025. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with Present Council Members Clint Krueger, Gabriel Perez, Lilah Gripne, and JoAnn Schroeder. Also, present: City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder, City Engineer Kent Louwagie, Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Police Officer Jeremy Puff, Police Officer Melissa Morazan, Police Officer Lateshia Harden, Police Officer Joseph Rivera Roble, Police Officer Eric Goedert, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer. Members of the public present: Anthony Harden and David Determan.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the consent calendar as listed below; motion was seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

- (a) Approve Agenda for December 22nd, 2025
- (b) Approve Meeting Minutes for December 10th, 2025
- (c) Approve Bills November 22nd-December 18th, 2025
- (d) Approve Updated 2026 Council Meeting Dates and Times

Council Reports

Public Works: Council Member Krueger informed the council the last few weeks Public Works has been busy with snow removal, maintenance on snow removal equipment, and snow removal around fire hydrants and airport runway lights. The next few weeks public works will be plowing snow as needed, equipment maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant, shop projects, and the daily rounds at the treatment facilities.

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Kreemer informed the council that Planning & Zoning has a meeting on Tuesday, December 23rd, 2025.

Police Department and Fire Department: Mayor Kreemer provided an update that over the past two weeks of 12/10/25 through 12/22/25 the LPPD had 203 calls with an average of 14.5 per day. This includes: 8 with suspicious activity, 4 civil related, 59 traffic related, 4 juvenile, 8 medicals, 6 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 94 assists, 2 thefts, and ordinance specific are: 7 animal-related, 2 noise-related and 9 ordinance (1 garbage-related, 8 vehicle-related) complaints. The chief notes that Chief Hanson is currently conducting job reviews for department employees, to be concluded in January 2026. Fire Chief Laumeyer informed the council that the Fire Department has been using a data collection system that has been utilized since 1975 but will be transitioned to a new system as of January 6th, 2026. Back in February 2025 there were two housefires and some items were damaged including the ladder truck totaling \$23,000 right now they are working with the League of Minnesota Cities to see if they can get any sort of reimbursement for the repairs. The other damaged items were a battery ventilation fan and a thermal camera which are also included in the claim.

Administration Report: City Administrator Candace Bruder informed the council that an overtime breakdown report will be provided on a monthly basis from the new position City Clerk/Finance Officer as a duty of the job to create more financial transparency for the council. Recently some meetings have been held with Central Bi and Daybreak on obtaining more pond space at the wastewater facility and modifying their existing SIU agreements to meet their requested demands. There was also a meeting with MN Fresh this past week on a plan to expand service to their location and how to do this to be as cost effective as possible. Also noted some recognition to the Long Prairie Fire Department for assistance in filling the ice rink and volunteering their time to accomplish this task. There is high value that should be placed on their volunteer service, and I just wanted to thank them. Another note that could potential effect the city in the future is that on December 18th President Trump signed in to law that effect immediately that “All executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall be closed and their employees excused from duty on Wednesday December 24th, and Friday December 26th, the day before and the day following Christmas Day, respectively.” At this time this is only taking place on the federal level.

Liquor Store Park & Recreation: Council Member Schroeder informed the council that she spoke to Reta Dahlen about Riverside Park, and the river opened in a few areas due to the warm weather and is nice to walk in. Meanwhile the liquor store has been extra busy, due to it being the holiday season.

EDA, Library/Health and Wellness: Council Member Gripne informed the council of upcoming events - on January 8th, the Thursday Afternoon Book Club meets at 2 pm. On Saturday, January 10th from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm Skateboard Art by Mark Rivard will be the program for adults and teens then on Friday, February 6th, from 2 to 3 pm Kerry Grombacher’s Songs and Stories of the American West will be presented they are both funded by the Legacy Amendment. In Health and Wellness, Minnesota has led the nation in banning harmful chemicals, such as BPA, toxic flame retardants, TCE, and PFA’s in food packaging and consumer products through the passage of Amara’s Law. An update on the EDA is that the last meeting of the year was held on December 17th. There was an update to the Business of Child Care, Small Cities grant and surveys, and an introduction to Leah Wolkow, Todd County EDA Director. Lu attended the new childcare center grand opening in Mapleton, Minnesota. The small cities grant has received 96 surveys to date and 65 were from interested homeowners within income limits. Seventeen homeowners were above income limits. There were 14 surveys from uninterested homeowners. These numbers will allow the city to apply for 21 owner-occupied projects. There were 14 surveys received to date from single family rental owners. Eleven surveys were from interested single family rental owners. This amount will allow us to apply for 5-6 single family rental projects.

