

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday August 2nd, 2021
City Council Meeting Held Via-Teleconference

The Long Prairie City Council met by phone at City Hall, 7:00 pm, on Monday August 2nd, 2021, Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present by phone or at City Hall: Council members, David Wright, Lilah Gripne, Bob Klick, and City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray. Others present Kent Louwagie, Police Chief Duane Breiter, Officer Roger Lowe, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, Jessica Zinter, and Dave Ruda.

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

- (a) Approve Agenda for August 2nd, 2021, with the addition of Jessica Zinter to the appointments and the Club Liquor License Renewal for The American Legion and Liquor License for Chavez Event Center to New Business.**
- (b) Approve minutes for July 19th, 2021**

Motion carried unanimously

(Appointments)

Dave Ruda addressed the council regarding concerns he has on the safety of drivers entering and exiting the 2nd Ave Apartments. Dave had provided videos of several vehicles exiting the property. In viewing the videos some would stop and exit, and others would exit with out stopping. Also, Dave gave a testimonial of an incident where his wife's car was almost struck by a vehicle leaving the apartment entrance when she was exiting her driveway. Dave asked if there is any enforcement or education that the city can do to help correct this safety issue. City Administrator Gray and Chief Breiter will look into these options. Dave also questioned when he would hear back on the light issue that was discussed at the July 6th meeting. In reviewing the ordinance on conditional use permits, the timeline allotted for review of this issue was not clear. Dave also mentioned that it appeared that the concrete slab referenced in the conditional use permit was not located at the entrance of the apartments which would be used for a school bus loading zone. Administrator Gray stated that he had spoken with the developer, and they stated they would be working on reviewing the light issue. Mayor Dixon stated that she would like Administrator Gray to reach out again to the developer to gain a response and request attendance at the next council meeting which would be August 16th.

Jessica Zinter presented to the council a proposal to close off 1st Ave S (between 4th Street S and Todd Street S) for pedestrian traffic during the Parish Festival at St. Mary's of Mount Carmel Parish from 9am to 4pm on Sunday September 12, 2021. This would allow for pedestrian traffic to safely access the field south of 1st Ave where there will be activities for kids and adults. The parish would set up and take down the barricades before and after the event.

Council member Gripne motioned Dixon seconded to approve the closure of 1st Ave S (between 4th Street S and Todd Street S) for pedestrian traffic during the Parish Festival at St. Mary's of Mount Carmel Parish from 9am to 4pm on Sunday September 12, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

The council suggested the Jessica to contact Todd County Dispatch to inform all emergency personal of this temporary road closure.

Chief Breiter and Officer Lowe presented to the council a proposal to purchase body worn cameras for the police department. The importance of having body worn cameras has grown over the past few years. The department currently uses body worn microphones and squad cameras; these body worn cameras would not replace these items. Officer Lowe presented to the council a body worn camera that was borrowed from the Todd County Sheriff's office. The cameras that would be purchased would be the same as the Sheriff's department. The body camera would come with a magnet that attaches to the officer's vest and then to the camera. Due to the strength of this magnet, it would be very difficult for this camera to fall off or be removed from the officer. Through discussion it was asked when and how often the cameras would be used. Would they have activated for every incident? What if an officer turns the camera off during an incident? The department is currently working on policies to help answer these questions. These policies on how to and when to use the cameras would be in place prior to implantation. In regards to the officer turning off the camera during an incident, within the policy they would have to provide justification as to why it was turned off. Turning the camera off would not be best practice. There will also be a public meeting before implementation for the residents of Long Prairie to attend to ask questions. The initial cost to purchase these cameras and equipment would be \$15,395.00. There will be audit expense of \$1,500.00 every two years and \$50.00 an hour contract expense with Todd County to complete video redactions. If the city wanted to purchase the software to complete the redactions in house, it would add \$7,000.00 to the overall costs.

Council member Klick motioned Dixon seconded to approve the purchase of the 8 body cameras in the amount of \$15,395.00 and approve the contract with Todd County to complete video redactions at a rate of \$50.00 an hour. Motion carried unanimously.

(Old Business)

The council reviewed a Peddlers License Request from Gatis Melbardis who had recently applied and was denied at prior council meeting. Gatis represented the request and provided additional information about himself and the product he was selling. Council member Klick had spoken with Gatis and reached out to other cities that he was selling his product in. Through discussion the council still expressed concerns about this peddler license.

