

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Wednesday January 28th, 2026
Regular City Council Meeting Held in Person

The Long Prairie City Council met in person at City Hall, 7:00 pm, on Wednesday January 28th, 2026. 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 Attorney Joe Kruger, Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Police Officers: Jeremy Puff, Melissa Morazan, Rodger Lowe, Daniel Steuck, Joseph Rivera Robles, Cody Vail, Eric Goedert; EDA Director Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, Volunteer Firefighters: Jeremy Sovich, Josh Luberts. Members of the public present: Daniella Chavez, Kelly Hanson, Gwen Hanson, Mike Hanson, Amanda Feldewerd, Mike Pesta, Colin King, Thomas King, Diego Venegas, Marissa Travis, Tyler Carlson, May Lentz, Michelle Wood, Hadassa Morazan, Ahtziri Juarez, Trevor Larson, Gwen Spieker, Laura Bundy, Kristy Modrow, Allan Diaz, Zaire, Wood, Annalilia Wood, Tyler Graves, Dallas Goertz, Josh Spieker, Gerald Spieker, Jeremiah Zahnow, Jennifer Lowe, Les Levin, Esmeralda Estrada, Perla Razo, Juan Botello, Bob Klick, Allan Diaz, Dattrick Mitchell, Lacey Mitchell, Kali Christensen, Maria Botello, Renee Morazan, Paul Van Gorp, Linda Klimek, Verna Toenyan, Evan Hebert, Elizabeth Quillan, Lauren Hebert, Justina De Jesus, Michael Klimek, and Jason Burkle.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the consent calendar as listed below with the following additions to change Agenda Item #1 to Lake Charlotte Lions Park Pavilion Updates and all other agenda items move down to #2-#4; motion was seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

- (a) Approve Agenda for January 28th, 2026
- (b) Approve Meeting Minutes for January 14th, 2026
- (c) Approve Bills December 20th, 2025-January 23rd, 2026

Public Comment

Gwen Spieker, a Long Prairie resident, spoke regarding positive interactions she and her family have had with local law enforcement over the past two years. She stated that officers are viewed as a helpful community resource and expressed confidence in their role within the community.

Paul Van Gorp commented on the distinction between local law enforcement and federal agents, expressing concerns about recent federal activity in the community. He stated his appreciation for local law enforcement's focus on protecting residents, de-escalating situations, and using force only when necessary.

Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst commented on an officer, describing them as community-oriented and actively engaging with residents. Noted involvement in community events and stated that they represent law enforcement in a positive and approachable manner. She also referenced their efforts to address community concerns, including those affecting Latino and other populations.

Diego Venegas, a Long Prairie resident, noted efforts by the Long Prairie Police Department to build trust within the Latino community. He cited community outreach, attendance at events, and the presence of Spanish-speaking officers as a contributing factor.

Council Reports

Tourism & Airport: Council Member Krueger informed the council that Tourism has an upcoming meeting, hopefully in February. Topics for tourism will be if they want to support a performance by Monroe Crossing, the city's welcome guides and fireworks. It was noted that currently there are five members on the Tourism Committee. Airport has no update at this time.

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Kreemer informed the Council that Planning and Zoning met and reviewed the City of Sauk Centre's rental ordinance with that city's inspector. The ordinance has been in place for approximately two years and was described as beneficial to both renters and landlords. Some challenges in contacting property owners were noted, though efforts are ongoing. Planning and Zoning reached consensus to move forward using Sauk Centre's rental ordinance as a model rather than developing a new ordinance from the beginning. The proposed next steps include review by the City of Long Prairie's Building Inspector to ensure consistency with local ordinances and housing codes, followed by review by the City Attorney. A public meeting would then be held through Planning and Zoning, with county assistance in identifying and registering rental properties. Sauk Centre's existing forms may be utilized pending verification that they align with City wording. It was noted that Sauk Centre has approximately 648 registered rental units. An estimate was shared that Long Prairie may have over 800 rental units, unconfirmed.

Police Department and Fire Department: Mayor Kreemer provided an update that over the past two weeks of 01/14/26 through 01/28/26 the LPPD had 262 calls with an average of 18.72 per day. This includes: 5 with suspicious activity, 1 civil related, 56 traffic related, 1 juvenile, 13 medicals, 2 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 163 assists, 2 thefts, and ordinance specific are: 4 animal-related, 1 fire-related, 1 noise-related and 9 snow-ordinance (1 garbage-related, 3 vehicle-related) complaints. The Chief notes that the received pharmaceuticals at City Hall are to be taken by Daniel next week to the solid waste management facility of Pope & Douglas counties. The LPPD is looking at acquiring new Dodge Durango to replace Tahoe #21 by Dan Welle Motors of Sauk Centre, MN. There is an Upcoming DMT-G Certification Training, February 9th – 12th for Officer Puff at the BCA Training Center in St. Paul, MN. Lastly LPPD 2025 Statistics being completed this week, with total Calls for Service at 5,302 for the year. Fire Chief Laumeier informed the council that Todd County Mitigation Plan is being reviewed, and this is done every 5 years as it must be upgraded and submitted to FEMA. There was an analysis of the fire trucks, and they will be back in to deal with any issues they have found once it is warmer.

Administration Report: City Administrator Candace Bruder informed the council that the administration has begun to work on the audit preparation work. This involves making all general journal entries for 2025, and Ehlers Financial is being used as a guide to ensure it is being entered into the Banyon System properly. Yearend records retention for 2025 have started as well. It was also noted that she has been organizing digital files to make them more user friendly to find documents compared to the old filing system which was confusing. Last week a meeting with MN Power was held about rebates for the LED lights that were installed in the library and if rebate

funds were available for this project. The meeting turned out to be very informative and that the city can submit additional rebates for many projects done within the city in the past few years. A meeting will be held with MN power and the City Engineer, Public Works Director to ensure we don't miss any potential rebate funds. Some of these rebates could come from newly installed generators, main lift station updates, water treatment plant updates, water tower, wells and pickleball courts. They are willing to go back a few years since they didn't reach out to us sooner to provide us with this information on rebate potential, the ball was dropped after Covid on both ends. They also informed us that they will be able to assist us in an energy audit of the Senior Center building as well to help assist the city in making a good decision on how to spend the grant money on the building.

Liquor Store Park & Recreation: Council Member Schroeder reported discussions with Pam regarding Liquor Store year-end data, which indicated lower sales on Sundays. It was noted that the Liquor Store already operates reduced hours on Sundays and that the remaining time is used for deep cleaning, inventory, and stock preparation for the upcoming week and Pam likes having staff on site on Sundays to do these tasks that there isn't time to do during busy hours. After evaluating the situation, it was noted to keep it open on Sundays. Parks and Recreation, Joanne reported discussions about Riverside Park, noting that after the remaining grant is closed out and current improvements are completed, maybe there is a possibility of transferring the park to the Todd County Park Board, as the County has greater capacity for future improvements. At Lake Charlotte Park, the LP Lions Club expressed interest in demolishing the existing pavilion and constructing a new one, with a target completion date of June 1. Demolition is proposed to begin in February. The Lion's Club is currently obtaining cost estimates and will pay for this project; there will be more discussion later on in the meeting.

EDA, Library/Health and Wellness: Council Member Gripne informed the Council that the Library's Winter Reading Program will continue through February 28. Upcoming library events include Songs and Stories of the American West by Kerry Grombacher on February 6 from 2:00–3:00 p.m., funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, and the Thursday Afternoon Book Club meeting on February 12 from 2:00–3:00 p.m., which is open to the public. Residents were advised that the U.S. Census Bureau has distributed the American Community Survey to a random sample of Todd County households and encouraged recipients to complete and return the survey, as it supports funding decisions for local projects. EDA, a meeting was held on January 21, during which an update on childcare was provided and an additional potential option was discussed, with more information to follow. An informational meeting on solar opportunities for homes and businesses in Todd County is scheduled for January 29. A Career Fair will be held at LPGE School on March 27, with the next EDA meeting scheduled for March 18th. In Health and Wellness updates, Melissa Lyon and Laura Hoffman received 2025 Service Awards from the Central Minnesota Council on Aging.

Community Concern for Youth & Public Works: Council Member Perez informed the council that he is waiting for quotes for the senior center yet. As for the Public Works, over the last few weeks Public Works has been busy with some snow removal, maintenance at the water treatment plant, replacing filter media at the water treatment plant and some plumbing repairs. They made some repairs on airport runway lights, and the daily rounds at the treatment facilities.

New Business

The Lions Club requested to replace the existing pavilion at Lake Charlotte Park. This would include the demolition of what is currently there to be replaced with a building that is 6x6 steel beam posts and to put a roof on and raise it up to 10 feet high and to also close the rafters so there are no longer issues with birds and bees residing in that area. There would also be a wider overhang on both sides for rain, the layout would remain the same as before with the storeroom on the Northside for the Lions Club equipment. The existing wall on the Westside would be replaced with rhino fence and eventually a rolldown curtain may be installed in the future. The Lions Club would fund the project.

Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve the Lions Club to begin updates to the pavilion at Lake Charlotte Park; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the XS Consulting Group Support Services Agreement for 2026, in the amount of \$2,106.00 per month; motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.

City Attorney Joe Kruger presented previous terms of a sale for Lot 6, Blk 1 SW Industrial Park. In this agreement it states that construction must begin within one year of purchase date to remain the owner of the lot. This lot was purchased in 2021, and terms were effective in 2022, and at this time nothing has been built. Previous contact and letters have been sent to this individual about the terms. Council directed the city attorney to reach out one more time to the property owner and confirm again that they have no plans and to figure out a course of action from there. If the council decides to honor the purchase agreement, ultimately the city will then regain ownership of the lot.

Mayor Kreemer closed the meeting at 7:33 pm. per Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd 2(b) to consider preliminary allegations against an Employee. Council Member Krueger motioned to reopen the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Council Member Gripne motioned to hire an internal investigation against an employee; motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Roll Call Vote: Schroeder- No, Krueger-No, Gripne-Yes, Kreemer – Yes, Perez-No. Motion Fails.

There being no further business, Mayor Kreemer motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger; unanimously approved- meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor