

City of Long Prairie
8:00 A.M. Wednesday November 19th, 2025
City Council (Work Session)

The Long Prairie City Council met at City Hall at 8:04 a.m. on Wednesday November 19th, 2025. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order the following present: Council members, Lilah Gripne and JoAnn Schroeder. Absent Council Members: Gabrier Perez and Clint Krueger. City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder, Finance Officer/Clerk Callaway Neumann and Police Chief Ryan Hanson.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the agenda as listed below; motion seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.

1. 2026 Insurance Renewal Information
2. MN Paid Family and Medical Leave Implementation
3. Review 2026 Labor Negotiation Agreements
4. 2026 Preliminary Budget Update

The City Council reviewed the 2026 insurance rates, renewal options, and related personnel impacts. City staff delivered a comprehensive presentation that addressed each item on the agenda, including a breakdown of projected premium adjustments, plan modifications, and employee cost-share implications for the upcoming year and new offerings.

Discussion on the Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave program and its anticipated effect on employees. Staff outlined the state's mandated contribution structure, which requires employers to remit 0.44% and employees 0.44%. The Council further reviewed how these statutory requirements will integrate into payroll processes, departmental budgets, and long-term financial planning as additional cost to the city and potential burden, when claims are made.

In addition, staff presented multiple slides highlighting the fiscal impacts of ongoing union negotiations on the 2026 city-wide budget. These materials detailed wage adjustments, benefit cost projections, and operational considerations across all departments. Council members were informed that each department and entity within the City has undergone extensive and careful review as part of the negotiations and budget development cycle to ensure consistency, fairness, and financial sustainability.

Following discussion, the staff confirmed that the preliminary 2026 budget will remain unchanged and will be carried forward as the final budget recommendation for adoption. This decision reflects the Council's confidence in the prior analysis and its alignment with the City's operational needs and long-term fiscal strategy.

There being no further business, Council Member Gripne motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Council Member Schroeder; unanimously approved- meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor