

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Monday August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**City Council Meeting Held in Person & Via-Teleconference**

The Long Prairie City Council met in person and by phone at City Hall, 7:00 pm, on Monday August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present by phone or at City Hall: Council members, Bob Klick, Lilah Gripne, David Wright, Dattrick Mitchell, and City Administrator Ted Gray. Others present Police Chief Ryan Hanson, Officer Trevor Larson, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, Kent Louwagie, Jessica Cook, Daiv Freeman, Teresa Sorenson, and Haley Buhl.

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

- (a) Approve Agenda for August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**
- (b) Approve Council Meeting Minutes from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**
- (c) Approve Bills for July-August**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

(Presentations)

Jessica Cook from Ehlers presented to the City Council the Financial Management Plan. The plan is a multi-year fiscal plan for all tax supported funds. This plan can provide clarity to residents on future projects and expenses. The plan uses assumptions/estimates on percentage increases to the tax levy, local government aid, market value on homes, and expense increases over the next 10 years. In the presentation Jessica presented graphs showing the City's current debt levies and expenses, along with several funds such the Park and Fire Funds that were reviewed. Jessica also presented on a proposed storm water fund related to the 2022 road project. To close the presentation the council reviewed the tax impacts on a median value home. For the City of Long Prairie, the median value home was \$135,762.00. With that the tax impact at this time based on the preliminary budget for 2023, the tax increase would be \$11.00 or 1.78% for this valued home. There were questions raised regarding the assumption of property values continuing to increase throughout this plan. In response Jessica explained that yes throughout the plan the values of homes are projected to increase and if there was drop in value to these homes the tax impacts would change. The city is also planning for contingency's that maybe able to assist during a decrease in home values. The council had raised concerns regarding the fee's related to storm water. They instructed Administrator Gray to review these charges.

Haley Buhl from the Community Concern for Youth representative for Todd County presented to the City Council an update on their previous year's activities. Haley presented a document showing the overview of the activities they had participated in as well as the hours served within the City of Long Prairie. The total hours of community service provided for Long Prairie was 194 hours. There were additional hours worked in other program areas.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Council member Mitchell reported that the daily water/ wastewater rounds, and samples are going fine. The department has continued patching streets, painting crosswalks and school crossing. The sealcoating is scheduled to be completed on Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Public Safety: Council member Wright reported for the Fire and Police Departments. The Police Department handled 149 incidents. Several officers participated in National Night Out. In the upcoming weeks, Officer Wise will be attending interdiction training, Office Rakow will be attending a Child Safety Training, and Officer Larson is attending online training on gun permits. The Fire Department will be participating in the Bike & Trike Rally Demo Derby. The Rescue Truck will be headed down to Lino Lakes for repairs. From the funds raised at the chicken and corn feed the department was able to purchase the air bag equipment. The Fire Department appreciates the community support.

Liquor Store: Council member Klick reported on the Liquor Store. The council reviewed the July Financial report. Klick reported that the liquor store is looking to update the floors.

Health & Wellness: Council member Gripne reported on the Health and Wellness meeting from August 12<sup>th</sup>. The main topic was suicide prevention.

Planning & Zoning: Council member Gripne reported on the variance hearing at the 814 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE and the upcoming Planning and Zoning Meeting scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup> regarding 150 Central Ave.

Library: Council member Gripne reported that the library had given out all free food bags that had been donated.

Community: Mayor Dixon reported on several upcoming events at the Senior Center. On August 21<sup>st</sup> the center will be celebration National Senior day from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. On August 25<sup>th</sup> the Senior Center will be hosting a pie social.

Administration: Administrator Gray gave brief update on the close out of the 2021 Audit and the preliminary budget for 2023. Administrator Gray discussed with the council on the concerns and questions they had regarding the Financial Management Plan presentation. The council asked that the storm water fees be revised, and the purchase of a new Rescue Truck for the Fire Department be moved to 2023 instead of 2024.

Administrator Gray provided the council with City Engineer Kent Louwagie' s road project update. The project is on schedule, the box culverts have been placed in Veinewitz Creek and the next steps are to prepare 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave to be repaved. This would include adding the curbing along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. There was discussion regarding concerns on the appropriate notification of the water shut offs for residents in the project area on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. This will be brought to the attention of the engineers and project manager.

(New Business)

**Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve Braun Intertec Invoice in the amount of \$1,938.50. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Gripne motioned Dixon seconded to deny the solicitation permit for Michal's books. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Klick motioned Dixon seconded to acknowledged Planning and Zonings approval of the variance request for 814 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE for a garage replacement. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Council member Mitchell motioned Gripne seconded to approve the Fire Department Wage increases for 2023. Motion carried unanimously.**

**There being no further business, motion by Dixon seconded by Klick to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.**

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Ted Gray, City Administrator

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Jodi Dixon, Mayor