

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 22, 2025**  
**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 Wednesday January 22, 2025. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with Council members JoAnn Schroeder, Lilah Gripne, Clint Krueger and City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder present. Also, present Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Officers Trevor Larson, Rodger Lowe, Joseph Rivera-Robles and Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer. Members of the public present: Danniela Chavez, Chris Haasser, Otis Ostendorf, Jeremy Haugen, Kevin Houdek, Kyle Bodle, Jeremy Sovich, Larry Schroeder, Chad Bosl, Jerry Swartzentruber, Gabriel Perez and Miotzi Perez.

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

- a. Approve Agenda for January 22, 2025**
- b. Approve Meeting Minutes from January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- c. Approve Bills from December 12, 2024, through January 21, 2025**

**Council Reports**

**Public Works:** Council member Krueger informed the council that there was an airport meeting that past Monday on the proposed hangars. There have been no complaints about the hangar rent and there is a waiting list. The daily water/wastewater rounds and samples are going fine. They have also been busy cleaning up trees and grinding stumps at frisbee golf park. In the next few weeks, they will be building picnic tables for the parks, completing maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant and plowing snow as needed.

**Planning & Zoning:** The next meeting is next Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Police Department and Fire Department:** Police Chief Hanson provided an update on LPPD the past two weeks they had 200 calls with an average of 14 per day. The 2021 squad is back after transfer case/transmission issues, but still has a motor mount to be replaced when the part comes in. Deanna has now completed training for BCA-MNJIS two-day Training in St Paul, January 7<sup>t</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. She also completed online training with PRI in a course on Digital Evidence Management, that was on January 14<sup>th</sup>, as well as a course for use of the N-Dex or National Data Exchange System-Completing Batch Searches to be on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Deanna has also contacted other municipalities to get comparable fee schedule and rates for 2025 to update the LPPD's Administration Offense and Parking Violation Forms. She is working with Candace on the new forms and pricing, as well as the procedures for follow-up letters to assist in collecting these fees. As of today, four applications for the Full-Time Officer position were turned in. One is still a second-year student, graduating this May, and has yet to pass the POST test. Two have completed school and passed the POST test but are not currently licensed and one is currently licensed and employed with the LPPD as a part-time officer, which is Officer Lateshia Harden. Chief Hanson's recommendation is to hire Officer Harden full-time, and offer two

applicants' part-time positions, pending pre-employment screening, graduation and passing the POST test.

Liquor Store / Parks & Rec: Council member Schroeder informed the Council that the liquor store has been busy.

Library/Health and Wellness: Council member Gripne informed the council that blessing box at vitality wellness has been successful and other CentraCare campuses have them. The Community Health Improvement Plan will be implemented by June 30<sup>th</sup>. This includes training and education for Amish birth attendants, Elementary Color Run to support healthy exercise and MN Path to Value Project for ways to improve population health. Priorities for Long Prairie area are to lessen substance abuse, educate unsafe drivers, correct social isolation, help improve access to care, cost of living, mental health, chronic diseases, and strengthen and support the vulnerable and the community of wide job opportunities. It was also mentioned that the Central Minnesota Council on Aging has some grants available. The library's winter reading program, The Great Escape is still on going. Mention that the Public Works is doing a great job of keeping the parking lot clean. EDA had a meeting January 15<sup>th</sup> and the newest member Justin Wagner was introduced to the committee. Some of their goals in the meeting were the completion and hanging of banners on Central Avenue and highway 71, redesigning the website including a video banner, childcare work sessions with Todd County Commissioners and city council, and moving forward with childcare pods Indeed grant. Future goals of the EDA include monitoring and supporting the main street revitalization plan, pursuing a deed grant for childcare solutions, partner with various businesses to find solutions to vehicle issues, and review the 2025 comprehensive plan.

Engineers Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie informed the council on the Riverside Park project that they removed most of the stumps and leveled the parking area on the north side the main access road. The area has been leveled out and now has crushed granite surface and some more clean work will be done in the spring once the weather is suitable.

### **Old Business**

Fire Department has requested the hire of the first female firefighter Angela Tepley who has resided in the area for 37 years. She has passed the physical and background check and meets all other requirements.

