

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**City Council Meeting Held Via-Teleconference**

The Long Prairie City Council met by phone at City Hall, 7:00 pm, on Monday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Mayor Jodi Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present by phone or at City Hall: Council members, Lilah Gripne, David Wright, Don Rasmussen, and City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray. Randy Mechels was Absent. Others present in person Dattrick Mitchell, Amada Hinson, Ryan Hanson, Bob Klick, Jeremy Sovich, Pat Schultz, Dan Laumeyer, and Otis Ostendorf. Others present by phone, Yusef Orest, Dan Swenson, Kent Louwagie, and Joe Kreuger.

**Council member Wright motioned Dixon seconded to approve the consent agenda with the addition (d) to the agenda:**

- (a) Approve Agenda for December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
- (b) Approve Minutes for November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
- (c) Approve Special Meeting Minutes for November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
- (d) Additions to the agenda items 3, 4, 7, and 8**
  - 3. CentraCare Update to the City Council on COVID-19 – Dan Swenson**
  - 4. Discussion on Charter / CTC Franchise Agreements**
  - 7. Review Fire Department Memo**
  - 8. Discuss options for Outdoor Ice-Skating Rink**

**Roll Call Vote: Yes: Wright, Gripne, Rasmussen, Dixon. No: 0. Motion carried unanimously.**

(New Business)

Mayor Dixon opened the Public Hearing for Truth and Taxation at 7:02 p.m. Amada Hinson was present and addressed the council with her questions regarding her proposed taxes. Amanda thanked the council for allowing her to speak. She stated that her tax increase was 21%, roughly a \$100.00 increase. She expressed that her house value does not compare to what it is being assessed for. Administrator Gray explained the what the City's increase was and based on the average household. The City of Long Prairie's budget increase was around 7.00%. Administrator Gray explained that there are other factors for the overall increase being higher, some of those questions need to be directed to the assessor's office. Council member Wright commented that his taxes had also shown a much higher increase and asked Administrator Gray if some research could be completed as to why the residential taxes and assessments were much higher this year. With no other questions or comments Mayor Dixon closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

**Council member Gripne motioned Rasmussen seconded to approve Resolution 20-12-07-01 Adopting the 2020 Tax Levy Collectible in the Year 2021.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yes: Gripne, Rasmussen, Dixon No: Wright. Motion carried 3 to 1.**

**RESOLUTION #20-12-07-01**  
**ADOPTING THE 2020 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN THE YEAR 2021**

**Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie, County of Todd, Minnesota, that the following presents the final tax levy collectible in 2021 upon the taxable property in the City of Long Prairie for the following purposes:**

**Levy Purpose**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$492,883</b>
<b>2010A G.O. Bond</b>	<b>\$129,189</b>
<b>2012A G.O. Bond</b>	<b>\$ 77,758</b>
<b>2016A G.O. Bond</b>	<b>\$119,370</b>
<b>2018B G.O. Bond</b>	<b><u>\$162,645</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$981,845</b>

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**Theodore Gray**  
**City Administrator/Clerk**

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**Jodi Dixon**  
**Mayor**

Dan Swenson from CentraCare gave a COVID-19 update to the City Council. Dan started by thanking the community for all of the donations received over the past months. The staff at CentraCare continues to appreciate community support. Dan encourages the community to continue wearing masks, practice social distancing, and limit exposure as much as possible. But if you are still sick and need help, do not hesitate to contact your local health provider. Dan explained that the Long Prairie CentraCare location would be receiving non COVID-19 related patients. The Sauk Centre and St. Cloud locations would handle COVID-19 patients. Members of the community are still to be tested at the Long Prairie location. These are completed four days a week and can be scheduled through MyChart or online. Council member Wright asked if they had about the CentraCare COVID-19 call center and the long hold times. Dan explained that since March, the CentraCare call center has received nearly 3 million calls with questions. As much as possible, Dan encourages the use of the online and MyChart accounts to schedule appointments. With no additional questions, Dan thanked the City Council for allowing him the time to give this update.

Administrator Gray and City Attorney Joe Krueger explained the resent negotiations that have occurred with Charter Communications regarding a Franchise Agreement. For the year 2021 there will not be franchise fee charged to Charter by the City of Long Prairie. The plan would be to charge the franchise fee in 2022 for both CTC and Charter.

Yusef Orest from MN Power presented to the council on the EV Car Charging Stations that where recently awarded to the City of Long Prairie through a grant. Yusef explained this EV Charger is a Level 2 charger which is connected to a 240-volt circuit. The charger is too be available to all electric vehicles and works very similar to a gas station. Yusef explained that patrons who use the charging station would pay for the service through an app called ChargeHub. The City may also add a charging fee. We can set the costs for three items, a connection fee, a charging rate (by kWh or by time), and a parking rate. There is no monthly cost with this service, but a 10% surcharge is put on the driver's bill to pay the credit card companies, ChargeHub, etc. For example, if the charging session totals \$5, a \$2 connection fee and 2 hours

of charging at \$1.50/hour of charging, then the City gets \$5. This revenue would be deposited into the City's account. Users can find these stations across the state by using basic search engines, such as google. All electric vehicles would be able to use this charger. With no additional questions Yusef thanked the council and would be available for any assistance as the City installs the EV chargers.

**Council member Gripne motioned Wright seconded to approve the business licenses to sell cigarettes for Riverside Liquors, Northern Star Coop, Casey's, Holiday Gas Station, Coborn's, Family Dollar, and Dollar General.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yes: Wright, Gripne, Rasmussen, Dixon. No: 0. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Gripne motioned Wright seconded to approve the beer off sale license for Coborn's, Mi Pueblito Market, Holiday Gas Station for the year 2021. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yes: Gripne, Rasmussen, Wright, Dixon. No: 0. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Rasmussen motioned Gripne seconded to approve the General Corporate License for Irish's Place, American Legion, and The Red Lounge for the year 2021.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yes: Rasmussen, Wright, Gripne, Dixon. No: 0. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Gripne motioned Dixon seconded to approve the beer on sale license for Taqueria Chavez LLC for the year 2021.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yes: Wright, Gripne, Rasmussen, Dixon. No: 0. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Gripne motioned Dixon seconded to approve the intoxication liquor license for Irish's Place and The Red Lounge for the year 2021.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yes: Rasmussen, Wright, Gripne, Dixon. No: 0. Motion carried unanimously.**

The council reviewed the updated bylaws for the Long Prairie Volunteer Fire Department. Council member asked question regarding Article 11, Section 5 on topic of beards by firefighters. The firefighters may have facial hair, not full beards. Every firefighter successfully passed the annual fit test for their SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses).

**Council member Gripne motioned Dixon seconded to approve the updated Bylaws for the Long Prairie Volunteer Fire Department.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yes: Rasmussen, Gripne, Wright, Dixon. No: 0. Motion carried unanimously.**

The council discussed the possibility of having an outdoor ice-skating rink. There were three options presented. Through discussion Soldiers field was decided to be the best location. Administrator Gray will continue to research the feasibility of this outdoor ice rink.

(Public Comment)

Pat Schultz addressed the council regarding his property line shown on the County GIS with Riverside Park and his taxes. Administrator Gray had mentioned that he had submitted the survey to the Todd County for updates and would follow up with them on these questions.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Administrator Gray gave an update on public works department. The new wastewater plant is fully operational. The department plans to complete annual equipment maintenance, tree trimming, and clean water and wastewater plant buildings.

Police Safety: Council member Wright gave a report on the Police and Fire Departments. The Police Department had received a traffic safety grant from AAA in the sum of 550.00. The money will be used for a portable pedestrian crossing sign. There were 274 incidents in November. The officers completed their night and adverse weather qualification shoot on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Officer Rakow attended a two-day School Resource Officer Training in Bemidji. This was sponsored by the MN School Safety Center and the cost was free. The department will be attending death investigation class this next week. Todd County's goal is to eliminate civilian death investigators and have law enforcement conduct the investigations. This will be a savings of about \$30,000.00 a year for the county.

Planning & Zoning: Council member Gripne gave a report, stating that Planning and Zoning will be meeting on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to review a variance request.

Community Concerns: Mayor Dixon stated that they gave out almost 200 bags of goods to kids who stopped by the Drive by Santa held on December 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a food drop at the Senior Center on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Council member Wright motioned Gripne seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm. Motion unanimously carried.**

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Ted Gray  
City Administrator/Clerk

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Jodi Dixon  
Mayor