Tourism: Council Member Perez informed the council that he is working on quotes for repairs and improvements for the Senior Center and is talking to Light way Construction to donate their labor. As far as tourism, there is no update at this time, and no meetings have been scheduled.

Engineer Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie informed the council that for the CSAH 56 & CSAH 38 Improvements are waiting for paperwork from the contractor to proceed with the project closeout. As for the Main Lift Station - the new lift station has been operational and

demolishing the old treatment plant is complete. The little remaining work on it will take place in the spring. At Riverside Park we are waiting for paperwork from the contractor that completed the initial phase of park improvements to proceed with final payment for his scope of work. The revised scope and budget have been approved. We will start preparing bidding documents for the remaining work. A representative, Wally Zastrow, from the Long Prairie Township Board, contacted Long Prairie Public Works wanting to coordinate with the city on a 6th Street SE pavement improvement project. The project would extend from Lake Charlotte Road to 4th Ave SE (TH 287), about 4,000 feet. The township is thinking the pavement would be reclaimed (ground up) in place and a new pavement constructed on top. The Costs for a project like this on the city / township boundary would typically be split 50/50 between the city and township. The south portion of 6th Street is entirely within the township, and we would expect the township to be responsible for 100% of the cost in that area. We will continue to coordinate with Long Prairie Public Works and Long Prairie Township to develop additional details regarding scope, cost, schedule, and potential next steps. We should review city policy to determine if this street improvement would be assessed. A plan is being devised with direction from the City Administrator to create a plan for the next 10 years as an improvement plan to create a list of streets to be seal coated starting in 2026 and to have a rotating schedule, and explore options on managing city inventory and assets, and develop a replacement plan for street signs. Also, discussion on the development of a street and utility capital improvement plan (CIP). The street and utility inventory that was created in 2018 could be updated to identify aged and deficient utilities. Correlating pavement conditions to future utility replacement needs will help identify the recommended street maintenance practices. It would also create a long-range plan for future street and utility infrastructure improvement projects. This plan would improve prioritization, budgeting, and pursuit of funding sources while ensuring critical systems like water, sewer, and streets remain reliable. This plan and improvements that have been identified could be input into the new GIS application as they are completed to have one database to track all improvements to the city infrastructure, signs and streets.

Old Business

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve the completion of Callaway Neumann's 6-month probation period effective as of the 1st of January 2026; motion Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve that all employees not covered by a union (non-union employees) will receive two extra vacation days, \$35 per month phone allowance, and be able to receive same insurance cost share breakdown as union employees effective as of January 1, 2026; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

New Business

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve Pay Application No. 2 for Well No. 6 Generator Project to ARC Electric for \$19,000.00; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve Pay Application No. 2 Water Treatment Plant Generator Project to ARC Electric for \$95,475.00; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve Pay Application No. 9 to C & L Excavating for \$236,174.49 for the Main Lift Station Project that is 86.2% complete; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

Council was presented with three options to pick from for the water tower design. The first option was to have blue on the bottom and green on the top and the city logo in the center either with the word “City of” or without it. Option two was blue on the top and bottom and the logo in the center. The third option was green on the top and bottom and the logo in the center.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Water Tower Design Option #1 excluding the words “City of” for the new water tower design and to install LED ground lighting; motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.

