

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday April 19th, 2021
City Council Meeting Held Via-Teleconference

The Long Prairie City Council met by phone at City Hall, 7:00 pm, on Monday April 19th, 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, Dattrick Mitchell, David Wright, and City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray. Others present Dan Laumeyer, Kent Louwagie, Chad Bosl, Officer Ryan Hanson, Officer Trevor Larson, Officer Duane Breiter, Police Chief Kevin Langer, Jasmine Ecker, Charlie Reichert, Jess Swartzentruber, Mitch Johnson, Paul Urman, Pat Schultz, and Luan Brunkhorst.

Council member Klick motioned Wright seconded to approve the consent agenda:

- (a) Approve Agenda for April 19th, 2021 with the addition to the appointments, item 3, Jasmine Ecker discuss Lions Park.**
- (b) Approve Minutes for April 5th, 2021**
- (c) Approve Bills for March and April 2021**

Motion carried unanimously.

(Appointments)

Luan Brunkhorst presented to the City Council on the upcoming Prairie Days. Prairie Days will take place on Saturday June 19th. Set up time is 11:00 a.m. with the final band ending at 12:00 p.m. (midnight). The Lions Club will be providing a beer garden for the event. The area to be blocked off for Prairie Days will be from 1st Street to the Post Office Alley, with several side streets being used for vendors and activities. The Lions Club will also be coordinating a parade for Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Mitch Johnson from the Long Prairie Baseball Association addressed the City Council on the proposed fees for Rosen Field's that was discussed at the April 5th Council meeting. Mitch mentioned that if the proposed fees were in place it would be a cost of around three to four thousand dollars a year to use the facility. Mitch went on to explain the various items and work the baseball association provides to the maintenance and up keep of the fields. The association has provided, bases, portable pitching mounds, chalk, and drags the infields after games and practices. The school also assists in provided equipment and maintenance for the fields. Mitch explained that all three groups, The City, School, and association all work together to maintain the Rosen Fields. If the fees were charged, Mitch stated, the city staff would need to complete these day-to-day maintenance tasks, which would take additional time and add expense. The baseball association also hosts several tournaments which can bring in 3 to 6 hundred people to attend those games. This can lead to community growth and promotion. The promotion also includes banners from local businesses that the association hangs up every year. The association uses the revenue from those banners to purchase equipment and supplies. Mitch thanked the council allowing him to speak. Council member Wright asked that the potential park fees be added to the May 3rd council meeting for additional discussion.

Jasmine Ecker addressed the council regarding concerns at Lions Park. For the past few years Jasmine has noticed the exposure of the concrete bases anchoring the playground equipment. Over that time period these bases were overlooked and not taken care of. Jasmine stated that this

was a hazard and a danger to anyone attending the park. This also could lead to an insurance claim and lawsuit. There were also several toys that were broken and a missing swing. Administrator Gray stated that this had been brought to his attention and a quote was obtained to replace the current rocks with certified wood chips. The City would also look at the equipment repairs and replacement, as well look into a way to clean up the concrete bases. Charlie Reichert from the Long Prairie Lions was also present. Charlie stated that the wood chips discussed would be ADA compliant and that the Lions would help in anyway either financially or with volunteer hours to assist in the clean up and update of the park. Administrator Gray will have a follow up to the council on the progress made at the Lions Park at the next council meeting.

(New Business)

Administrator Gray presented to the council a recommendation from the hiring committee to hire Office Duane Breiter to be the new Police Chief for the City of Long Prairie. This hire would include the following stipulations, a 1-year probation period starting May 1st, 2021. Starting pay will be Step 2 of the Police Chief Wage Scale. Chief Breiter will have a list of tasks to be completed but are not limited to, Police Officer Evaluations and Delegation of Current Job Responsibilities. Chief Breiter will be preparing the task list and a timeline of reporting. This will be approved by the City Council and will be monitored for completion by the City Administrator and Police Department Liaison. After completion of certain tasks, the City Council may ask for a report from Chief Breiter. Council member Gripne mentioned that the Police Chief needs to be working Chief

Mayor Dixon motioned Wright seconded to approve the recommendation to hire officer Duane Breiter to be the new Police Chief with the presented stipulations.

Council member Wright who was on the hiring committee further commented that it was a very difficult decision and was disappointed that there were only 3 candidates who were all well qualified for the position. Wright thanked those who applied for the position and expressed appreciation for the work that our Police Officers do. In the next few years, it may be very difficult to hire a new officer and there will be challenges ahead for any Police Chief and Police Department.

Roll Call Vote: No: Mitchell; Yes: Gripne, Wright, Klick, Dixon; Motion Carried 4 to 1.

The council reviewed the advertisements for a new full time police officer and additional part time police officers. The council discussed the requirements to be a police officer and that the job applications will be collected until Thursday May 27th.

Council member Klick motioned Mitchell seconded to approve rental of Cimline 230M2 DH Melter for one month in the amount of \$5,895.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Klick motioned Dixon seconded to approve Pay Request #21 for Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements in the amount of \$10,068.32 payable to Rice Lake Construction Group. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Klick motioned Mitchell seconded to approve Pay Request #22 for Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements in the amount of \$303.08 payable to Rice Lake Construction Group. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Gray presented to the council the seal coat bids that were opened on April 7th at 11:00 a.m. The bid amounts are as followed

Astech Corp:	\$25,757.76
Pearson Brothers INC:	\$28,728.60
Allied Black Top:	\$33,234.00
Asphalt Preservation	\$38,886.96
Morris Sealcoat	\$40,993.44

The recommendation would be to accept the bid from Astech Corp in the amount of \$25,757.76.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to approve 2021 Seal Coating Bid from Astech Corp in the amount of \$25,757.76. Motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed additional roads to possibly be added to the 2021 Seal Coating Project.

Mayor Dixon motioned Klick seconded to move forward with the additional Seal Coating Roads. Council member Gripne abstained; motion carried.

(Public Comments)

Council member Wright inquired on properties in town with ordinance violation and asked for an update on the process being taken to enforce these violations. Administrator Gray stated that we have had officers completing ordinance violations and writing tickets as needed. Gray encouraged the council to stop in and review letters and tickets that have been sent out for ordinance violations.

(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. As the weather warms up and the forecast is favorable, we will open bathrooms at the parks and ball fields. Public works will also be working on shop projects, flushing hydrants, and patching holes in the next few weeks.

Police Safety: Council member Wright gave a report on the Police and Fire Departments. The Fire department had Alexandria Air Apparatus in for testing on the compressor system. There was an unfortunate call to a mobile home fire which displaced a family. The Fire Department is working with Red Cross to assist the family. The Kubota was at Alex Power Sports for repairs.

The Police Department handed out certificates at the School Patrol Ceremony. April 24th will be LPGE Prom and the department will be having an officer at the dance. Chief Langer wanted to thank the City Council both past and present for the continued quality relationship with the Police Department and himself for the past 31 years. The council also expressed gratitude to Chief Langer for his years of service to the community.

Liquor Store: Council member Klick gave a report on the Liquor Store. The Liquor Store will be working on updating the isle signage this summer.

Airport: Council member Klick gave a report on the Airport. The Airport commission held a meeting on April 7th and reviewed the airport master plan with Bolton & Menk. Klick explained that the plan is designed to look at all options for potential future projects related to the airport. This does not mean that all or any will be funded, but that there is plan in place to have options.

Census: Council member Gripne gave a report on the Census. With the results of the Census nearing completion, it has been stated that the State of Minnesota will not be losing a state representative.

Mayor Dixon thanked all who helped with the tree planting at Harmony Park. They were able to plant 36 trees.

Administrator Gray discussed with the City Council the 2021 Road Improvement Project and laid out some upcoming timelines. Plans and specifications are planned to be submitted to Todd County for review on Friday April 23rd. Pending approval by Todd County, the plans and specifications will be submitted to MnDOT's State Aid office for review. This review process may take a few weeks. Once received back there may be revisions, if there are none we will move to advertisement for bids. These must be published a minimum of three weeks prior to opening bids. The City is continuing to with Ehlers on a cost study for this project. The City will be completing the annual audit this week, April 19th through April 23rd.

Council member Klick motioned Dixon seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Motion unanimously carried.

Ted Gray
City Administrator/Clerk

Jodi Dixon
Mayor