

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 8, 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 8, 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, Lateshia Harden, Melissa Morazan and Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer. Members of the public present: Renee Kreemer, Danniela Chavez, Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst, Chris Haasser, Josh Spieker, Morgan Spieker, Otis Ostendorf, Jackie Bauer, Jeremy Sovich, John Ecker, Jeremy Haugen, Kevin Houdek, Kyle Bodle, Chris Amundson, Sarah Amundson, Larry Schroeder, Jerry Swartzentruber, and Nick Miller.

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

- a. Approve Agenda for January 8, 2025, with the addition of adding the Oath of Office and New Business Item #13 regarding the voting of the fire chief for 2025.**
- b. Approve Work Session Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2024.**
- c. Approve Meeting Minutes from December 16th, 2024, with a correction to the 3.2% off-sale beer license motion, was seconded by Krueger not Kreemer.**
- d. Approve Donation Resolution #25-01-08-01 for December 2024.**

Council Reports

Public Works: Council member Krueger informed the council that the daily water/ wastewater rounds and samples are going fine, public works has been busy with cleaning up trees, grinding stumps at frisbee golf park, building picnic tables for the parks, maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant, and shop projects, and they will be taking down Christmas decorations. Public Works employee Brandon Karolus has passed his written CDL test.

Planning & Zoning: Nothing.

Police Department and Fire Department: Police Chief Hanson provided an update on LPPD that over the last 23 days the PD had 290 calls for service averaging 12.61 calls per day, which is up 751 calls from this time in 2023. The police department had a Tuberculosis scare with an assailant and had 7 officers tested to be safe and were all negative. The 2021 squad is still down with transmission issues but should be up and running soon. January 2nd is Justin Gothier's last day of full-time work. Jeremy Puff has also completed 6 months of employment.

Liquor Store / Parks & Rec: Council member Schroeder informed the Council that New Years Eve was a record day in sales in the past 24 years. Inventory turned out satisfactory on January 1st. An employee meeting will be taking place this month to get everyone up to speed on mistakes that have been made and how to avoid them in the future. New shelving will be arriving within 2 weeks. The weekends are busier and Corona 24 pack bottles are the #1 seller. The city

might have to look at having 2 cashiers, a floater and a stock person on weekends to keep up with the new apartment building resident's needs. Budgets for payroll might have to be adjusted also. MMBA/MLBA day at the Capitol is Feb 10th and Pam will be in attendance. The MMBA Conference at Arrowood is April 26th through 29th, Pam and Ian will be in attendance.

Library/Health and Wellness: Council member Gripne informed council that the library has a winter reading program "The Great Escape" and it is going on now until February 28th, readers need to keep track to win a prize. The library now has a pronunciator and online language learning program with over 80 languages and interactive quizzes and personalized lesson plans. In person Tech Help Time is now available. Health and Wellness update; two out of five homes face a raised risk from Radon and that the MN Department of Health has test kits available.

Admin, EDA, Tourism and Community Concern: Mayor Kreemer informed council that Bruder would like to attend training on February 6-7 through Ehlers Financial in Edina.

A motion was made by Council member Schroeder to approve City Administrator Candace Bruder to attend training on February 6-7 to Ehlers 2025 Minnesota Public Finance Seminar, it was seconded by Council member Gripne; unanimously approved.

Engineers Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie informed the council about the LOMR map revision from FEMA and with the three new box culverts installed it changes the flood risk for that area. There is a 90-day comment period. If no appeal the new flood plains would take effect on May 15th.

Old Business

CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01-08-02

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A HIRING AND RETENTION BONUS FOR NEW POLICE OFFICERS

WHEREAS, The City has determined that retention of law enforcement officers in Minnesota and the United States has been difficult in recent years with low application rates and reduction of new students in law enforcement programs, and;

WHEREAS, The City has determined that other cities, counties, and state agencies are offering recruitment and retention bonuses varying in amount and frequency, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City resolves as follows:

1. The City agrees to provide a retention bonus which consists of a \$2,500.00 bonus to be paid on the first anniversary of a new officer's start date provided the officer is employed full time with the City, has successfully completed a background check, has passed the FTEP, and has no disciplinary history with the City; and
2. The officer will be paid an additional \$2,500.00 upon each anniversary date up to and including the officer's fourth anniversary provided that the officer maintains full time

employment with the City and has no disciplinary history with the City upon each anniversary date for the first four anniversaries.

3. For purposes of this bonus program, “new officer(s)” means an officer that has been POST certified in Minnesota for less than 6 months prior to being hired for a full-time position.
4. This bonus program is only effective for new officers starting between April 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024. All amounts to be paid are “gross” amounts.

ADOPTED by the City on this 8th day of January 2025.

CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE

James Kreemer, Mayor

Candace Bruder, City Administrator

A motion was made by council member Krueger to approve Resolution 25-01-08-02 adopting a hiring and retention bonus for new officers who are currently, as of today, in full-time employment and started since April 1, 2023-December 31, 2024; two officers currently qualify Melissa Morazan and Jeremy Puff, it was seconded by Council member Schroeder; Roll-Call: Kreemer-Yes, Gripne-Yes, Schroeder-Yes and Krueger-Yes

New Business

Mayor Kreemer provided the mayor appoints as follows:

Mayor’s Appointments:

Public Works & Airport: **Clint Krueger**

Planning & Zoning, Public Safety, Admin: **Jim Kreemer**

Health & Wellness, Library and EDA: **Lilah Gripne**

Park & Recreation and Liquor Store: **JoAnn Schroeder**

Community Concern for Youth & Elders, Tourism: **Vacant**

Acting Mayor: **Lilah Gripne**

Official Paper: **Long Prairie Leader**

Financial Institutions: **American Heritage National Bank, Minnesota National Bank, Mid-Central Savings & Loan, Central Minnesota Credit Union and other financially sound institutions which are in compliance with Minnesota Statutes governing city depositories as official depositories for the city for 2024.**

Auditors: **Schlenner Wenner & Co.**
Law Firm: **Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A.**
Insurance Agent: **Advantage One Insurance**

A motion was made by Council member Gripne to approve the 2025 Mayor Appointments, it was seconded by Council member Schroeder; unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01-08-03

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A VACANCY.

WHEREAS, James Kreemer's council position has become vacant due to his election as the Mayor, effective on January 1, 2025.

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

The council declares that a vacancy exists on the city council effective on January 8, 2025.

The council declares that applications will be accepted to fill the vacancy until Tuesday, January 21st at 4:00 pm at Long Prairie City Hall located 615 Lake ST S Long Prairie MN 56347.

Passed by the City Council of Long Prairie, Minnesota this 8th day of January 2025.

Mayor

Attested:

City Administrator/Clerk

A motion was made by Council member Gripne to approve the Resolution 25-01-08-03 Declaring a Vacancy, it was seconded by Council member Krueger: unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01-08-04

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE'S SUPPORT FOR
TODD COUNTY SEEKING FUNDING FROM MINNESOTA STATE ACTIVE
TRANSPORTATION (AT) INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, and;

- Up to \$12.502 million in Active Transportation funding is available, with a minimum of \$50,000 and cap of \$1,000,000 for each project
- Acknowledgement that AT funds can be used to reimburse construction costs on AT eligible items, and that construction costs above the AT infrastructure grant amount will need to have alternate funding sources
- The project will enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists by installing lighting, constructing a sidewalk along the parking lot, and creating a safe crosswalk leading to the county offices. Additionally, a new hillside sidewalk will ensure visitors and employees no longer need to walk in the roadway. These improvements will also benefit children attending Long Prairie Elementary School and neighborhood residents, who frequently use the sidewalk and crosswalk. The project components are outlined and supported by the 2018 Long Prairie Safe Routes to School Plan.
- The project will benefit a wide range of stakeholders, including visitors accessing county services, county employees utilizing the parking lot with over 60 vehicle spaces, and children traveling to and from Long Prairie Elementary School via the sidewalk and crosswalk. Additionally, neighborhood residents will enjoy improved infrastructure for walking and biking, enhancing safety and accessibility throughout the area. By serving these diverse groups, the project fosters a safer, more connected community for all users.
- The estimated construction cost for the project is \$237,045.90, with construction planned for 2025. Funding is being requested from the grant in the amount of \$56,168.00 to cover 50% of mobilization costs (\$25,000.00), lighting expenses (\$16,654.25), and sidewalk construction costs (\$14,514.00). The remaining project funding will be sourced from the Todd County Facilities Capital Improvement Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Long Prairie City Council supports Todd County seeking grant funding from the Minnesota State Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure Program for the construction of a parking lot with adjacent sidewalk, crosswalk and paved hillside walkway at the intersection of 2nd Street South and 2nd Avenue South located in Long Prairie, MN.

Passed by the City Council of Long Prairie, Minnesota this _____ day of _____
2025.

Mayor

City Administrator/Clerk

A motion was made by Council member Gripne to approve Resolution 25-01-08-04 Establishing the City of Long Prairie's Support for Todd County Seeking Funding from MN State Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure Program, it was seconded by Council member Kreemer; unanimously approved.

Discussion on Tourism from Chris Amundson, he discussed the new drone video to highlight some key assets of Long Prairie. Discussion on the concerts in the park and a new model for 2025 instead of 9 dates to 5 dates and moving it to the weekend. Other ideas for the future are possibly having a fireworks show on the 4th of July and in 2026 to highlight the 250th anniversary of the nation. Another opportunity to increase funds for tourism is to use the beach concession areas and to utilize the beach supervisors to assist, and volunteers. Discussion on possibly having swimming lessons again at the beach as well. Also, beach rentals could be available for income stream, bass fishing tournament, pickleball tournaments and a golf tournament.

A motion was made by Council member Gripne to approve Jeff Koehn and Harley VanRuler as part-time ice-rink employees at \$15 an hour, it was seconded by Council member Krueger; unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Kreemer to approve Dustin Wagner as the newest EDA member, it was seconded by Council member Gripne; unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Council member Schroeder to approve a 3% increase to the LPEDA monthly salary for 2025, it was seconded by Council member Gripne: unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mayor Kreemer to approve the request from Public Works Employee David Strom to attend training on April 15th-17th to 2025 Type IV Basic Land Application, it was seconded by Council member Krueger: unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Council member Krueger to approve the resignation of Full-Time Police Officer Justin Gothier, it was seconded by Council member Gripne; unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Council member Gripne to advertise for the Full-Time Police Officer Position for two weeks, it was seconded by Council member Krueger; unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Council member Gripne to approve the completion of the 6-month probation period for Full-Time Police Officer Jeremy Puff, it was seconded by Mayor Kreemer; unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Council member Gripne to engage Schlenner and Wenner & Co. to complete the 2024 Audit for the City of Long Prairie, it was seconded by Council member Krueger: unanimously approved.

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-No, Gripne-No, Krueger-Yes, Schroeder-Yes (tie vote) decision is tabled at this time.

There being no further business, Council member Gripne motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Schroeder; unanimously approved - meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor