**City of Long Prairie**

**7:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 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 September 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, Officer Trevor Larson, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, and City Engineer Kent Louwagie. Members of the public present: Wally Zastrow, Robert Clasemann, and Daniella Chavez.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the consent calendar along with the correction to the August 27th meeting minutes that the EDA meeting date should be October 15th not the 25th. In New Business Add Agenda Item #2 Contract for Services for Small Cities Development Program. Motion was seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously approved.**

(a) Approve Agenda for September 10th, 2025

(b) Approve Meeting Minutes for August 27th, 2025

(c) Approve Donation Resolution No. 25-9-10-26 for August 2025

(d) Approve 1-day Mobile Food Truck Permit for Theiler Holdings LLC DBA Axe Kitchen

**Resolution #25-09-10-26**

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS**

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

**Donor Amount Purpose**

Glenn & Joan Merritt $200.00 Fire Department

Ione M Krause $200.00 Fire Department

**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 Long Prairie acknowledges and accepts the donations received in the month of August 2025.

**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 September 2025 by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie.

ATTEST:

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Candace Bruder James Kreemer

City Administrator/Clerk Mayor

**Public Comment**

Wally Zastrow, a representative from Long Prairie Township addressed the council about his townships fire contract. The township has not sent in payment for the year due to not having a written contract signed. It was noted by Mayor Kreemer that they have not received a written contract for over 12 years and had continued to pay every year prior to this year the council is wondering why this is an issue now. The existing contract does state it shall continue until there is a new contract written up. A new contract will be written with the lawyers approval.

**Council Reports**

Public Works: Council Member Krueger informed the council that the public works have been busy with mowing, trimming, patching holes, cleaning sewer lines, and the normal daily rounds. The new main lift station is up and running there have been very few issues. They did have the pumps plugged with flushable wipes; there will be flyers sent out with the utility bills to make people aware of this issue. Flushable wipes are not flushable. The next few weeks public works will be mowing, winterizing sprinkler systems, flushing hydrants, and the daily water wastewater rounds and samples. It was noted there is no date set yet for the next airport meeting.

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Kreemer informed the council that Planning & Zoning has a meeting scheduled on Tuesday September 23rd, 2025.

Police Department and Fire Department: Mayor Kreemer provided an update that over the past two weeks of 08/27/25 through 09/10/25 the LPPD had 212 calls with an average of 15.14 per day. This includes: 10 with suspicious activity, 2 civil related, 72 traffic related, 4 juvenile, 14 medicals, 7 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 10 theft, 70 assists, and ordinance-related specific are: 7 animal-related, 10 noise-related, 2 burning-related, and 4 ordinance-related complaints. Dan Laumeyer from the Long Prairie Fire Department noted that they celebrated their 136th birthday the previous week. They will be covering for the City of Sauk Centre while the city’s water tower maintenance is actively taking place, anywhere from 2-3 weeks. They are still providing additional coverage for Clarissa as they are down to one tanker, and the new one has yet to arrive. Training for NERIS is underway. It was noted that the fire department will be participating in the Homecoming parade on Friday September 26th. Sourcewell will be holding a seatbelt clinic in the city hall parking lot on October 16th from 5-7 pm, it is the only one in the county that is happening this fall.

Administration Report: Mayor Jim Kreemer presented that the work session that was held earlier in the day went very well. At the next meeting on September 24th there will be a public hearing held on the TIF District for ECPs new warehouse. They also would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on the 25th of September following the approval of the public hearing. It was agreed upon that a time of 10:00 am would work best for everyone. Another note was made that the food license that was previously approved will be setup at Harmony Park on Saturday September 13th from 12-5:00 pm. Discussion was had that when someone comes in for a food license if the council approves the license in that calendar year they would be covered for the season, if they want multiple days in the same season that first approval would stand per council.

Liquor Store Park & Recreation: Council Member JoAnn informed the council that the liquor store has seen a lot of new customers with employee shifts in local industries. The pavement parking lot project in front of the new pickleball courts by the Long Prairie Lions Club at Lake Charlotte Park is officially complete.

EDA, Library/Health and Wellness: Council Member Gripne informed the council that the

next EDA meeting will be held October 15th. On Friday October 3rd from 1:30-2:15 pm Minnesota author, Layla Reid, will be speaking and signing her books at the library. She will speak about her books and her writing process. Books she has written include “The Secrets of Adley Creek”, “Something Good”, and “Chokecherry Drive”. This is being funded by Minnesota’s Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. On Wednesday October 8th, from 4 to 6 pm will be “Fantasy Pony: Step by Step” with Mary. This is for school-age children. Registration starts at 4 pm Wednesday September 10th. Each participant will create their own canvas using acrylic paints. This is a Legacy Class Workshop. From our Health and Wellness, high sitting time (9-11 hrs) accounts for 7% of deaths in adults over 45 years. Risks include heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, cancer and mortality. Cancer is the second highest cause of death in the US after heart disease. Local libraries are vital and contribute to the intellectual, cultural, social and economic well-being of communities and foster informed and engaged citizens.

September 22-26 is Fall prevention awareness and the “Safe Driving Guide for Drivers ages 65+ (2025 edition) is now available. This can be viewed on the Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths website and is also available in print form.

Tourism and Community Concern: Council Member Perez informed the council that he has started the process of planning for next year’s Latino Festival with Luan.

Engineer Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie updated the council on the CSAH 56 & CSAH 38 Improvements. Additional turf restoration efforts were completed last week at three properties in the 2nd Ave SW neighborhood. The drainage swale repair on Riverside Drive was also completed. The Main Lift Station startup occurred on August 11th, and it has been operating since then. Demolition of the old lift station and treatment plant building is planned to start the week of September 22nd. The Water Treatment Plant Generator is complete except for installing the transfer switch and seeding disturbed areas. The transfer switch is scheduled to be delivered later this month. The Generator startup will be scheduled as soon as the transfer switch is installed. The update for Well No. 6 Generator is that the natural gas line and meter were installed last week. Coordination is underway to connect the gas line to the generator. After that, this project will be completed except for controls integration and seeding disturbed areas. The anticipated delivery date of the transfer switch is later this year. For the Lead Service Line Inventory, they are preparing mailings that will be sent to properties with “unknown” pipe materials. Bolton & Menk staff will occasionally be in town, going door to door, with the goal of visually confirming the water service pipe material inside buildings. This effort is paid for via a grant from the MN Department of Health. Mayor Jim Kreemer made a comment that he saw the dirt over on the Westside prior to it being hydro-seeded and it appeared to look very nice.

**New Business**

**CITY OF LONG PRARIIE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-09-10-27**

**RESOLUTION ADDING AN ADDENDUM TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

WHEREAS, Long Prairie’s zoning code and comprehensive plan provide the framework for land use and development decisions. The current comprehensive plan, “Expanding Our Horizons – Long Prairie Comprehensive Plan Update 2035”, was adopted in 2015 and outlines a 20-year vision for the city. This plan established Long Prairie’s long-term goals and policies across key areas like land use, housing, public facilities, transportation, economic development, tourism, and environmental protection. It serves as the basis for the zoning code (Chapter 16 of the City Code), ensuring that zoning ordinances align with the city’s desired growth path, and:

WHEREAS, Key components and objectives of the existing plan include:

• Land Use Management: Designating residential, commercial, industrial, and public land uses to guide orderly development and prevent land use conflicts. The plan includes a future land use map and policies to manage growth, annexation, and land preservation.

• Housing and Neighborhoods: Strategies to provide a variety of housing types and price ranges, maintain neighborhood quality, and accommodate future population needs. The 2015 plan set housing goals for affordable options, senior housing, and upkeep of existing housing stock.

• Public Facilities and Infrastructure: Plans for maintaining and expanding infrastructure (water, sewer, roads) and city facilities in line with growth. For example, ensuring sewer and water capacity for new development and coordinating improvements with growth areas.

• Transportation: Goals to improve road safety, connectivity, and maintenance. The existing plan addressed street improvements, support for walkability and trail development, and coordination with state and county transportation plans.

• Economic Development: Policies to support downtown revitalization, attract businesses, expand the tax base, and promote tourism. The plan set a vision for a thriving local economy and identified opportunity sites for commercial or industrial expansion.

• Parks and Environmental Resources: Plans to enhance parks, recreation, and open space, and to protect natural resources. The 2015 plan included goals for park expansion as the city grows, preservation of the Long Prairie River corridor, and environmental stewardship in land use decisions.

• Implementation: An action plan outlining short-term and long-term steps. The existing plan’s implementation chapter gave a list of action items such as updating zoning maps, pursuing funding for infrastructure, and coordinating with the township on annexation agreements, and:

WHEREAS, this 2015 comprehensive plan has guided Long Prairie’s development over the last decade. The zoning code was kept consistent with the plan, for instance, any rezoning or conditional use permit today must be compatible with the plan’s future land use map and goals. Overall, the existing plan’s main objective is to promote a “prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable” Long Prairie, providing a legal foundation for land use controls and ensuring that growth occurs in the public’s interest. However, by 2024 the City recognized the need to update its plan to address emerging issues and to keep the vision relevant. Rather than discarding the well-established 2015 plan, the City is choosing to amend the plan to include new parameters. This supplemental plan developed in partnership with Region Five Development Commission, keeps the existing plan in place but incorporates new ideas and correct any gaps in the current plan without losing the valuable groundwork already laid, and:

WHEREAS, the proposed addendum, completed in 2025, builds on community input gathered thru surveys and meetings and introduces updated priorities, and help guide, along with the existing plan, Long Prairies next 10 to 15 years of growth, and:

• WHEREAS, the new focus drafted by Region 5 plan is organized around six broad themes – Built, Social, Individual, Cultural, Political, and Environmental – to ensure a holistic approach. Under each theme, specific topics are addressed:

• Built: Emphasis on Broadband expansion, modern transportation needs, community facilities, housing availability, and brownfield redevelopment. This reflects new priorities like improving internet connectivity and addressing vacant/underused industrial sites, which were not prominent in the 2015 plan.

• Social: Focus on community services, such as improving access to childcare, public safety, and health services. The new plan recognizes changing social needs and aims to strengthen services that support families and a safe community.

• Individual: Focus on food security and individual well-being. This is an addition – ensuring residents have access to healthy food and basic needs – aligning with broader community health initiatives.

• Cultural: Emphasis on creating a welcoming community and opportunities for innovation. The plan includes strategies to celebrate cultural diversity (important in Long Prairie’s increasingly diverse population) and to support innovative local entrepreneurship.

• Political: This theme addresses governance and zoning. Notably, the draft highlights updates needed in the Political – Zoning section to ensure the city’s land use regulations promote the new vision. It effectively links the comprehensive plan with zoning code updates, underlining that zoning decisions should reflect the plan’s goals (e.g., encouraging desired land uses).

• Environmental: Enhanced focus on energy efficiency, stormwater management, soil and water quality, waste management, and parks/recreation. The proposed plan places sustainability front and center – for example, encouraging renewable energy use, better stormwater controls, and expanding parks – in part due to funding and guidance from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency during plan development.

• Community Engagement: Developed with assistance from R5DC, the plan was informed by local input. Community members met at a kickoff meeting in January 2024 and subsequently planned team meetings. A public survey garnered 186 responses, identifying community issues and aspirations. The emphasis on public input aligns with best practices, making the plan a reflection of community voices.

• Strategic Vision and Goals: The proposed plan articulates a fresh Vision Statement for Long Prairie: “Long Prairie will be a community where all residents feel welcome and have access to an excellent quality of life…” and so on. From this vision, it sets updated goals and strategies. Many goals reinforce or build upon the 2015 plan’s objectives but with a contemporary twist – for example, adding goals for digital infrastructure (broadband), inclusive community programming, and resilience against environmental challenges. These additions ensure the city’s policy direction keeps pace with changing times (technology, inclusivity, climate resilience, etc.).

