

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Monday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**City Council Meeting Held Via-Teleconference**

The Long Prairie City Council met by phone at City Hall, 7:00 pm, on Monday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Mayor Jodi Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present by phone or at City Hall: Council members, Lilah Gripne, Bob Klick, Datrik Mitchell, David Wright, and City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray. Others present Dan Laumeyer, Kent Louwagie, Bob Kunz, Elaine Kunz, Daiv Freeman, Luan Brunkhorst, and Officer Trevor Larson.

**Council member Klick motioned Mitchell seconded to approve the consent agenda:**

- (a) Approve Agenda for March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 with additional agenda item 6**
- 6. Approve Raffle for the Long Prairie Chamber Orchestra**
- (b) Approve Minutes for March 1st, 2021**
- (c) Approve February – March Bills**

(Appointments)

Bob Kunz from the Legion Riders presented to the City Council. The Legion Riders is an organization that helps support military members and their families by hosting several fundraising events within the City of Long Prairie. The organization would like to assist the City of Long Prairie in purchasing American Flags for light poles on highway 71 and 27. The flags would be hung on poles, similar to the downtown area during holidays and potential through out the summer months. The City Council will support this partnership and work with Legion Riders on this project. City Administrator Gray will work with the Public Works department to count the number of light poles on Highway 71 and 27 and confirm the type of brackets used to secure the flags.

Daiv Freeman addressed the council regarding the option to allow apartments, that are at street level, to have access or entrance to Central Ave. Daiv currently has a property located at 334 Central Ave, which he is currently remodeling the residential space in the rear of the building. Daiv explained that to gain additional space and for safety he would like to have a second entrance that would be located on Central Ave through the office space at the front of the building. Administrator Gray read through the ordinance related to the downtown district. The current ordinance states that a property downtown, in the Commercial One District, may have Residential units of two or less provided the units do not change the original use of the property/building. If there were to be an entrance through the original office space, this would be a violation of the ordinance. Daiv had asked about other properties downtown that do allow for access to Central Ave, such as the Reichert Building. Council member Klick and Gripne explained that the building was allowed for residential access to Central Ave due to redevelopment tax increment financing district created to remodel the building. There are also other buildings downtown that have access to Central Ave, these are allowed because they existed prior to our building code ordinance. The discussion lead into the question of, should the City reconsider the option to allow apartments on Central Ave. By allowing the creation of these apartments, it may assist in the use of buildings, that are currently vacant. There was concerned raised about the feasibility and safety of allowing this, but the council was receptive and would continue to look into this topic. Daiv Freeman went on to ask what the overall future is for the

downtown area. The city has had plans created, such as a Comprehensive Plan that was created in 2016, but the implantation and action to follow these plans take time. Council member Wright mentioned that the city is aware of the issues facing downtown and the other parts of the community. It may not be a bad idea to review certain areas of the downtown to re-establish potential uses for those properties. After the discussion Daiv thanked the City Council and invited the members of the City Council to stop by anytime for a review of his property.

(Old Business)

Luan Brunkhorst presented to the City Council updated information regarding the advertisement in the Up North Magazine. Luan reviewed the costs, the size of the advertisement, and where it would be circulated. The advertisement would include a calendar of events in the Long Prairie area throughout the whole year.

**Council member Dixon motioned Mitchell seconded to approve the advertisement in the Up North magazine in the amount of \$1,048.00. Motion carried unanimously.**

(New Business)

**Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve Resolution 21-03-15-04 Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvements. Motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION 21-03-15-04  
AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT  
INCLUDING LAND ACQUISITION**

**It is resolved by the City of Long Prairie as follows:**

**1. That the state of Minnesota Agreement No. 1045846,  
"Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Including Land Acquisition," for  
State Project No. A7701-34 at the Long Prairie Municipal Airport is accepted.**

**2. That the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are  
Mayor City administrator**

**authorized to execute this Agreement and any amendments on behalf of the  
City of Long Prairie.**

**CERTIFICATION**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_**

**I certify that the above Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the**

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**City of Long Prairie**

**at an authorized meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,20**  
**as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**(Clerk or Equivalent)**

**CORPORATE SEAL**

**/OR/**

**NOTARY PUBLIC**

**My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Council member Dixon motioned Klick seconded to approve the completion of the Probationary Period for Candace Bruder. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Gripne motioned Wright seconded to approve the Resignation of Police Chief Kevin Langer effective April 30th, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Klick motioned Mitchell seconded to approve the updated Bylaws for the Long Prairie EDA. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Council reviewed the 2020 Police Statistics Report for the City of Long Prairie.

**Council member Dixon motioned Mitchell seconded to approve the Raffle for the Long Prairie Chamber Orchestra. Motion carried unanimously.**

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Council member Mitchell gave a report on the Public Works Department. The daily water/ wastewater rounds and samples are going fine. The Public Works Department will be working on equipment maintenance/shop projects, sweeping streets as needed, and patching holes. The chlorine contact chamber at the wastewater treatment plant is cleaned out and will re-start the chlorinating process next week.

Police Safety: Council member Wright gave a report on the Fire Departments. Unit 149 will have the exhaust system repaired. Administrator Gray, Fire Chief Laumeyer, and Second Assistant Chief Bodle met with Long Prairie township to review their fire contracts.

EDA: Council member Wright gave a report on the EDA. The Long Prairie EDA has invited EDA Directors from Wadena and Staples to talk through ideas and answer questions on EDA related questions.

Liquor Store: Council member Klick helped install new shelving at the liquor store.

Planning & Zoning: Council member Gripne reported that the Planning and Zoning will be meeting on Monday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:45 p.m. at 691 Centennial Terrace to hear a request for a Variance.

Mayor Dixon gave a report. The Senior Center will add additional hours starting next week, they will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation met prior to tonight's council meeting and discussed the letter to the Long Prairie Leader regarding Riverside Park. They also heard presentation from Les Levin and Charlie Reichert in regards to potential involvement from the Long Prairie Lions on future park projects.

Administrator Gray discussed with the City Council the 2021 Road Improvement Project Open House that took place at City Hall on Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>. Engineers from Bolton and Menk met with 27 individuals either by phone or in person to discuss how the project would affect them. The overall concern revolved around the preliminary assessments. Administrator Gray explained that there will be continued discussion regarding this issue before final approval of this project is presented to council.

**Council member Dixon motioned Klick seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm.  
Motion unanimously carried.**

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Ted Gray  
City Administrator/Clerk

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Jodi Dixon  
Mayor