**City of Long Prairie**

**8:00 A.M. Wednesday September 10th, 2025**

**City Council (Work Session)**

The Long Prairie City Council met at City Hall at 8:03 a.m. on Wednesday September 10th, 2025. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members, Lilah Gripne, Clint Krueger, Gabrier Perez and JoAnn Schroeder. City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder, Finance Officer/Clerk Callaway Neumann, Police Chief Ryan Hanson, Public Works Director Chad Bosl, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, Liquor Store Manager Pam Koska. Members of the public that were also present included Verna Toenyan.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve agenda Mayor Kreemer seconded.**

1. Budget Review

2. Facilities Updates

3. Department Head Requests

4. MN Paid Family and Medical Leave

5. Insurance Renewal Information

The city council reviewed information regarding the proposed 2026 preliminary budget and suggested levy increase. A presentation was made by city staff which included resources that explained how a home’s property tax is calculated. Other information was presented on contributing factors to a tax-levy increase, which include the following items: union negotiations, workers compensation rates, health insurance rates, staffing changes and street repairs among other inflationary increases to city expenses. The city is also preparing for potential future significant cuts from state and federal funding sources. A major contributing factor to the city budget is from the LGA (Local Government Aid) and this will have a direct impact on the city and its taxpayers, and it isn’t expected to increase as much as was anticipated.

Discussion was also had with each department head on their proposed current budget needs and suggestions. The council was notified of facility updates that will be needed in the near future that should be addressed soon. Information was also presented regarding the MN Paid Family Leave Act and how that will affect the city and how to administer the new program. The council was also presented with the proposed 2026 insurance renewal rates. Different department staff also presented to council potential challenges within the city and suggestions were given to council on how to address these issues. It was noted that the new office staff in the last year is trying to create a more cohesive working relationship between all department heads and city staff and trying to promote a healthy relationship with city council members as well.

**After no further discussion, Council Member Gripne motioned, and Council Member Schroeder seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 pm. Motion unanimously carried.**

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Candace Bruder Jim Kreemer

City Administrator/Clerk Mayor