• Energy and Environment Emphasis: A distinguishing feature of the Region 5 plan is its energy and environment focus, supported by MPCA’s Community Resilience funding. It introduces goals for sustainability that were not as prominent before – like promoting energy-efficient buildings, planning for solar or other renewable energy, and detailed stormwater and flood management policies. For instance, the plan might recommend updating building codes for energy efficiency or mapping flood-prone areas for better land use decisions. This new environmental chapter strengthens the city’s commitment to green practices, and:

WHEREAS, in summary, the proposed addendum aligns with the broad vision of the existing plan (prosperous, inclusive growth) while introducing important new priorities and corrections. It is forward-looking on technology and sustainability and responds to community needs that have emerged in the last 8–10 years. The addendum’s goals largely complement the 2015 plan’s goals: where the old plan focused on foundational needs (land use, basic infrastructure, etc.), the new plan adds layers of social and environmental initiatives. Together, they give Long Prairie a more comprehensive roadmap for the future. Changes or additions in the proposed plan related to the old plan include new topic areas (broadband, food security), updated community vision, stronger environmental policies, and identification of some gaps in current policy (like the need for a formal future land use update and better implementation metrics). These changes are designed to enhance, not replace, the city’s established planning framework. Importantly, the decision was made to adopt this as an addendum, thereby retaining the existing plan in force.

NOW, THEREFORE, Long Prairie followed this process. On May 27, 2025, the Long Prairie Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing to consider the proposed plan addendum and its incorporation into the City’s zoning code framework. After reviewing public input and discussing the content, and at a follow-up meeting on June 24, 2025, the Planning Commission formally recommended adoption of the Region 5 Comprehensive Plan Update as an addendum to the existing comprehensive plan. This recommendation is a key milestone; it indicates the Commission’s support and triggers Council action. Because this is being approved as an addendum, a second Public Hearing was held on August 26th, 2025, by the Planning Commission to gather further input on this being an addendum, rather than a stand along Comprehensive Plan update.

Some details of this step and ongoing action:

• Public Hearings: Two notices of public hearings were published and posted in accordance with statutes at least 10 days prior to the meetings and the meetings were legally posted. Residents and stakeholders had an opportunity to comment. No major opposition to the plan addendum was recorded, and the Commission saw the value in moving forward at both hearings.

• Commission Deliberation: The Planning Commission consists of members tasked with ensuring planning consistency. They discussed how the addendum fits with the City’s goals and any issues in the draft. They took additional time to review the draft after the Public Hearing, and at their June 24th meeting, as well as the follow-up meeting on August 26th, 2025 the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council adopt this plan as an addendum, given that the existing 2015 plan remains in effect and provides the necessary backbone and that this new document adds value on important topics.” In other words, the Commission agreed that the combination of the old plan plus the new supplement would serve the city better than the old plan alone.

• As Follow-Up: The Planning Commission is directed to continue work to update the plan over the next year, to update areas in the Plan that still need to be amended in the original plan, and not addressed in the amendment, and to debate, address, and amend the Plan as is needed, to hold the requisite meetings, and use the resources necessary, to complete this task.

ADOPTED by the City on this 10th day of September 2025. CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA.

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James Kreemer, Mayor

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Candace Bruder, City Administrator

The Planning and Zoning Committee also held meeting regarding the plan, and the conclusion was that the old comprehensive plan includes items that should still be in effect, but that the new plan includes items that were addressed that the city should start working on. The idea is to combine the two plans together with an addendum, so we can use them both for reference. Down the road the goal would be to combine the two plans as one together or to create a new plan down the road.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to add Resolution #25-09-10-27 as an Addendum to the Comprehensive Plan: motion was seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.**

A recent meeting was held with Central Minnesota Housing Partnership, EDA Director, Mayor and City Administrator. A contract was presented that would help the city rehab and provide beautification for the exterior of homes and properties in the City of Long Prairie. It does include owner occupied, rental and commercial properties. This is a state program and does have rigorous guidelines, including income limits, it would be administered by Minnesota Central Housing Partnership. The city would need to be routing the money, essentially the grant money is paid to the city and then the city would pay the contractors once confirmed. This has been done in similar cities in the area including New Munich, Staples, Bertha, and Wadena. Prior to them starting this potential program a payment is needed from the city.

**Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the Contract for Services Small Cities Development Program Preparation and Submission, Preliminary Proposal and Full Application to the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development; motion was seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Roll Call: Council Members Schroeder, Gripne and Mayor Kreemer-Yes. Council Members Perez and Krueger Abstained from Voting. Motion Carried.**

**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 7:35 PM.**

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Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk James Kreemer, Mayor