Council member Gripne motioned Dixon seconded to deny the peddler license. Motion passed 3 to 1.

(New Business)

Council member Dixon motioned Gripne seconded to approve Resolution of Sponsors Ship 21-08-02-01 for the Community Concern for Youth Program with Todd-Wadena Community Corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION OF SPONSORSHIP
21-08-02-01**

Resolution authorizing participation with the Community Concern for Youth Program with Todd-Wadena Community Corrections

BE IT RESOLVED by the Long Prairie City Council that Todd County act as sponsoring unit of government for the project entitled Community Concern for Youth to be conducted by Todd-Wadena Community Corrections during the period from 01/01/22 through 12/31/22. Barb Becker, Chairperson, Todd County Board of Commissioners, is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and funding as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Long Prairie City Council.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Long Prairie City Council hereby agrees to contribute \$2,941.00 for the project entitled Todd-Wadena Community Concern for Youth during the period from 01/01/21 through 12/31/22, which is to be paid on 01/01/22.

It is understood that the Long Prairie-Grey Eagle School Board contributes \$3,711.00, and the Grey Eagle City Council contributes \$346.00, for a total community contribution of \$6,998.00.

I hereby certify that the above resolutions were adopted by the Long Prairie City Council on _____.

Signed:

Witnessed:

(Signature)

(Signature)

Mayor

Clerk-Administrator

(Title)

(Date)

(Title)

(Date)

Council member Klick motioned Dixon seconded to approve the Revolving Loan Fund request by Robert Kunz and Tyler Kunz in the amount of \$26,000.00 at term of 5 years with at an interest rate of 4%. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Klick motioned Wright seconded to approve the 2022 Legal Services Contract. Motion carried unanimously.

The council discussed a proposal to repair and update the “Welcome to Long Prairie Signs”. The proposal included work for the highway 71 sign facing South and the highway 27 sign facing East. The highway 71 sign is in the need of repair and would have a cost of \$3,293.50. The council is in favor of replacing and updating the signs, but concerns were raised in regards to budgeted dollars for this project and the properties these signs are located on. Administrator Gray will look to allocate funds for this project as well check on the easements needed to allow for these signs to remain at the same location or possible a different location.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to approve the American Legion Post 12 Club Liquor License renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

The council discussed the liquor license for the Chavez Event Center located at 220 1st Ave S. The council questioned the occupancy status of the property and parking options for the event center.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to table the request for a liquor license from Chavez Event Center. Motion carried unanimously.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Administrator Gray read a report from Chad Bosl. The daily water and wastewater rounds and samples are continuing without an issues. Aeration basin number 3 is back online at the wastewater treatment plant. We will continue to monitor the flows at the water treatment to meet the August water usage goal. The department will continue to mill, patch holes, mow, and finish painting in the next few weeks.

Police Safety: Council member Wright gave a report on the Police and Fire Departments. The fire department will be having their drive through chicken and corn feed on Thursday August 12th. The Police Department had 358 calls in July. The 2021 Squad should be completed at the end of this week. Officer Wise's training has been moving along and will be working with Officer Hanson this week.

Airport: The Airport will be holding a meeting on Wednesday, August 18th, 2021

Planning & Zoning: Council member Gripne reported that Planning & Zoning will be meeting on Monday August 9th to continue review of the rental ordinance.

Library: Council member Gripne reported that this is the last week of the children's summer reading program.

Community: Mayor Dixon reported that the 55 alive driving classes maybe postponed this fall due to COVID concerns. Mayor Dixon also asked Chief Breiter about vehicle noise issues. Chief Breiter responded that there are certain vehicles with noise issues that can be in violation of the city code. The police department will monitor these complaints and issue tickets when needed.

Administration: Administrator Gray gave a reported that the city had been in contact with Minnesota Power in regards to the more frequent power outages that have occurred. A representative from Minnesota Power will be reaching out to the city to provide more clarification on this issue. Gray stated that the city had received their first half of American Rescue Plan funds. There will be further discussion at the August 16th council meeting. Gray will also be attending a meeting by Todd County regarding the American Rescue Plan Funds.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Motion unanimously carried.

Ted Gray
City Administrator/Clerk

Jodi Dixon
Mayor