

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday, August 19th, 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 August 19, 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, Public Works Supervisor Chad Bosl, City Engineer Kent Louwagie; members of the public: Chris Haasser, Matt Farrow, Larry Schroeder, Reta Dahlen, Marek Kutt, Reggie Lambrecht, Darla John, and Jon Chase.

Council member Schroeder motioned, and it was seconded by Krueger to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Approve Agenda for August 19, 2024, added agenda item eleven for a Transient Merchant Permit for Southwestern Advantage and one more additional peddler permit to the list for NexGen Exteriors Inc. under item number seven.**
- b. Approve Meeting Minutes for August 5th, 2024**
- c. Approve bills from July 12th-August 15th, 2024**

Public Comment

Larry Schroeder was asking about the status of the pickleball courts. He was informed due to weather and material delay that it is behind schedule.

Mark Kutt from Southwestern Advantage spoke, and he was advised that he has been added to agenda as item number eleven for further discussion.

Reggie Lambrecht was asking questions on how to obtain information on illicit activities, he was advised to follow the (FOIA) protocol.

Darla John, asking questions on reapplying to expand her garage addition, was advised to come to the next Planning and Zoning Meeting.

Council Reports

Public Works: Council Member Krueger presented the council with the public works report. The daily water/ wastewater rounds and samples are going fine. Public Works has been busy patching streets and sealcoating. Plus painting the downtown parking stalls and crosswalks, along with mowing parks and ballfields. This week the sealcoat is scheduled to be completed, weather permitting. In the next few weeks, we will continue painting around the courthouse and middle school, after the sealcoating is complete. Status on the Airport replacement of the lights, after the lightning strike, it is in process and almost complete.

Planning & Zoning: Nothing

Public Safety: Council member Kreemer provided an update on the Police and Fire Departments. Over the last two weeks the PD had 212 calls for service, which is 15.1 per day. National Night Out was a success. Approximately 500 people attended, about 150 more than last year. Health and Human Services Night out at the movies was postponed twice due to weather. It is currently scheduled for August 22nd. CentraCare Health was going to conduct a school bus safety presentation on 8-16, which was also cancelled due to weather. As of 9am we have one application for the Administrative Assistant position. Jeremy Puff completed his defensive driving and PIT training on the 6th. Fire Department: Nick Miller passed his training for Fire Fighter one and two and first responder. A technician will be here this week to fix the intake on Unit 141. FEMA grant recipients are being selected soon.

Liquor Store: Council member Schroeder said everything is going well at the Liquor Store.

Parks & Rec: Council member Schroeder stated that on Monday August 12th there was a meeting held at city hall on the Riverside Park Grant. Rita, Candace, Kent and JoAnn discussed the scope of the work and the tasks to complete the grant with the DNR. Flyers for new park board members are posted around town and online.

Health & Library: Council member Gripne reiterated that the community health surveys are available online and at city hall, in both English and Spanish. They need to be returned by August 30th to win a \$100 gift card. At the library “the read the classics book club” will be meeting Thursday, September 5th at the library for 10 people. At the library on Tuesday, September 10th from 1-2pm a sister lumberjack presentation will take place with the author in attendance; it is sponsored by MN Parks and Heritage Funds.

Admin, EDA, Tourism, Community Concerns: Mayor Wright reported that the community concern for youth gave an update after we donated to the fund. It was noted that 86% of the students are staying out of truancy because of the program. The EDA didn't meet this past month. Comments were made on the digester smells from Long Prairie Packing. Also, comments were made on a certain property in town.

Engineers Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie provided a road project update that the contractor will complete gravel shouldering where the pavement and gravel meets. They have also replaced topsoil and began seeding last Friday. The contractor is planning on overseeding the project area in September. They are also continuing to finish punch list items.

Old Business

The council discussed Ted's part-time employment status and becoming a consultant, as well as researching other consulting firms.

Council member Kreemer motioned, and it was seconded by Gripne, to table Ted Gray's Part-Time Employment Status until the September 16th meeting, and to end his health insurance as of September 30th. The council requests city staff to check with Sourcewell and other Consultants for costs; Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

New Business

Discussion was held on the Braun Intertec invoice in which it pertains to construction testing during the road project.

Council member Schroeder motioned, seconded by Gripne to approve the Braun Intertec Invoice for \$22,455.10. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved.

Discussion was held on the Automatic Systems Company Proposal. This covers the needed Scada System Updates and service for the three computer systems that run the wastewater plant.

Council member Gripne motioned, and it was seconded by Schroeder, to approve the proposal from Automatic Systems Company for computer hardware and software to the 2025 budget for \$58,927. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Council member Krueger motioned, and it was seconded by Kreemer, to donate to the Hilltop Regional Kitchen in the amount of \$3,311 for 2025. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Council member Kreemer motioned, and it was seconded by Krueger, to approve the temporary liquor license for the American Legion. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Council member Wright motioned, seconded by Gripne to approve the temporary liquor license for St. Mary's Parish Festival on September 8, 2024. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Discussion was held in reference to the 3K and 5K routes for the Hot Cakes Hustle on September 28, 2024; that there were concerns on the route.

Council member Krueger motioned, and it was seconded by Kreemer, to approve the request by St. Mary's School regarding their proposed route for the 3K and 5K Hot Cakes Hustle; Police Chief Hanson and St. Mary's will work on a safe route and notify council. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Discussion was held that all the Peddler/Transient Merchants should be listed on the website for the citizens to find easily.

Council member Kreemer motioned, and it was seconded by Gripne, to approve T-Construction Services LLC, Norseman Construction, Mayday Restoration, Aspen Exteriors Inc., Ardmor Construction, Option Exteriors, Four Seasons Contracting, Nordicraft Construction & Roofing and NexGen Exteriors Inc., for peddler's license. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Council member Wright motioned, and it was seconded by Gripne, to approve the resignation of Matt Farrow as of September 2, 2024. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Discussion was held on the verbiage used in the public works job description and advertisement.

Council member Kreemer motioned, and it was seconded by Krueger, to approve to advertising for the Full-Time Public Works Position and that the ideal candidate would have a Class B license w/airbrake, with non-CDL license applicants being considered, as long as they agree to be licensed within 6 months, and pass drug and alcohol testing. Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Discussion was held regarding the July 24, 2024, discussions with the Union and the City, with the proposed settlement from those conversations.

Council member Schroeder motioned, and it was seconded by Krueger, to approve the settlement agreement between the City of Long Prairie and the Teamsters Union for Class Action Grievance (BMS Case No. 24-PG-1927). Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Council member Kreemer motioned, and it was seconded by Krueger, to approve Southwestern Advantage for a transient merchant's license, to go door to door from August 20th-24th from 9am-9pm; Motion Carried; Unanimously Approved

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 3rd, 2024.

There being no further business, Kreemer motioned which was seconded by Krueger to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

David Wright, Mayor