

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 12, 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 March 12, 2025. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with Council members JoAnn Schroeder, Clint Krueger, Gabrier Perez, City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder present and Absent: Lilah Gripne. Also, present Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Officers Trevor Larson and City Engineer Kent Louwagie. Members of the public present: Danniela Chavez, Wally Zastrow, Chris Amundson, Sarah Amundson, Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst, Christopher Haasser

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

- a. Approve Agenda for March 12, 2025**
- b. Approve Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2025**
- c. Approve Donation Resolution No. 25-03-12-11 for February 2025**

Public Comment

Discussion from a representative from Long Prairie Township, Wally Zastrow about his proposed Fire Contract and that he would like to get more information on the contract and the data used to create the contract that was provided by the Fire Chief. This information will be discussed with all representatives on April 2nd at the formal meeting with all Townships.

Discussion from Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst on Tourism, Chamber of Commerce and the history of funding. She discussed that she was in charge of the Welcome Guide, but that will now be handled by the Tourism Committee, along with Concerts in the Park and other tourism ideas. Those funds that the Chamber was paid to accomplish these tasks will now stay within the Tourism Fund, she is formally passing the baton off to Chris Amundson.

Public Works Employee Chris Haasser informed the council that his wife and himself have purchased the old Thunder Lodge; and it will now be called Charolette Tavern. He was just checking with the city, if there was anything that he needed to do with the city. Noted since this property is in the County there should be nothing that is required with the city.

Council Reports

Public Works: Council member Krueger informed the council that the Public Works has been busy with equipment maintenance, sweeping streets, and cleaning the chlorine contact chamber at the wastewater treatment plant. It was noted that the newest employee Brandon Karolus has completed his commercial driver's license written and driving test for his class "A" CDL. The dewatering process started this week for the main lifts station project, this will continue through most of the project. The next few weeks they will be working on sweeping streets, patching holes, cleaning out catch basins, and storm sewer lines.

Planning & Zoning: Nothing

Police Department and Fire Department: Mayor Jim Kreemer provided an update that over the past two weeks of 02/26/25 through 03/12/25 the LPPD had 201 calls with an average of 14.36 per day. On 3-4-25 Officer Cody Vail attended Officer Wellness training at Sourcewell in Staples. On 3-5-25 Officer Vail and Chief Hanson attended Mental Illness and Crisis Intervention at Sourcewell in Staples. On March 3rd and 4th Officers Morazan and Harden attended Interview and Interrogation training at the Mall of America training room. It was noted LPPD will be having a department meeting on 3-17-25, with training information session from TIDA (Todd County Integrated Diversion Agents) about their jobs of crime diversion counseling and imbedded counselors. It was noted that prevention is key to crime prevention.

Administration: Noted that ECP is interested in some lots in the industrial park and that the Todd County Vet Clinic is finalizing some details of their purchase agreement; that agreement will be presented soon to the council.

Liquor Store / Parks & Rec: Council member Schroeder informed the council that there is a new shelf installed and plex glass at the liquor store to help prevent theft. THC beverages will be sold once everything is set up with the State of MN and their credit card system is updated, to account for the additional tax that will need to be collected. On March 10th Pam will be teaching an alcohol training class for area bartenders to make sure they are up on the latest liquor laws. Pam and Ian are asking for permission to attend the MMBA Conference on April 26th-29th at the Arrowwood in Alexandria. Information was given to Tourism to coordinate on having a Food Truck night out at Lake Charolette.

A motion was made by Mayor Kreemer to approve Pam Koska and Ian Sanchez to attend the MMBA Conference from April 26th-29th at the Arrowwood in Alexandria, it was seconded by Council member Schroeder; unanimously approved.

Tourism and Community Concern: Council member Perez informed the council that he wants to attend the next tourism committee meeting. Chris Amundson informed the council that the next meeting is on April 7th at 4:30pm at the 110-coffee shop. Also noted the senior center is having Bingo on Wednesdays.

Engineers Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie informed the council that the de-watering will start soon, and we should know more about possible contamination. There is a new round that started of grant funding for the lead service line inventory and work has started on applying for that. There was an update on Riverside Park and that the engineer fees have exceeded the original estimated amount by \$2,600. They are requesting permission to continue to work on the project until completion, and additional fees will be incurred. The grant needs to be re-budgeted to allocate the accounts for these additional fees that weren't in the initial plan. This grant is for 3 years and there are a lot of stipulations to make sure we stay in compliance with these grant funds, so that the city can be fully reimbursed.

New Business

Discussion on the 2025 sealcoat bids that were submitted to complete area 1 and area 2.

- 2. That the** MAYOR **and** CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK
are
- (Title) (Title)

authorized to execute this Agreement and any amendments on behalf of the
City of Long Prairie.

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD

I certify that the above Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution
adopted by the

CITY OF LONG
PRAIRIE

(Name of the Recipient)

at an authorized meeting held on the 12TH day of MARCH ,
2025

as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.

Signature: _____
(Clerk or Equivalent)

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: _____

A motion was made by Council member Krueger to approve the Resolution 25-03-12-12 to
Execute a Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition for
State Project No. A7701-38, it was seconded by Council member Schroeder; unanimously
approved.

Discussion on the changes that are being discussed moving forward for the tourism committee.
It was also noted that updates are being made to the tourism link on the website. The tourism
committee is going to take over control of the Concerts in the Park series and move it to
Saturdays this summer, maybe once a month. This will start Memorial Day Weekend. Also noted
they would like to assist in funds to support a music night at the Todd County Fair. Their biggest
plan is to have a fireworks display on July 5th over Lake Charolette to bring tourist to town. The
hope is to fund this through local business and donations. They would also like to have food
trucks, softball tournament, and a DJ a whole evening of fun to get the community together. By
having it over the lake spectators will be able to watch the show in their boats as well. The plan
is to secure July 4th in 2026, which is a Saturday and the 250th birthday of our nation. Noted that
city insurance will have to be updated to include the fireworks display date, and those costs will
be charged to tourism.

A motion was made by Council member Schroeder to approve the Tourism Commission to use Rosen Fields Ballpark location to light off fireworks on July 5th, 2025, it was seconded by Council member Perez; unanimously approved.

Discussion on the data that was presented about creating a new position, to assist in finance and clerk duties in the office. This will assist in having the staff all cross trained. This position would take over typing the meeting minutes, agendas, election administrator, monthly balancing, audit preparation, retention of records, financial approval of all bills, quarterly budgets to each department head. This position would alleviate the costs that are currently occurring with Ehlers coming on site, as well as working remotely; these tasks would then be roles of the new employee.

A motion was made by Council member Krueger to table the City Clerk/Finance Officer Position to have more time to look through creating this new position, it was seconded by Mayor Kreemer; unanimously approved.

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

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor