

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 13th, 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 August 13th, 2025. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with Present Council Members Clint Krueger, Gabriel Perez, Lilah Gripne, and JoAnn Schroeder. Also, present: City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder, Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Officer Trevor Larson, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer and City Engineer Kent Louwagie. Members of the public present: Jodi Dixon, Teresa Sorenson, Danniela Chavez, Audra Zastrow, Verna Toenyan, Naomee Walidth

**Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve the consent calendar. Motion was seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.**

- (a) Approve Agenda for August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- (b) Approve Meeting Minutes for July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025
- (c) Approve Donation Resolution No. 25-8-13-22 for July 2025
- (d) Approve Transient Merchant Application for Sandar Kangur Books
- (e) Approve Gambling Permit Long Prairie Hockey at Viva Bar Resolution No. 25-08-13-23, 25-08-13-24 and 25-08-13-25 to allow gambling at 140 Central Ave, Long Prairie, MN
- (f) Approve Temporary Liquor License for St. Mary's of Mount Carmel on September 7<sup>th</sup>

**Council Reports**

**Public Works:** Council Member Krueger informed the council that the airport had a meeting on Monday August 11<sup>th</sup> and there was a good turnout. The new hangar project is still waiting for the funding to be finalized by the federal government before construction can start. The public works department has been busy with mowing, trimming, patching holes in the seal coat area, painting, and utility locates for projects going on in the city. The backup generator for the water treatment plant has been delivered and installed, as soon as the rest of the electrical components arrive the project will be completed. The main lift station start-up was on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> and at this point the transition from the old station has gone well. The old station is still in place and if there are any major issues they can start up the old station while the issues are being sorted out. The next few weeks public works will be painting the School Xing's, mowing, patching, and the daily water wastewater rounds and samples.

**Planning & Zoning:** Mayor Kreemer informed the council that the next Planning & Zoning meeting will be held on Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.

**Police Department and Fire Department:** Mayor Kreemer provided an update that over the past two weeks of 07/23/25 through 08/13/25 the LPPD had 317 calls with an average of 14.41 per day. This includes: 12 with suspicious activity, 3 civil related, 115 traffic related, 2 juvenile, 13 medicals, 8 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 7 theft, 118 assists, and ordinance specific are: 11

animal-related, 9 noise related, and 19 ordinance-related complaints. The chiefs noted that the Latino Fest that was held on July 26<sup>th</sup> and went off pretty good, good music, great food, and good numbers of attendance. There are a few areas that need to be adjusted for next time, for example no glass containers in the street, and over 21 wristbands. Main incident was a child playing on the rocks at the war memorial, and a rock came loose and rolled from its placement. The 7-year-old child, had immediate attention, was transported by ambulance to the hospital, then air lifted out for further evaluation. The child had scratches across their upper torso (front and back). It was later learned that the outcome was a cracked collar bone and a lacerated spleen. National Night Out was held on August 5<sup>th</sup>, thank you to the those who attended and assisted. Estimated numbers for this year's event were down by about 100-150 attendees. This may have been due to the forecasted heavy rains, (which turned out to be light and brief) or the political climate over immigration. Part-time interviews were held on August 6<sup>th</sup>, and three candidates were interviewed, and they were all very good. There was a change in the interview panel, Lilah took Gabriel's place on the panel due to a time conflict. Next phase for the applicants is the psych test for the candidates; we can use Boe's test from Todd County since it is less than a year, Daniel's cost be split with Staples PD since he is in the process of being hired as a part-time officer there as well, Eric's will be an expense of the city. On August 1<sup>st</sup> Officer Harden completed her six-month probation period. From the fire department Jason Sellnow requested to be able to use the ladder fire truck from 1-2 pm to take to Long Prairie School to teach the kids during the fire safety demonstration. The Corn Chicken Feed Fundraiser will be held tomorrow on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm. A mock bus training for the Fire Department will be held on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Aksamit Bus Garage and students will be on the buses. The propane company will also be there to show us how to react since buses are switching from gas to propane. They will use two buses; and EMS and state patrol will be part of it as well. The LP Fire Department is also on backup for Clarissa Fire Department as they are down to one tanker there.

Liquor Store Park & Recreation: Council Member JoAnn informed the council that the liquor store has been very busy with all the things going on in town, making them even busier. The THC sales have begun to pick up quite a bit now, mostly out of town people who are on their way through town. Lake Charlotte Park has been crazy busy between all the events. The pickleball courts have been very busy and she wanted to give kudos to our public works department who keeps it clean and mowed it has been nice to see this and all the activity.

EDA, Library/Health and Wellness: Council Member Gripne informed the council that the library is working on moving its children's corner to a new location in the library. It was also noted that the EDA meeting will be on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Tourism and Community Concern: Council Member Perez informed the council that the event by the clock was well attended with music. Discussion on the senior center later in the meeting.

Engineer Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie updated the council on the CSAH 56 & CSAH 38 Improvements that turf establishment is improving in the Riverside Drive and 2nd Ave SW project areas. It appears the overseeding in June has worked out well. There are still a couple yards where additional work is planned to correct some issues. Near Riverside they may have to implement pavement due to washout. The Main Lift Station project was completed. The new lift

station is required to operate for 30 days prior to demolishing the old equipment and building. There is a new note that the contractor has requested delay paving until next spring due to a freeze thaw cycle to help prevent any future issues as well as so when demolishing they do not damage the new bituminous pavement, there is no increase in cost with this request. The only additional cost could be associated with engineers. The Trunk Highway 287 project is being run by MDNOT and has been completed with all lanes open to traffic. The crosswalk flashers were installed today as well. Previously the state had Bolton & Menk send out a lead service line inventory, they are wanting to do a second round at this time. They received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Health to continue to try to track the properties that they still do not yet have the replies for. They will be going to the locations in person and will need to access inside the house to check the pipes. If anything is found there will be further grants potentially available to help change the lead pipes. There is no cost to the city for this.

Administration Report: Candace Bruder, City Administrator, presented that another additional requirement for our Well Head Protection Plan is to keep the public informed of events related to water testing. There are flyers to inform the public of Free Private Well Water Screening on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-6pm at the Stearns County Fairgrounds. There is also another flyer on Free Nitrate Water Tests, and that will take place this Wednesday-Friday from 12-4 at the Todd County Soil and Water office. The sale of the ECP Enterprises was finalized today August 13<sup>th</sup>. There is some continued work regarding the TIF that will need to occur with time. The audit is wrapping up we have provided all data to the auditors that they have requested, and we should have it done by Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. The auditors have noted to us that we should have an invoice module to track our receivables for future ease of the audit, there is quote for this module attached and we will proceed with implementation. It is also noted that we would like to send Callaway and Katie to Banyon training in the future, either online or in person. On Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting at Sourcewell for City Administrators on Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events that I will be attending. On Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> there is another meeting from 11:30- 2 at the Alexandria City Hall for MN Financial Officers and Administrators that Callaway and I will be attending. On September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Callaway and I will be attending the Clerks Academy in Staples at Sourcewell. This academy is to update office staff on changes in our roles within government and to give updates on their responsibilities within government. On September 24-26 there is a MNGFOA Annual Conference at Arrowwood in Alexandria that Callaway and I were advised by Kyle from Ehlers Financial to attend to keep us up on financial matters, this is a three-day conference. See attached daily agendas for that conference, we plan to pick opposite sessions to learn more. The cost for each of us to attend is \$325 a person and we will be driving each day to save on no hotel costs for this event. We also applied for a grant for \$125,000 since the last meeting. It is through DEED for, and these requests should be related to public works needs and we applied to try and get cameras at our water treatment plant and other locations that the public works director has wanted to have at different locations. If we don't end up getting this grant, we will have to reevaluate the need for these and see if in the future the budget would allow this. The city also received a letter of thanks from the Todd County Development Corporation for the \$7,500.00 donation made previously.

### **New Business**

Council Member Perez provided photos of the roof at the Long Prairie Senior Center. He noted that updates should be made to the windows and bathrooms since they aren't ADA compliant.

He states that the walls are not insulated and that the electric panel is too close to the bathroom. It would cost about \$13,000 to move the electrical, windows would be \$14,000, the roof would cost \$10,000 for just the shingle section, for framing an office and updating the bathroom it would cost \$45,000. The city staff went to the site to take pictures and provide an analysis of what they observed, and they provided some data to the council. Council member Perez said that the city needs to make this building a top priority over all the others. That these items need to be fixed soon. It was noted that if the library noticed these issues they should have reported it immediately. A future thought is the library, and the senior center could be built together in the future. The building is classified as commercial and therefore an energy audit will not be performed by the utility providers. It was noted that the roof should be mended regardless of what is decided. We need to have two estimates before any decisions can be made, but we should discuss this further during the work session that is being planned on how we should proceed with this issue. The kitchen is a commercial kitchen and noted some damage from recent water issues and the age is 6-7 years old. The costs that were presented are almost over \$100,000 for the repairs. It was noted that this is bigger topic of discussion on how to proceed with this building if the building is even worth fixing or starting the process of thinking of a new building.

Mayor Jim Kreemer presented the information that the Chavez Event Center will be having a Rodeo in Long Prairie at the Todd County Fairgrounds on September 13th. The caterer license that he already has allows him to serve alcohol anywhere within the state of Minnesota, but they're required to notify the local Police Department. The City of Long Prairie Police Department is aware of this upcoming event, and they will have an officer patrolling that area on that day. The Chavez Event center will also be providing 10 additional security guards for this event. They would like to have it in Long Prairie, which would help bring people to town, this event has been held in Sauk Centre for the past few years.

**Council Member Krueger motioned to acknowledge the Rodeo that will be hosted by the Chavez Event Center on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Todd County Fairgrounds, and they will be serving alcohol at this event under their caterer's license, motion seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.**

The council held discussions regarding the review of Officer Lateshia Harden's 6-month probationary period. The council had deliberations that they would like to have her train a bit more prior to being transitioned from her 6-month probation period, specifically with her having some overnight shifts due to the difference in duties in night and day shifts. She is enrolled as well to be the future DARE officer and will be attending some training courses in September. It was noted that the council wants her to take on some night shifts as soon as possible.

**Council Member Krueger motioned to remove Officer Lateshia Harden off her 6-month probationary period and make her a full-time officer; motion seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Roll Call Vote: Perez-Yes, Kreemer-No, Gripne-No, Krueger-Yes, Schroeder-Yes. Motion Carried.**

On Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> interviews were held to fill the Part-Time Police Officer position. There was a panel of five that conducted the interviews. Discussion was held after the interviews and it was noted that the Long Prairie Police Department usually has 6 part-time officers, so on

that note it was decided to hire all three applicants. This brings the part time police officer capacity to full capacity. The next phase of the process is the psych test for each applicant and then a health physical, all background checks are completed.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to hire the following three Part-Time Police Officers in order: Boe Garthus, Eric Goedert and Daniel Stueck; motion seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.**

St Mary's of Mount Carmel Parish requested support for their event and their proposed route for the race during the Hot Cakes Hustle on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 7:30am till 12pm. After discussions with Ryan (Police Chief), he would like the route along 4th Ave S to go on the sidewalk from the east to the west, otherwise if it is on a State Roadway it will have to be reviewed by the State of MN. After discussions Council Member Perez, Council Member Krueger and Bolton and Menk each offered a goodwill donation of \$250.00 to donate to St Mary's of Mount Carmel Parish to offer some prize money for the first-place winners of the race and to spread the money amount to the different place winners.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the proposed race route as agreed upon by the Chief of Police for the event called Hot Cakes Hustle at St. Mary's of Mount Carmel on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025; motion seconded by Council Member Perez. Unanimously Approved.**

City Engineer Kent Louwagie presented Pay Application No. 7 to C & L Excavation in the amount of \$14,820 this represents that 78% of the project is completed for the Main Lift Station Project. As of August 11th, 2025, the lift station became live and will run for 30 days until it becomes active on its own.

**Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Pay Application No. 7 in the amount of \$14,280.00 to C & L Excavation for work completed on the Main Lift Station; motion was seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.**

**Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the quote of \$5,776.25 from ARC Electric for the Well 6 Stand by Generator; motion was seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.**

**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 8:08 PM.**

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Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

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James Kreemer, Mayor