

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Monday, November 4, 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 November 4, 2024. Mayor David Wright called the meeting to order with Council members Jim Kreemer, JoAnn Schroeder, Clint Krueger, Lilah Gripne and City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder present. Also, present Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Officer Rodger Lowe. Members of the public present: Larry Schroeder, Reta Dahlen, Brian Newville, Rafeal De La Cruz, Christopher De La Cruz, Otis Ostendorf, Germania Santos, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer.

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

- a. Approve Agenda for November 4, 2024.**
- b. Approve Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2024**
- c. Approve Donation Resolution for October 2024**

**Resolution #24-11-04-30**  
**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS**

**WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie has received the following donations during the month(s) of OCTOBER 2024 for the following purposes:**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Patricia Nelson	\$75.00	Fire Dept.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA THAT: The City Council of the City of Long Prairie acknowledges and accepts the donations received the month of OCTOBER 2024.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The City Council of the City of Long Prairie expresses its thanks and appreciation for the donations to all Donor(s) listed.**

**Adopted this 4th day of November 2024 by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Candace Bruder**  
**City Administrator/Clerk**

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**David Wright**  
**Acting Mayor**

## **Council Reports**

Public Works: Council member Krueger provided a report that the daily water/ wastewater rounds and samples are going fine, public works has been busy picking up leaves, patching holes, repairing the central avenue clock, and equipment maintenance. This week public works will be removing a section of sidewalk in front of Eco Water. This section will be replaced with tar, and the parallel parking will change to diagonal parking. Public works will continue picking up leaves and equipment maintenance, all hydrants have been winterized for the winter. The airport is also looking at using grant money to add an additional four hanger unit. It was also noted that the drop box at the library will be removed this week.

Planning & Zoning: Council member Kreemer informed the council that a meeting will be held on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Police Department and Fire Department: Council member Kreemer provided an update on LPPD over the last 21 days the PD had 246 CFS (calls for service) averaging 11.7 per day. Deanna has been learning quickly at her job and tasks involved. The 2024 squad is now being used, the 2021 is getting new cameras and radar installed. Last week the 2023 squad was involved in a minor accident as someone pulled out from the curb and hit the passenger side rear quarter panel. It is still in use and has been taken to Wolter's Body Shop for damage estimate. Looking into new City Administrative Citations forms to order. There is a plan to add the City Statutes to the Offense section so people can look at the site and understand the violation. Also planning on adding Spanish translation. We are looking for updated fine amounts for Barking Dog, Run At Large, Non-Licensed Animal, Ordinance Violations 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Offense amounts. Discussion on posting for the 7th officer position using grant funding stipulations. Officer tuition reimbursement bonus program will be discussed. It was also noted that Nancy Watkins has 30 hats to give to the PD.

Liquor Store / Parks & Rec: Council member Schroeder informed Council that everything is good at the liquor store. The city engineer informed us about the Riverside Park Project and possible specific permitting from the county or DNR and it may not be needed. Sentence to serve has been cleaning up tree limbs and brush at Riverside Park already and the progress is positive.

Library/Health and Wellness: Council member Gripne gave a report that a taxi service is now available in town. Todd County is also seeking applications on the Opioid Settlement request from public and private organizations until December 20<sup>th</sup>. At the Library they have new featured books in the book club and registration is in person. The library is also now offering US and foreign feature films and documentaries. Clean up day was October 14<sup>th</sup> and went well.

Admin, EDA, Tourism and Community Concern: Mayor Wright gave his report that the EDA meet October 23<sup>rd</sup> and was discussing the grant on the daycare pod system and that they will try in 2025. It was noted that the manufacture's breakfast was well attended on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Engineers Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie gave an update on the generators for well 6 and the water plant, as well as the anticipated schedule for main lift station, water tower rehab, and future water plant improvements. The council was also informed of MN Fresh wanting to obtain city sanitary sewer and water utilities in the future and was presented with the costs associated.

Discussion was also had about the old lift station located by Long Prairie Packing and what the future of it is and the costs associated with them obtaining it for use.

**Motion was made by Council member Wright to continue conversations with MN Fresh on extending city sanitary sewer and water to their property, it was seconded by Council member Gripne; unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Council member Wright to continue conversations with Long Prairie Packing on the old lift station, it was seconded by Council member Kreemer; unanimously approved.**

### **Old Business**

Tabled item from the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting on issuing a liquor license for “El Punto De Sabor” they were asked to bring an action plan and corrective action to address issues from the past. After much discussion with El Punto De Sabor owners via a translator, issues were brought up on why they shouldn’t issue a license-even if they comply with the requests of the previous council meeting, because they haven’t followed rules in the past. Different scenarios were discussed to allow them to have a license and how it is good to have another downtown business.

**Motion was made by Council member Gripne to deny the liquor license for “El Punto De Sabor”, it was seconded by Council member Kreemer; Roll Call Vote: Yes: Gripne, Kreemer, Schroeder, Wright, No: Krueger; Motion carried 4-1.**

### **New Business**

**Council member Gripne motioned to approve the budgeting of a \$1,750 donation to the Initiative Foundation for 2025 seconded by Council member Kreemer; unanimously approved.**

Discussion was held on the budgeted Walk in Walk Around Rescue Fire Truck to replace the 1999 rescue truck and how it would be paid for, and how the city could obtain a \$30,000 discount if paid in full. It was noted that it will take 550 days or 1-2 years before the city receives it.

**Motion was made by Council member Kreemer to approve the purchase of the Walk in Walk Around Rescue Truck through Alexis and HGAC buying cooperative for \$553,207, it was seconded by Council member Gripne; motion was then amended to pay in full to obtain a \$30,000 discount on the full purchase price that was previously stated, it was seconded by Schroeder; unanimously approved.**

Discussion on offering a bonus program to new officers hired from the middle of 2023 this bonus would be to help offset tuition costs. This bonus would hopefully help retain new employees who were just post certified. Discussion was then had on how the policy should be written up, if it is just temporary or how long the city would like to keep this bonus option available.

**Motion was made by Council member Kreemer to move forward with the discussion and investigation into creating proper documentation into offering a \$2,500 bonus to new police officers that have been hired since 2023 for up to 4 years. If qualifications are met and budget affords that, the three current officers would be eligible for this bonus based on past work sessions, it was seconded by Council member Gripne; unanimously approved.**

**There being no further business, Council member Kreemer motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Krueger; unanimously approved - meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.**

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Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

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David Wright, Mayor