

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 27th, 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 27th, 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, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, and City Engineer Kent Louwagie. Members of the public present: Daniella Chavez, and Ryan Schmidt

**Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve the consent calendar with the additional agenda items of #5: Change Order No. 11 for drainage Swale on Riverside Drive #6: Change Order No. 1 for Well #6 Generator along with the correction to the August 13th meeting minutes that Naomee Walidith was misspelled and should be Naomi Walrath along with the correction that it should have said the Senior Center Manager and not listed as the Library Manager. Motion was seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously approved.**

- (a) Approve Agenda for August 27th, 2025
- (b) Approve Meeting Minutes for August 13th, 2025
- (c) Approve Bills July 22nd, 2025-August 25th, 2025

**Council Reports**

Public Works: Council Member Krueger informed the council that the airport does not yet have another meeting scheduled at this time. Public Works have been busy with mowing, trimming, patching holes in the seal coat area, painting, and utility locates for projects going on in the city. The main lift station has been online since Monday August 11th and at this point there have been very few issues. Most of the patching in the seal coat area is complete and is ready for seal coating, all crosswalks, parking stalls, and no parking areas have been painted for 2025. The next few weeks public works will be mowing, patching, winterizing Rosen Fields, cleaning sewer lines, and the daily water wastewater rounds and samples.

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Kreemer informed the council that the Planning & Zoning meeting was held last night and that it included a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan and that the next council meeting will include an Addendum to the original Comprehensive Plan. Three individuals were present with no comment.

Police Department and Fire Department: Mayor Kreemer provided an update that over the past two weeks of 08/13/25 through 08/27/25 the LPPD had 288 calls with an average of 19.20 per day. This includes 6 with suspicious activity, 4 civil related, 151 traffic related, 3 juvenile, 10 medicals, 7 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 4 theft, 73 assists. The ordinance specific are 9 animal-related, 4 noise-related, 1 burning-related, and 16 ordinance-related complaints. The Chief notes that all the new part-time hires have successfully completed their evaluations, with

Boe and Eric having started. The other part-time officer Daniel is finishing training with the Staples PD before beginning with the LPPD. They had a successful Movie Night hosted by Todd County Health & Human Services, which was held at the LP Drive-In on August 21st, with the kids enjoying Sonic 3. Officers are including enforcement for TZD – Speed to be completed by September 1st, 2025. The BCA Audit forms submitted for review for continued CJIS access, to be completed by September 4th, 2025. Dan Laumeyer stated that the mock bus training for the Fire Department was held on Wednesday August 20th at the Aksamit Bus Garage and it was a success. It included over 40 fireman and over 50 personnel from the state patrol and bus company; as well as 21 children who acted as victims. The fire departments volunteers were from the cities of Hewitt, Bertha, Eagle Bend, Browerville and Long Prairie. Next week they have their annual firefighter physicals for all individuals, and the company comes to the city hall to conduct this. The Corn & Chicken Feed Fundraiser was a success.

Liquor Store Park & Recreation: Council Member JoAnn informed the council that the liquor store has seen a lot of new customers with changes in staffing in some local industries. The guard rails near the pickleball court have been installed and the parking lot will be paved within the next 10 days. The Lions Club will also be putting their logo up on the pickle ball courts. Some additional upgrades to Lake Charlotte Park that have been discussed by the Lions club include enclosing the west side of the pavilion with garage doors so that during inclement weather the shelter is still usable. Another discussion is upgrading the sidewalk from the pavilion to the parking lot, and they are also considering replacing the existing sidewalk to make it wider, so it is handicapped accessible.

EDA, Library/Health and Wellness: Council Member Gripne informed the council that the EDA meeting was held on Wednesday, August 20th. The Manufacturer's and Business Appreciation Breakfast will be held October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. We were informed of Melissa Wyman's resignation as the Todd County EDA director. The former EDA director, Rick Utecht has been hired as the interim director. A Compeer Grant of \$10,000 and a MN Power grant of \$2,500 were received toward funding childcare solutions. Luan will continue to pursue a DEED grant. The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Oct. 25th.

Tourism and Community Concern: Council Member Perez informed the council that he has nothing to report at this time.

Engineer Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie updated the council on the CSAH 56 & CSAH 38 Improvements. The turf establishment continues to look good in the Riverside Drive and 2nd Ave SW project areas that were reseeded in June. There are still three yards where additional work is needed, and we are coordinating that with the contractor for the next week to address those issues. The agenda item that has been added is addressing a drainage swale that was constructed on the west side of Riverside Drive last year continues to wash out, despite multiple attempts to establish turf. Drainage from about 70 acres west of the city ultimately flows through this swale and into the river. After discussion with Public Works, Todd County, and the contractor, we've concluded that the best available solution is to pave the drainage swale. As for the Main Lift Station, the startup occurred on August 11th, and it has been operating since then. The new lift station is required to operate for 30 days prior to demolishing the old equipment and

building. The Water Treatment Plant and Well No. 6 Generators are required to perform the water tower rehab project that is set to be completed next year as the tower will need to be emptied to perform the work. The water system pressure will be maintained by the water treatment plant and wells. The new generators at the water plant and at Well No. 6 will allow the water plant and wells to maintain pressure in the water system if a power outage occurs while the water tower is offline. The Water Treatment Plant Generator project consists of a new diesel generator, automatic transfer switch, main service panel, integration, and a concrete pad. The work on this project is complete except for controls integration and seeding disturbed areas. The Well No. 6 Generator project consists of installing a city-owned natural gas generator, automatic transfer switch, main service panel, integration, and a concrete pad. Work on this project is completed except for installation of the natural gas service, controls integration, and seeding disturbed areas. As for the Lead Service Line Inventory efforts, Bolton & Menk staff went door to door last week, with the goal of visually confirming the water service pipe material inside buildings. They plan to have staff in town again this week. This effort is paid for via a grant from the MN Department of Health. There are still a few hundred residents that we have not been able to identify if they have lead service lines or not. In future years if lead is identified the MN Department of Health intention is to add additional funding to help address these issues.

Administration Report: City Administrator Candace Bruder informed the council that the lead service line information is on the website as well and has been broadcasted on the radio to inform residents of the door knocking that started on August 21st. The Teamsters union negotiations for the Police Department were held on August 18<sup>th</sup> with Council Member Gripne and Mayor Jim Kreemer as the council representatives. Negotiations went well and an agreement was reached. On Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, there was a meeting at the Alexandria City Hall for MN Financial Officers and Administrators that Callaway and I attended. There was a lot of valuable information shared at this meeting that we will implement regarding budget and other city issues. After the meeting we also went to the Douglas County Library to look at furniture and shelves for our library. At this point they don't have an official date for the new Douglas County Library; but it will be in the lot where the old Jefferson High School was. 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 administrators/clerks on changes in our roles within government and to give updates on their responsibilities within government. Currently we are working on the budget for 2026, and Callaway has met with almost all department heads. Ideally, we would like to have a work session before the next council meeting to discuss any wants or concerns to the budget by the council and department heads before the preliminary levy is set. The attendance of this would be for all department heads and council of the City of Long Prairie to be held on Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am, and it will be a work session. It was also noted that Mayor Jim Kreemer, Public Works Director Chad Bosl and EDA Director Lu are meeting in the morning at Harmony Park to address the weed issue there. They are trying to figure out a solution to eliminate the current state of the weeds and to prevent them in the future.

### **Old Business**

On July 9<sup>th</sup> a general estimate was brought to council to discuss the different body camera audit quotes, and it was tabled until the council has more details on the specifics of what each specific

audit covers. The newest quote from Lynn Lembcke Consulting for the Body Camera Audit has the best pricing. There are other police departments in the area that have recommended this consultant. It is the most comprehensive and has the best pricing in the area.

**Council Member Schroeder motioned to approve the bid from Lembcke Consulting for \$1,150.00 for the Body Camera and License Plate Reader Audit; motion seconded by Council Member Perez. Unanimously Approved.**

### **New Business**

Ryan Schmidt, CPA from Schlenner and Wenner presented on the 2024 Audited Financial Documents. This was just recently published in the newspaper and to the State Auditor's Office. There were details provided to the council on all account information, and it was noted that this was the smoothest audit that the City of Long Prairie has had in years and believes it to be due to the new team that has been put into place at the City of Long Prairie.

**Council Member Krueger motioned to accept the City of Long Prairie's 2024 Audited Financial Statements; motion seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.**

City Engineer Kent Louwagie presented Pay Application No. 1 to ARC Electric in the amount of \$16,150 for Well No. 6 Generator Project. This will pay for all materials on hand and work completed through August 20, 2025.

**Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$16,150.00 to ARC Electric for the Well No. 6 Generator Project; motion was seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.**

City Engineer Kent Louwagie presented Pay Application No. 1 to ARC Electric in the amount of \$100,249.70 for the Water Treatment Plant Generator Project. This will pay for all materials on hand and work completed through August 20, 2025.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$100,249.70 to ARC Electric for work completed on the Water Treatment Plant Generator Project; motion was seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.**

City Engineer Kent Louwagie presented Change Order 1 for the Main Lift Station Project. This change order modifies the contract times to allow construction of the bituminous pavement and final site grading to next year.

**Mayor Jim Kreemer motioned to approve Change Order 1 for the Main Lift Station Project to modify the contract times; motion was seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.**

City Engineer Kent Louwagie presented Change Order No. 11 for the drainage swale on the Riverside Drive. This change order is due to the drainage swale. The erosion problem solution is

to pave the area. The contractor provided a quote of \$32,280.00 for this project and it can be split between Todd County and the City of Long Prairie. Todd County's portion would be 56% and the cities portion would be 44% of this amount. The city share total is \$14,203.20. This change order would extend the due date to November 1<sup>st</sup> to allow ample time for the changes to occur as well as the money needed to close the project out.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve Change Order No. 11 for the Drainage Swale on Riverside Drive. The change order to the contract amount is for \$32,280 with Todd County's portion being \$18,076.80, 56% and the City's portion at 44% as \$14,203.20; motion was seconded by Council Member Perez. Unanimously Approved.**

**Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the Change Order No. 1 for Well # 6 generator in the amount of \$5,776.25 to ARC Electric; motion was seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.**

**There being no further business, Council Member Gripne motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Jim Kreemer; unanimously approved- meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.**

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Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

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James Kreemer, Mayor