**A motion was made by Council member Schroeder to accept the nomination of Angela Tepley to be a firefighter for the City of Long Prairie, it was seconded by Council member Gripne; unanimously approved.**

The fire department is again asking to approve the nomination of Dan Laumeyer. The council then advised that as a fire chief he has certain responsibilities that need to be upheld regarding, making sure that all training is up to date, and all fire fighters are properly certified. Also to make sure that all the equipment is being maintained correctly as well.

**A motion was made by Council member Schroeder to accept the nomination of Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, it was seconded by Council member Krueger; Roll Call Kreemer-Yes, Gripne-No, Krueger-Yes, Schroeder-Yes, motion passed.**

### **New Business**

The council was advised that they can choose a council member by nomination tonight or hold interviews at the next meeting, it is the council's decision on how to proceed. There were four applicants for the open vacancy. After a motion was made to approve Perez, he then addressed the room with his ideas for the future.

**A motion was made by Council member Krueger to approve the application of Gabriel Perez as the newest council member to fill the vacancy for the 2-year term that was held by the current Mayor, it was seconded by Council member Gripne; unanimously approved.**

Discussion was made on the annual support agreement with the XS Consulting Group that is set to expire on January 31, 2025, for monthly IT support. Discussion on how XS Consulting has been helpful, and they are quick to take care of any problems when needed.

**A motion was made by Council member Gripne to approve the annual support agreement with XS Consulting that will expire on December 31, 2025, it was seconded by Mayor Kreemer; unanimously approved.**

Discussion was held about the two bids to update Well 6 and that this improvement will include installing a city owned natural gas generator, main service panel, integration into the well house, and a concrete pad. It was noted that gas service will have to be extended to this site. If the city would ever lose power this generator would be able to service, the city.

**A motion was made by Council Member Gripne to approve the quote from ARC electric for \$136,101.10 and this does not include the natural gas services that will need to be extended to the site, it was seconded by Council member Krueger: unanimously approved.**

Discussions on the areas to sealcoat in the summer of 2025 include area 2 and area 3 of last year's proposed areas, being area 1 was done in 2024.

**A motion was made by Council member Krueger to approve the request to receive requests for bids for sealcoating of area 2 and 3, it was seconded by Council member Schroeder; unanimously approved.**

**A motion was made by Mayor Kreemer to approve the final payment of \$3,143 to Braun Intertec for the final test results for the road project, it was seconded by Council member Krueger; unanimously approved.**

**A motion was made by Council member Krueger to approve the gambling permit for April 29, 2025, for St. Mary's Catholic Church, it was seconded by Council member Schroeder, unanimously approved.**

A request was made by Viva bar to extend their hours to 2:00 am. for Friday and Saturday nights and the bar will stop serving drinks at 1:30 am. Perez let the council know how Viva's customers are often a later crowd, arriving around 10:00-11:00 pm. He feels like this would be a benefit to him for his business to be successful.

**A motion was made by Council member Gripne to table the discussion on allowing liquor establishment to be open until 2 am, until more research is done and discussion with the city attorney, it was seconded by Mayor Kreemer: unanimously approved.**

Discussion was held by the council on the open full-time officers' position and the 4 applications received. The police department is requesting the council to hire the current part-time officer Lateshia Harden as the new full-time officer. The PD spoke positively about hiring Harden since she has shown positive attitude, work ethic, and commitment. Discussion was also held that in the month of February two council members will be setting up a meeting with Chief Hanson to have a discussion on the part-time budget and the current shift schedule and if changes need to be made for budgetary purposes. Council Member Kreemer and Schroeder agree to be on this committee.

**A motion was made by Council member Schroeder to approve the hiring of Lateshia Harden as a full-time police officer as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and to not go through the interview process since she is currently a part-time officer, it was seconded by Council member Krueger; Roll Call Kreemer-Yes, Gripne-No, Krueger-Yes, Schroeder-Yes, motion passed.**

**There being no further business, Council member Krueger motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Kreemer; unanimously approved - meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

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Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

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James Kreemer, Mayor