During the discussion on the assessment for 2026 it was noted that an item that should have been assessed in the past for demolishing a blight property in 2022 is now being assessed to the owner along with all the mowing for that property. The assessment information also includes past road projects from 2016 and 2022.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the Assessments for Delinquent Water/Sewer, Garbage, Lawn, Snow and Miscellaneous to the 2026 taxes: motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

The total 2026 budget was presented to the council for their approval, and this data is the same data that was used to create the levy for 2026. The council was informed that department heads have been given budget information and that in the future those department heads will be managing their own budgets more heavily.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the City of Long Prairie 2026 Budget as presented to the council; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

Todd County employee David Determan expressed concerns regarding mobile food licenses currently being handled by the City of Long Prairie, noting that this is a Todd County responsibility and we should reassess our fees for this. He also voiced frustration with the status of housing within the City of Long Prairie, particularly limitations within the housing code that restrict when the code enforcement agency may act based on property status or title. These limitations have contributed to situations where landlords are overcrowding single-family dwellings with multiple families sharing limited space. Mr. Determan expressed deep concern for the wellbeing of residents, especially immigrant populations, who are disproportionately impacted by these housing conditions. While he stated that the housing code itself is generally sound, he identified the fee structure as a barrier to effective enforcement and recommended exploring revisions to allow for proper citation and enforcement. He specifically referenced

housing code language requiring occupants to be responsible for pest control and advocated for shifting this responsibility to property owners due to documented cockroaches, mice, and rat infestations he has personally observed. He acknowledged that meaningful progress would take significant time but emphasized the importance of beginning the process. Mayor Kreemer noted that a preliminary step toward addressing these issues is scheduled for discussion on the Planning and Zoning agenda the following day. The proposed ordinance would require rental properties to be registered, would be complaint driven, include inspections conducted by the police department, and establish administrative penalties for noncompliance. To start this process a database needs to be started to take the non-homesteaded properties and contact those owners to check on rental status.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the 2026 Legal Services Contract with Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A; motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to accept the Audit Engagement from Schlenner Wenner & Co. to complete 2025's Audit; motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve the annual renewal for Cigarette Licenses for Northern Star Coop, Casey's General Store #1795, Holiday Station, Riverside Liquors, Coborn's, Family Dollar, Dollar General, Viva Tobacco & More LLC, Viva Bar LLC, and 7 House Bar & Grill pending all insurance and licenses are paid for and paperwork is completed; motion Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Roll Call Vote: Perez - Abstain, Kreemer - Yes, Gripne - Yes, Krueger - Yes, Schroeder - Yes. Motion Approved.

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve the annual renewal for General Corporate Licenses for Irish's Place, American Legion, Penny Barber Shop, Viva Bar LLC, and 7 House Bar & Grill pending all insurance and licenses are paid for and paperwork is completed: motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Roll Call Vote: Perez - Abstain, Kreemer - Yes, Gripne - Yes, Krueger - Yes, Schroeder - Yes. Motion Approved.

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve the Club License for the American Legion; motion Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the annual renewal for Intoxicating Liquor Licenses for Irish's Place, Mi Pueblito Market, Chavez Event Center, Edita's Bar & Grill, Viva Bar LLC, 7 House Bar & Grill and Go Taco, pending all insurance and licenses are paid for and paperwork is completed: motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Roll Call Vote: Perez - Abstain, Kreemer - Yes, Gripne - Yes, Krueger - Yes, Schroeder - Yes. Motion Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the annual renewal for Beer 3.2 % Off Sale Licenses for Holiday Station, Coborn's and Mi Pueblito Market pending all insurance and licenses are paid for and paperwork is completed; motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the annual renewal for Sunday Liquor Licenses for Irish's Place, American Legion, Mi Pueblito Market, Chavez Event Center, Edita's Bar & Grill, Viva Bar LLC, 7 House Bar & Grill and Go Taco pending all insurance and licenses are paid for and paperwork is completed: motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Roll Call Vote: Perez - Abstain, Kreemer - Yes, Gripne - Yes, Krueger - Yes, Schroeder - Yes. Motion Approved

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the 2 Am Liquor Licenses for Viva Bar LLC and 7 House Bar & Grill pending all insurance and licenses are paid for and paperwork is completed: motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Roll Call Vote: Perez - Abstain, Kreemer - Yes, Gripne - Yes, Krueger - Yes, Schroeder - Yes. Motion Approved.

There being no further business, Council Member Krueger motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Council Member Gripne; unanimously approved- meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor