

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 10th, 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 December 10th, 2025. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with Present Council Members Clint Krueger, Gabrier Perez, Lilah Gripne, and JoAnn Schroeder. Also, present: City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder, Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Police Officer Rodger Lowe, Police Officer Melissa Morazan, Police Officer Lateshia Harden, Police Officer Joseph Rivera Roble, Fire Department: Jeremy Sovich, Kevin Houdek, Christopher Haasser, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer and EDA Director Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst. Members of the public present: Daniella Chavez, Alexis Bruder, Denita Wisniewski and Trevor Larson.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the consent calendar as listed below; motion was seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.**

- (a) Approve Agenda for December 10th, 2025
- (b) Approve Meeting Minutes for November 26th, 2025
- (c) Approve Donation Resolution No. 25-12-10-43 for November 2025
- (d) Approve Gambling Permit LG220 for St. Mary of Mount Carmel Parish Raffle
- (e) Approve 2026 Annual License for \$475 for Lake Charlotte Beach Concession Stand

**Resolution #25-12-10-43**

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Long Prairie has received the following donations during the month(s) of November 2025 to date for the following purposes:

<u><b>Donor</b></u>	<u><b>Amount</b></u>	<u><b>Purpose</b></u>
Long Prairie Hockey Association	\$1,000.00	Outdoor Ice Rink

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA THAT:** The City Council of the City Council of the City of the City of Long Prairie acknowledges and accepts the donations received in the month of November 2025 to date.

**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 on this 10th day of December 2025 by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie.

ATTEST:

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Candace Bruder

City Administrator/Clerk

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James Kreemer

Mayor

**Public Hearing-Truth and Taxation Hearing**

At 7:03 pm Mayor Kreemer opened the public hearing for Truth and Taxation.

City Administrator Candace Bruder presented a presentation on Truth & Taxation that lays out the specifics of the 2026 Tax Levy. This included the expected increases to homeowners' property taxes from 2025 with an estimated home priced at \$166,100 and then in 2026 that homes estimated market value was increased to \$205,000. The city property tax for a house at this value in 2025 was \$607.00, and in 2026 it will be \$756.00. Annually this is a \$138.00 increase, or \$11.50 a month. Some comments were made from Christopher Haasser on the commercial properties and how they are assessed at the county level to determine values.

After no further discussion Mayor Kreemer closed the public hearing at 7:14 pm.

**RESOLUTION #25-12-10-44**

**ADOPTING THE FINAL 2025 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE**

**IN THE YEAR 2026**

**Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie, County of Todd, Minnesota, that the following presents the final tax levy collectible in 2026 upon the taxable property in the City of Long Prairie for the following purposes:**

**Levy Purpose**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$866,312</b>
<b>2016A G.O. Bond</b>	<b>\$119,895</b>
<b>2018B G.O. Bond</b>	<b>\$172,149</b>
<b>2022A G.O. Bond</b>	<b>\$ 26,169</b>
<b>2022B G.O. Bond</b>	<b>\$ 30,730</b>
<b><u>2022C G.O. Bond</u></b>	<b><u>\$149,550</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,364,805</b>

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Candace Bruder

City Administrator/Clerk

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Jim Kreemer

Mayor

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve Resolution 25-12-10-44, Adopting the Final 2025 Tax Levy, Collectible in the Year 2026 in the amount of \$1,364,805; motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.**

## **Council Reports**

**Public Works:** Council Member Krueger informed the council the last few weeks Public Works has been busy with snow removal, maintenance on snow removal equipment, and the daily water/wastewater samples and rounds. Contractors are still working on tearing down the old wastewater treatment plant by the main lift station. The next few weeks public works will be plowing snow as needed, equipment maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant and the daily rounds at the treatment facilities. The city administration and public works are working on a plan to go through the street signs and replace those that need to be. They also had a Wastewater Compliance check, and it was passed with no requirements or changes to be made.

**Planning & Zoning:** Mayor Kreemer informed the council that Planning & Zoning has a upcoming meeting on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

**Police Department and Fire Department:** Mayor Kreemer provided an update that over the past two weeks of 11/26/25 through 12/10/25 the LPPD had 209 calls with an average of 14.93 per day. This includes: 2 with suspicious activity, 1 civil related, 88 traffic related, 6 juvenile, 7 medicals, 5 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 69 assists, 2 thefts, and ordinance specific are: 7 animal-related, 3 noise-related and 19 ordinance (10 snow-related, 9 vehicle-related) complaints. The chief notes that Officer Morazan and Harden attended the Female Enforcer training in Bloomington on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chief Hanson and Officer Goedert attended EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations Course) at the Precision Driving Center of MN, in St Cloud on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The police department will be conducting cold weather and night firearms qualification on December 16<sup>th</sup>. A request was made to have either the Administration or Police Department send a notice to Dollar General that states we'll plow the sidewalk and then charge them on each snowfall. It was discussed that all the businesses in town need to take care of their own sidewalks, additional enforcement is requested by the council to monitor this. As for the Fire Department they ended their 2025 fiscal year with 137 calls. Members Mario & Camden are starting their Firefighter 1 Firefighter 2 Hazmat class up in Eagle Bend. They had a NUDT Test done on the ladders, it is required every five years. Some issues were found with the bearings and plastic/cracks. They will be providing quotes on the cost to fix. Last night on December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Browerville ambulance was involved in a crash. They are working to get a rental ambulance but in the meantime Bertha, Long Prairie, and Staples will be covering that territory.

**Administration Report:** City Administrator Candace Bruder informed the council that there was a meeting with BS&A and the staff sampled their software and are still in the researching stage, but the staff liked this new software. The LCCMR grant for Riverside Drive was amended and submitted on December 1<sup>st</sup> and we are awaiting an answer to the changes so that they can make sure they meet all the requirements. All the items sold through Gov.Bid have been picked up, and the city has received the payments as of last Friday. These items were just sitting in storage and were losing value; we can now take them off of insurance as well to save even more costs. We are working on finalizing the budget for 2026 and will be presenting that information to the council at the next meeting. We are also working on finalizing the 2026 assessment list for garbage, sewer, snow, etc and will be presented at the next meeting along with the liquor, tobacco and other licenses through the city, those letters have been sent to the businesses. We have started to work on the implementation of the MN Paid Family Leave Act and have provided

all the staff with the form to sign to recognize they are aware of the new program and that 0.44% will be withdrawn from their paychecks. We are gathering letters of support from businesses and residents on the streets for the LRIFP funding for the two proposed street projects through the State of MN.

**Liquor Store Park & Recreation:** Council Member Schroeder informed the council that the liquor store has been very busy, but no other updates at this time.

**EDA, Library/Health and Wellness:** Council Member Gripne informed the council of no updates at this time but the next EDA meeting will be held on December 17th.

**Tourism:** Council Member Perez informed the council that he had no updates.

**Engineer Report:** City Engineer Kent Louwagie informed the council that for the CSAH 56 & CSAH 38 Improvements are waiting for paperwork from the contractor to proceed with final payment and project closeout. As for the Main Lift Station - the new lift station has been operational for a few months now. Demolishing the old treatment plant building is underway. The transfer switch for the water plant generator has been delivered and installed, and remaining work includes generator startup and controls integration, which will likely occur in January. The transfer switch for the Well 6 generator is scheduled for delivery in January. Generator startup and controls integration will occur after that. At Riverside Park they are coordinating with the contractor that completed the initial phase of park improvements to prepare the final pay application for his scope of work. Bolton and Menk are also finalizing two separate applications for Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funding, one for 1st Street S., and the other for 9th Street NE with applications due December 12<sup>th</sup>. LRIP grant awards are anticipated to be announced in Spring 2026.

### **New Business**

Discussions were held regarding the requested large increase to the 2026 Community Development Services agreement between LPEDA and LPACC. Denita from the Chamber of Commerce stated that the reason for the request is that the current EDA Director is requesting to increase her wages in 2026. It was noted that these funds are sent from the city's general fund to assist the chamber in providing support to the city for 20 hours a week of executive level service related to EDA activities. This increase request was analyzed thoroughly and was shown to council that since 2019 they have increased their monthly request from \$1,650 to the current request of \$3,542.00 a month. In 2025 the contracted amount was \$32,000 and the \$42,500 request in the new contract would represent almost a 40% increase in funding to the Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce. After some discussion council decided to go even higher than was initially requested by the Chamber to \$45,000 or \$3,750 a month.

**Council Member Krueger motioned to increase the 2026 Community Development Services agreement between the LPEDA and LPACC to \$45,000 a year or \$3,750 a month: motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Roll Call Vote: Perez – Yes, Kreemer – No, Gripne – No, Schroeder – Yes, Krueger – Yes. Motion Passes.**

**Mayor Kreemer motioned to Approve the 2026 Council Meeting Dates and Times: motion Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.**

Discussion was held on Franchise Agreements with Charter and that the council would like CTC to be contacted to provide a similar agreement and to work with the lawyers on this.

**Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve the Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications, Inc.; motion Seconded by Council Member Perez. Unanimously Approved.**

Discussion was held at the prior meeting to bring council a Fund Balance Policy to be adopted to help with Moody Ratings and to provide an overall road map for the city to follow for the future.

**Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the Fund Balance Policy for the City of Long Prairie; motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.**

Council was presented that there will be an increase of 8.16% to the overall premium cost of health insurance to the employees of the city. The insurance renewal information was presented to council at previous work sessions and was discussed in detail with council at those points.

**Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the 2026 Insurance Renewal Rates for the City Employees for 2026: motion Seconded by Council Member Perez. Unanimously Approved.**

The Police Department negotiated on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The whole contract was provided to council and brought to work sessions and includes in detail all the negotiated changes for the next 3 years.

**Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve the Long Prairie Police Officers Labor Agreement Effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.**

The Public Works Department negotiated on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The whole contract was provided to council and brought to work sessions and includes in detail all the negotiated changes for the next 3 years.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the Public Works Unit Labor Agreement Effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028; motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.**

Discussion was held that all non-union staff would like to receive the same courtesy as all union staff by receiving the same general requests of both union organizations to keep the non-union staff in compliance with wage equity reporting to the State of MN and to create a fair working environment for all employees. Some individual requests were given to council for specific employees for council to review.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve only the 4% increase in wages as of January 1<sup>st</sup> for all non-union staff, all other requests for staff increases are being tabled until the next council meeting.; motion Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.**

Discussion was held that since no motion was made for other specific staff increases to wages and other miscellaneous requests that the next agenda item should be tabled as well since it is in direct correlation to the previous agenda item and the employees 6-month probation isn't until December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor Kreemer motioned to table the discussion on Callaway Neumann's 6-Month probationary period until the next council meeting; motion Seconded by Gripne. Unanimously Approved.**

**Council Member Schroeder motioned to table the discussion on creating a Fire Department Application process until June of 2026; motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.**

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

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Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

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James Kreemer, Mayor