

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Wednesday February 25th, 2026
Regular City Council Meeting Held in Person

The Regular Long Prairie City Council Meeting was called to order at City Hall at 7:00 pm, on Wednesday February 25th, 2026. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with Present Council Members Clint Krueger, Gabriel Perez, and JoAnn Schroeder. Absent: Lilah Gripne. Also, present: City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder, Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Police Officers Melissa Morazan, and Daniel Steuck, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, and Liquor Store Manager Pam Koska. Members of the public present: Jeremy Sovich, Daniella Chavez, Trevor Larson, Gwen Spieker, Laura Bunde, and Wally Zastrow.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the consent calendar as listed below with the following additions to the agenda as Item #2 Approval/Adoption of the “Citizen Participation Plan” and Item #3 Review quotes for a new Police Squad Car in 2026; motion was seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

- (a) **Approve Agenda for February 25th, 2026**
- (b) **Approve Meeting Minutes for February 11th, 2026**
- (c) **Approve Bills January 24th, 2026-February 20th, 2026, in the amount of \$766,169.87**
- (d) **Approve Gambling Permit for St. Mary of Mount Carmel Raffle on April 25, 2026**

Public Comment

Wally Zastrow spoke as a representative for the Long Prairie Township in regard to the 6th Street Project that they would like to undertake this summer. Correspondence between him and our City Engineer Kent Louwagie were mentioned with the details. The estimated cost for the City’s portion of the project would be \$86,745.00 over two years – in 2026 the cost would be \$47,710.00 and \$39,035.00 in 2027. The total bill for the project is \$225,900 and the project is expected to be completed prior to August 30th in both years. It was noted that a contract with the lawyer should be drawn up to specify the cost-sharing arrangements for council approval.

Council Reports

Tourism & Airport: Council Member Krueger informed the council that tomorrow at 4:00 pm a Tourism meeting will be held. The Airport has a meeting scheduled for March 16th.

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Kreemer informed council that Planning & Zoning met the previous night, and they do have the rental ordinance sent over to the city attorney at this time. The goal is to call for a public hearing in March and have a public hearing in April on the matter.

Police Department and Fire Department: Mayor Kreemer informed council that over the past two weeks of 02/11/26 through 02/25/26 the LPPD had 306 calls with an average of 21.86 per day. This includes: 4 with suspicious activity, 1 civil related, 111 traffic related, 9 juvenile, 11

medicals, 3 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 162 assists, and ordinance specific are: 4 animal-related, and 1 garbage-related complaints. The chief notes that Officer Puff will be attending BCA Basic Narcotics Investigation course March 3rd through the 5th, at the North Rochester Police Department, in Rochester, MN. Officer Steuck delivered 600 lbs. of prescription medication to Pope Douglas Solid waste facility on 02/17/26. Dan Welle Motors brought in the Durango model for review and the city has now received both quotes to be reviewed by the City Council for approval. Chief of Police Ryan Hanson has reviewed the "Command Platform" for the Well Being Program that is under consideration for use by the city and its employees. Fire Chief Dan Laumeier informed the council that they escorted the high school wrestlers out of town for the State Wrestling Tournament and wish them good luck. They also applied for the grant through the U.S. Department of Interior for the slip-on tanker units. Central Bi has had some issues with their fire suppression systems and there have been many false alarms that have been sent out with most being stopped in time, with the exception of one. The issue seems to be located, and it is hoped to be resolved soon.

Administration Report: City Administrator Candace Bruder presented to council that last week was busy with meetings with LP Packing on the agreement related to an old lift station, MN Fresh on services being extended and annexation into the City, Dan's Prize had a tour of the wastewater facility and LMC Annual Insurance Renewal completed. Then on February 18th a meeting was held with Frontier Entergy and MN Power to tally all the projects and to conduct an energy audit at the senior center. At this time, there is no word on rebate amounts or suggestions for the senior center energy savings. Staff have been busy working on audit preparation work, quarterly and monthly reports, retention records, creation of quarterly budget reports for supervisors, organizing files and day-to-day operations. Discussions with the superintendent and athletic director about the city participating in hanging banners for the school for Thunder Pride and possibly in the future Senior Banners around town. A banner has been created by Nick Sarealla for Thunder Pride that the school has approved, and they will be paying for them with donations and school funds there is no cost to the city beyond our man hours to help hang them up. They would line down the road to the High School and Elementary School. Idea of scheduling a possible work session in the future related to updates to the personal policy manual, safe workplace policy, a Demo of the Command Well Being Platform, and misc. items. Stickers that state "Property of the City of Long Prairie" have been ordered to create an inventory system of all items owned by the City in Public Works and all other departments for audit purposes.

Liquor Store Park & Recreation: Council Member Schroeder presented to the council that Parks & Rec has been pretty quiet. Liquor Store Manager Pam Koska presented to the council on a request from them to look into the family dollar building as a new location for more retail space and parking. She noted that the amount of money that would need to be put into it to function as a liquor store would be significant and needs to be part of a 10-year budget plan and it is not a great idea at the time with the current climate in liquor sales. Not to mention the building itself has some very large structural issues. In lieu of this Pam has a proposal for making improvements to the existing location in three phases: a beer cave that can be moved and disassembled as needed, it would change the building minimally while allowing all of the beer cases that are currently stored everywhere to be stored solely in there. Another item that has been discussed previously and is being worked on would be to enlarge the parking lot as far as we are

able to on the south side. The 2nd phase could include an entry overhang to create a nicer entrance that includes an ATM and shopping carts. The 3rd phase could include taking out where the liquor room is currently and moving the register lanes to the north side of the building, if necessary, they could also move the office. At this time a beer cave would give the options for additional space and any future renovations that would be wanted. It was noted that alcohol sales are on the decline overall but not in Long Prairie. These suggested changes would improve the overall appeal of the liquor store to improve sales and longevity in that location site.

EDA, Library/Health & Wellness: City Administrator Candace Bruder presented on behalf of absent Council Member Gripne, that if you know of someone in need of utility bill support, contact the Citizen's Utility Board via contact@cupminnesota.org. Minnesota is facing a \$2 billion loss in federal funding if the legislature fails to act on fraud. The Census faces cutbacks in 2026 testing for the 2030 Census. As for the Library, the Thursday Afternoon Book Club continues to meet from 2:00-3:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month. On April 8, from 5:00-6:30 pm Textiles for Teens: Pattern Design Studio program for teens will be held. Registration opens on Wednesday, February 25th at 5:00 pm. Must register to participate and this program is funded by Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. The next meeting for the EDA will be held on Wednesday, March 18th.

Community Concern for Youth and Public Works: Council Member Perez informed the council that over the last few weeks Public Works has been busy trimming trees at parks and intersections, general equipment maintenance, and the normal daily rounds at the treatment facilities. The next few weeks public works will be plowing snow as needed, building picnic tables for the lake charlotte park picnic shelters.

New Business

Christie House requested a \$4,000 donation from the city for expenses related to a Historical Facility that the city does own in downtown LP. The Christie House has its own committees that maintain the grounds and funds, they are just asking for this amount as assistance to maintain operations and expenses. The requested amount has been stable for the last few years. They have noted that they are looking into getting the roof re-shingled and are looking into historical funding from the State of MN. It was noted that council would like more information on how the facility operates and who maintains the facility.

Council Member Krueger motioned to table the donation request of \$4,000 to the Christie House Historical Society until the council has further information; motion was Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

Review the Mayor official adoption/approving the "Citizen Participation Plan" that coincides with the Small Cities Grants, and this requirement needs to be met before the public hearing on March 11th. It is another requirement from DEED for funding.

Council Member Krueger motioned to adopt/approve the Citizen Participation Plan; motion was Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

Review request from Long Prairie Police Chief that was requested yesterday for the agenda, after the second quote came from Dan Welle and a model was available for viewing on site. Two quotes are attached, they are very close. This is a budgeted item for 2026 and is in the financial management plan and meets the estimated amounts.

Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Durango Pursuit V8 Hemi at the price of \$49,500 (plus applicable taxes, license title fees): motion Seconded by Council Member Perez. Unanimously Approved.

There being no further business, Council Member Krueger motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder; unanimously approved-meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor