

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday July 15th, 2024
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 July 15th, 2024. Mayor David Wright called the meeting to order with Council members Jim Kreemer, JoAnn Schroeder, Lilah Gripne, Clint Krueger and City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder present. Police Chief Ryan Hanson, Officer Trevor Larson, Officer Rodger Lowe, Public Works Director Chad Bosl, City Engineer Kent Louwagie, Joe Krueger City Attorney, Chris Haasser, Larry Schroeder, Amanda Hinson, Charlie Reichert, Greg Graves, Dan Laumeyer, Deb Laumeyer, Ben Frieler, Otis Ostendorf, and Mark Bless.

Council member Gripne motioned seconded by Krueger to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Agenda for July 15th, 2024, with the addition of New Business Item regarding the resignation of Amber Pearcy, this will be discussed before the Employee Disciplinary Review. And to Move New Business Item #1 to be discussed before the Public Comment Section.**
- b. Approve Meeting Minutes for July 1st, 2024**
- c. Approve bills from June-July 12th, 2024**

Greg Graves from the Long Prairie Lions presented an update on the pickle ball court project and the requested surfacing quotes for the project. Two quotes for surfacing the pickle ball courts were received from Central Specialties in the amount of \$69,995.00 and Joe Riley Construction in the amount of \$51,700.00. Upon review of the quotes and the timeline:

Council member Gripne motioned seconded by Kreemer to approve the surfacing and dirt work quote from Joe Riley Construction in the amount of \$51,700.00 for the pickle ball courts. Motion carried.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Council Member Krueger presented the council public works report. The daily water/ wastewater rounds and samples are going fine, Public Works has been busy crack filling, mowing grass, patching holes, and painting. The recent storm over the weekend took down trees around town Lake Charlotte Park and Frisbee golf park had the most damage with lots of trees and brush to clean up. In the next few weeks, we will be clearing trees and brush out at the parks, crack filling, painting parking stalls, and crosswalks.

Planning & Zoning: Council member Kreemer reported on the upcoming Planning and Zoning meeting on July 30th at 4:30 pm.

Public Safety: Council member Kreemer provided an update on the Police and Fire Departments. The New 2024 Police Squad arrived, and we are awaiting scheduling for the equipment installation. National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday August 6th. The council discussed participation in this event.

Mayor Wright motioned seconded by Gripne to approve the expenses related to obtaining and serving Root Beer Floats for this event. Motion carried.

Parks & Rec: Council member Schroeder requested an advertisement be investigated to create interest to serve on the City's Park Board. Presented to the council for approval is acceptance of Kole Hinnenkamp as a Beach Supervisor for the remainder of the 2024 summer.

Council member Kreemer motioned seconded by Gripne to approve the hiring of Kole Hinnenkamp as a beach supervisor for the summer of 2024. Motion carried.

Health & Library: Council member Gripne provided information regarding a wellness survey put out by Todd County every 3 years. The survey is available in both English and Spanish and will be added to the City's website.

Admin, EDA, Tourism, Community Concerns: Mayor Wright reported that the EDA will be meeting on Wednesday August 17th at 4:30 pm. Mayor Wright addressed concerns raised regarding debris on the sidewalks and ordinances associated to the clean up of the sidewalk.

Engineers Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie provided a road project update. The contractor will begin work on the second layer of pavement, today, July 15th. The contractor will continue to complete checklist items for project completion.

(New Business)

Council member Gripne motioned seconded by Krueger to approve Airfield Pavement Maintenance Pay Application #1 in the amount of \$155,356.78. Motion carried.

The council reviewed a compensation increase from the Fire Department. The request was to increase the pay from \$12.00 to \$15.00, with the fire department members only being paid if they were physically on the call, they are going move away from using the roll call sheets. If approved, this increase would begin on December 1st, the start of the Fire Departments new fiscal year. The department also discussed with the council that they would like to start billing for lift assists, but no decision was made on that item.

Council member Schroeder motioned seconded by Krueger to approve the Fire Department compensation increase from \$12.00 to \$15.00 with annual increases to follow the Police Department percentage cost of living increase. The new wages will commence on December 1st, 2024. Motion Carried.

Council member Kreemer motioned seconded by Gripne to approve Resolution 24-07-15-20 Appointment of Election Judges. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 24-07-15-20 APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION JUDGES

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes § 204B.21 allows the City of Long Prairie to appoint an election judges;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes § 204B.19, subdivision 2 requires that an election judge (1) can read, write, and speak the English language, (2) is not the spouse, parent, child, or

sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct or any candidate of the election, (3) is not domiciled, either permanently or temporarily with any candidate at the election, or (4) is not a candidate in the election;

WHEREAS, the base number of required election judges for an election in Minnesota under Minnesota Statutes § 204B.22 has been determined to be a minimum of 4 Judges for the precinct of Long Prairie City;

WHEREAS, the city administrator/clerk recommends the appointment of 13 election judges due to the anticipated voter turnout, election judge availability, and necessity of maintaining party balance at all times during the day; and

WHEREAS, the following list of judges fulfills the requirements listed in Minnesota Statutes §204B.19, subdivision 2:

THEODORE GRAY, CANDACE BRUDER, TONY BORGEHIINCK, MARY BORGEHIINCK, LYNNETTE DRAGER, JANE KLEINSCHMIDT, JANE MITZEL, NANCY POTTER, JAN RUDA, JULIE SCHULTES, DEAN SCHULTES, WENDY VANRULER.

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes § 204B.21, subdivision 2, a resolution is mandatory if the appointment of the election judge is within 25 days of the election in which the election judge will serve.

WHEREAS, August 6th, 2024 is the date of the election in which the election judge is to serve;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the City Council of the City of Long Prairie hereby appoints the following election judges as eligible to serve in the Primary Election on August 6th, 2024 pending completion of their training and otherwise qualifying for the office:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Nancy Potter & Candace Bruder designated the Head Election Judge;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Long Prairie hereby authorizes the City Administrator/Clerk to add additional election judges as needed and allowed by Minnesota Statutes § 204B.21.

Passed this _____ day of _____, 20__.

The City of Long Prairie

Mayor David Wright

Attested by: _____
Candace Bruder City Administrator/Clerk

Council member Gripne motioned seconded by Kreemer to approve Resolution 24-07-15-21 Resolution Governing Write-in Vote Counting. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-07-15-21

A RESOLUTION GOVERNING WRITE-IN VOTE COUNTING.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute § 204B.09, subd. 3 authorizes a city to adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes;

WHEREAS, a city that adopts a resolution must do so before the first day of filing for office;

WHEREAS, city election officials spend considerable time and resources to count and individually record write-in votes cast, many of which are frivolous; and

WHEREAS, in order to save city time and resources, it is in the best interest of the City of Long Prairie, to enforce restrictions on the counting of write-in votes consistent with the provisions of Minnesota Statute § 204B.09, subd. 3.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA THAT:

Votes for write-in candidates will only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for an office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate for that office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 204B.09, subd. 3, this resolution shall remain in effect until a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the City of Long Prairie.

Passed by the City Council of Long Prairie, Minnesota this 15th, day of July 2024.

Mayor

Attested:

City Administrator/Clerk

Mayor Wright motioned seconded by Krueger to approve the increase in Notary Fees to \$5.00. Motion Carried.

Council member Krueger motioned seconded by Kreemer to approve the Donation Request in the amount of \$250.00 for Todd County Enviro Fest on September 19th, 2024. Motion Carried.

The council reviewed the mobile food unit license for, The Meltdown LLC. Discussion was had regarding the fee and process for the mobile food unit licensing.

Council member Gripne motioned seconded by Schroeder to approve the Mobile Food Unit License for: The Meltdown LLC. Motion Carried.

Council member Gripne motioned seconded by Schroeder to accept the resignation of Amber Percy affective August 9th, 2024. Motion Carried.

The council discussed this position and potential updates to the job description. The council would like to table the decision to re-open this position until the next council meeting.

Council member Kreemer motioned seconded by Krueger to table the decision in reference to re-opening the Police Administrative Assistant Position until the August 5th Council meeting and requested that a new job description be created, and financials to be presented for the Police Department. Motion Carried.

The council meeting was closed at 8:15 pm for a continuation of the performance review from July 1st and to conduct a Loudermill Hearing for public works employee Dan Laumeyer. The meeting on July 1st had been closed to conduct a performance review. During the July 1st closed meeting, allegations of misconduct were made for the first time to the Council. At this closed meeting, the council reviewed the following allegations: Mr. Laumeyer failed to keep the City adequately informed of his progress to obtain a CDL; Mr. Laumeyer failed to notify the City for several weeks that he had received his CDL; Mr. Laumeyer improperly utilized City property; Mr. Laumeyer improperly accessed city hall and the public works garage.

After completing the performance review and conducting the Loudermill Hearing:

Mayor Wright motioned seconded by Schroder to terminate Dan Laumeyer's employment with the City, effective immediately. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Gripne, Kreemer, Schroeder, Krueger, Wright: No: none. Motion Carried Unanimously.

The council meeting was re-opened at 9:20 pm.

There being no further business, motioned by Kreemer seconded by Krueger to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

David Wright, Mayor