

**CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Long Prairie City Hall - 615 Lake Street
Wednesday, March 11th, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.**

The Regular Long Prairie City Council Meeting was called to order at City Hall at 7:00 pm, on Wednesday March 11th, 2026. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with Present Council Members Clint Krueger, Gabriel Perez, JoAnn Schroeder, and Lilah Gripne. Also, present: City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder, Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Police Officer Melissa Morazan, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, EDA Director Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst, and City Engineer Kent Louwagie. Members of the public present: Jeremy Sovich, Trevor Larson, Reta Dahlen, Gwen Spieker, Peter Klick, Jason Krebsbach, Janet Karnes, Chris Amundsen, Sarah Amundsen, and Bob Klick.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the consent calendar as listed below; motion was seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.

- (a) **Approve Agenda for March 11th, 2026**
- (b) **Approve Meeting Minutes for February 25th, 2026**
- (c) **Approve Donation Resolution No. 26-03-11-04 for February 2026**
- (d) **Approve 6 specified dates (1-day) Mobile Food Unit Permits for Fruity Bowls Concessions**

Resolution #26-03-11-04

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie has received the following donations during the month(s) of February 2026 to date for the following purposes:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Public Cash	\$45.00	Outdoor Ice Rink

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 the City of Long Prairie acknowledges and accepts the donations received in the month of February 2026 to date.

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 11th day of March 2026 by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie.

ATTEST:

Candace Bruder
City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer
Mayor

Public Hearing

Mayor Kreemer called the Public Hearing on the proposed application for community development block grant funding to order at 7:03 pm.

Jason Krebsbach, who is the Community Development Director for the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership, Inc., presented as he will be leading the public hearing on the Small Cities Development Plan and assisting the city in the grant application process. It was noted that applicants have to be low-income, live-in city limits, etc. The city is required to hold a public hearing as part of the program.

The initial surveys came in with 21 Owner Occupied, 4 Single Family Rental, and 5 Commercial Rehab Projects projected in the city. The city could still qualify for additional single-family rentals and commercial rehab projects. The overall budget that the City of Long Prairie currently has proposed is \$943,000 with the maximum being allowed \$1.2 million, which is where the addition of single-family rentals or commercial rehab projects could still apply. The funds for this project come from the federal government directly. The implementation schedule states that we wouldn't know if we were selected for the grant until September /October 2026. These are federal funds, so they are subject to federal requirements and state requirements as well. The applications for homeowners will not be for at least a year, as the full application is a bit more tedious for residents. They are on a first come first serve basis. In the Spring of 2027, it would be the kickoff of the program with September of 2029 as the end date, it is a 30-month timeline from when papers are signed between the City and Federal Funds are received. Residents need to note if lead paint is detected that due to this being federal funds it would require immediate remediation. He noted that the staff of CHMP have been administering this program for 20 years, they typically administer anywhere from 3-5 grants at a time during a year. Projects that are on a house that is more than 45 years old will have additional paperwork needing to be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office, to make sure they aren't historical sites. If it is discovered, then they may be required to use specific materials. This hasn't been an issue for other past applicants but is being brought up to be made aware of for the citizens. These funds would be forgivable after 7 years, if a home was sold before that time they would have to pay back a pro-rated portion of the funds. Commercial has no proration term, they would have to pay it all back if sold before the 7-year time frame.

Commercial properties have a different set of applicable standards that these funds may be used for, which limits them to the exterior of the buildings and signs. These funds can also be used for ADA compliance issues and that would qualify. Whereas residential properties have more applicable items inside and overall that the funds can be used for.

Mayor Kreemer calls the Public Hearing to be closed at 7:37 pm.

Public Comment

Bob Klick, LuAnn Thomas-Brunkhorst and Peter Klick all came to speak in support of the Christie House and the \$4,000 donation request from the city to simply maintain itself, they will address council at the time of the agenda item.

Gwen Spieker requested that the city invest in a better audio system, so if a meeting is live-streamed the meetings are easier to hear.

Council Reports

Tourism & Airport: Council Member Krueger informed the council that they will have an upcoming airport meeting and are looking into a land swap at the airport and if possible. Tourism had a meeting last week and tourism representative will be addressing the council during agenda.

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Kreemer informed council that Planning & Zoning has an upcoming meeting scheduled for March 24th with no other updates.

Police Department and Fire Department: Mayor Kreemer informed council that over the past two weeks of 02/25/26 through 03/11/26 the LPPD had 311 calls with an average of 22.22 per day. This includes: 7 with suspicious activity, 4 civil related, 75 traffic related, 8 juvenile, 14 medicals, 2 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 148 assists, and ordinance specific are: 2 fire-related, 5 animal-related, 5 noise-related, 3 vehicle-related, 35 property ordinance-related and 3 garbage-related complaints. The 2026 Durango has been ordered by Dan Welle. It should be about two months before arrival, then it will need to be upfitted. The police department is having a department meeting on 3-17-26, updating photos, conducting training refreshers and discussions. Officer Puff is being hired by Todd County Sheriff's Office, the police department is requesting to post for applications closing 3-27-26, statewide. It was noted to the chief that the council can't move forward with posting a job notice until the council has received an official resignation letter from Officer Puff. Officer Harden completed one year of service, and the chief was asking to take her off of probation. It was then noted by the mayor that she was already taken off of 6-month probation at the August 13th council meeting. At that time, it was requested that she work overnights due to differences in duties as an officer. The mayor is requesting a report on dates that she has worked night shifts since her 6-month probation to be presented to the council at the next meeting, this has been requested before. Officer Harden along with David Determann (Todd County) have been documenting, photographing and notifying tenants and owners of Fairview trailer park for City and County ordinance violations. The Long Prairie Police Department will be completing EMR training with the LPFD in the month of April. The Long Prairie Fire Department has repairs on the trucks and pump testing taking place this week. On Friday Jeremy and Dan will be taking the Ladder truck down to the headquarters at Lino Lakes to get it serviced over the next week. On April 1st at 6:30pm at city hall the Yearly Township Fire Meetings will be held in the council chambers with a meal after in the fire hall.

Administration Report: City Administrator Candace Bruder presented to council that she is waiting for Centerpoint Energy to do the other piece of the audit at the Senior Center before going forward with any improvements. She met with Pam and a Tar Contractor to look at options for the liquor store parking lot and the potential expansion of the lot to add 6-9 parking spaces. There was a meeting with a representative from Command Well Being per the Chief and after the meeting the feeling was that it is the decision of the chief if he would like to spend his department's funds on this service and whether it is budgeted for and where he would like to take

this expense from his budget for 2026. This program would be for the departments employee's mental health awareness assistance. The cost is \$3650 a year and LP would be the only city in the State of MN to use this application. Detailed work has begun on updating the personnel policy with suggestions from the lawyer's office to get the most up to date proper language in the policy. There was a discussion with Pete Nelson, Northstar Plumbing on his lot in the industrial park this week. He is still trying to figure out if he wants to use the lot to build any kind of structure for his business. The 6th Street project with Long Prairie Township has had some recent legal advice. The city attorney said it is in the best interest of the city to avoid any potential litigation by making sure that the Township follows fair bidding practices since the project is over the \$175,000 threshold if the city is to be involved in any cost sharing. So, we have given the township the state statute and will assist them in properly publishing bids to follow MN State statute through our engineering team.

Liquor Store Park & Recreation: Council Member Schroeder said to the council that she had conversations with our Liquor Store Manager Pam in regard to adding additional parking spaces along with potential additions. For Parks & Recreation everything is pretty quiet.

EDA, Library/Health & Wellness: Council Member Gripne presented to the council that the next meeting of the EDA will be held on April 1st. The Annual County EDA meeting will be held at the Browerville Community Center on Thursday, April 9th. For the library, they will have Thursday Afternoon Book Club on March 12th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. On Wednesday, April 8th from 5:00 to 6:30 pm The Textiles for Teens: Pattern Design Studio will be held. This is for teens ages 13 and up. There is a limit of 15 for the class. Students will be designing their own pattern and then printing on a cotton tote bag. The tote and pattern will be available for them to take home. In October of 2025, Brandi Canter was selected as the new Executive Director of the Great River Regional Library. Some library stats include: 18,842 new library cards were issued in 2025, with 2,282,865 physical items checked out. There were approximately 1,091,844 library visitors for 2025. Volunteer hours amounted to 10,229 and there were \$26,782 in-kind donations. The Summer Reading Program Challenge participation and digital collection usage were record-breaking. The Winter Reading Challenge had 2,923 teens and adults participating. Two thousand four hundred fifty-two programs and events were held and 49,480 attended programs. Many of the programs were sponsored by the Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendments. These were some of the highlights of the Great River Regional Library for the past year.

Community Concern for Youth and Public Works: Council Member Perez informed the council that for the Senior Center he will have updated construction costs soon, and they are still waiting on Centerpoint Energy like previously stated. Whereas over the last few weeks Public Works have been busy sweeping streets, patching holes, building picnic tables, and the normal daily rounds at the treatment facilities. The next few weeks public works will be plowing snow as needed, sweeping streets as weather permits, patching holes, and cleaning out the chlorine contact chamber at the wastewater treatment plant.

Engineer Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie informed the council that the County 56 & 38 project is still waiting on paperwork from the contractor to proceed with final payment and

closeout. For Riverside Park a final pay application for Phase 1 is on the agenda tonight otherwise we are waiting on the snow to melt to service the areas and begin creating Phase 2 job requirements. We also are requesting bids for a sealcoat project with bids due on the 19th of March, hopefully we will have recommendations for the next meeting then.

Old Business

Bob Klick spoke on the Christie House which the city took over in 1975-76. It is registered with the Minnesota Historical Society and is on the National Historic Registry. Peter Klick the president of the Christie House Museum spoke in regard to it being the only house in the State of Minnesota that entails all of its original furnishings. The house is owned by the City of Long Prairie and is managed by a board of directors, funded by public donations with a small donation also coming from the City of Long Prairie in the amount of \$4,000 to cover maintenance expenses. Reta Dahlen spoke about how many hours volunteers donate, and it is estimated to be over 500 hours a year. They currently have a plan to replace the shingles with specialty ones to retain the original character, which could cost \$130,000, so the ask for the donation from the city is minimal in the scheme of things. Luan Thomas Brunkhorst spoke about how important maintaining historical buildings and architecture is to the economy of Long Prairie. She also spoke about how she could potentially help market by providing support to Christie House to provide more clarification of the available tour times and to make sure the Facebook page is up to date for visitors. It was noted by members that they are looking into getting bus tours into town and having more paranormal tours. The Christie House is gem in our community, and we should be fortunate that we have a committee that maintains the grounds and funds, they are just asking for this amount as assistance to maintain operations. The requested amount has been stable for the last few years.

Council Member Schroeder motioned to donate the requested amount of \$4,000 to the Christie House Historical Society to maintain operating expenses; motion was Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.

New Business

Discussion was held on Resolution No. 26-03-11-05 declaring Slum and Blighted Areas this is part of requirements for the Small Cities Development Program Grant Application. This specifies the region that commercial applications are from and it is the downtown area. Research was done to find the area best suited for these funds because of physical deterioration.

Resolution No. 26-03-11-05 Declaring Slum and Blighted Area

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie is concerned about the economic viability of slum and blighted area within its corporate limits, and

WHEREAS, the slum and blighted area projects a negative visual image of the community, and

WHEREAS, the economic, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the City is adversely affected by the conditions of this slum and blighted area, and

WHEREAS, there exists the opportunity to improve, preserve, and re-develop this slum and blighted area to the benefit of the community, and

WHEREAS, the following detrimental conditions have been identified which qualify the area under State law and Community Development Block Grant Program requirements:

- 1) Public Improvements are in a general state of deterioration; or
- 2) At least 25% of the buildings are deteriorated or deteriorating and have at least one of the following characteristics: Physical deterioration of building or improvement; Abandonment of property; Chronic high turnover or vacancy rate; Significant decline in property value or abnormally low property value in relation to other areas of the community; or Known or suspected environmental contamination.

WHEREAS, of all the parcels within the target area, 54 of them are occupied by buildings. Of the 54 buildings in the target area, 29 of them are structurally standard, 25 of them are structurally substandard, and 0 are dilapidated.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following area is designated a “Slum and Blighted Area”; Starting at the east side of Lake St. N./Hwy 71 from south side of 1st Ave. N. to north side of 1st Ave. S., then east on 1st Ave. S to west side of 4th St. S., then north to south side of 1st Ave. N., then west to east side of Lake St. S./Hwy 71.

Resolved and agreed upon this 11th day of March, 2026.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

James Kreemer, Mayor

Candace Bruder, City Administrator

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve Resolution No. 26-03-11-05 Declaring Slum and Blighted Area; motion was Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Roll Call Vote: Perez -Abstained, Kreemer – Yes, Gripne – Yes, Schroeder – Yes, Krueger – Abstained. Motion Approved.

Discussion was held on Resolution No. 26-03-11-06 Local Government Resolution this is another requirement for the Small Cities Development Program Grant Application. This states that the City of Long Prairie is in support of administering these funds to the applicants of Long Prairie as the fiscal agent and management of funds.

**Resolution No. 26-03-11-06
Local Government Resolution**

Applicant Name: City of Long Prairie

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Long Prairie (Applicant) act as the legal sponsor for the project contained in the Application to be submitted on April 15, 2026 (date) and that the Mayor (Title of First Authorized Official) and City Administrator (Title of Second Authorized Official) are hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for funding of this project on behalf of the City of Long Prairie (Applicant).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Long Prairie (Applicant) has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Long Prairie (Applicant) has not violated any Federal, State or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the State, the City of Long Prairie (Applicant) may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the approved project, and that the City of Long Prairie (Applicant) certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor (Title of First Authorized Official) and City Administrator (Title of Second Authorized Official), or their successors in office, are hereby authorized to execute such agreements, and amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Applicant.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council (governing body of Applicant) of the City of Long Prairie (Applicant) on March 11th, 2026 (date).

SIGNED:

WITNESSED:

(Signature)

(First Authorized Official)

(Title) (Date)

(Title) (Date)

(Second Authorized Official) _____

(Title) (Date)

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve Resolution No. 26-03-11-06 Local Government Resolution; motion was Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Roll Call Vote: Perez - Abstained, Kreemer – Yes, Gripne – Yes, Schroeder – Yes, Krueger – Abstained. Motion Approved.

Chris Amundsen, Tourism Committee Director, presented to the council the Independence Day Celebration plans at Lake Charlotte. He is requesting fireworks to be held on that day again, as last year they estimated roughly 2,000 people were in attendance. He would also like to have a cookout before the fireworks at Lake Charlotte Park to bring the community together and to raise funds to support the fireworks. There was also mention of getting a beer wagon at the lake for the event as well through the Lion's Club. He noted that the concert in the parks has been handed over to the Chamber of Commerce and EDA Director for this upcoming year. He stated that overall, he wants to increase his number of donations towards the fireworks by organizing a golf tournament called "The Opener" and doing a 50/50 raffle at the Todd County Fair when the tourism sponsored band will be playing. Another item discussed was making modifying to the current Welcome Guide which was to be redone this year and transforming it more from a book to a foldable visitors guide for tourism, the council would like to see a sample of one.

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve the fireworks for the 5th of July Celebration under the condition that Tourism must raise a majority of the funds otherwise the Tourism Committee would be required to pay the City back for any remainder the following year; motion was Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

This is the third and final pay application for Phase I which includes all work completed for the initial work to Jeff Leyk. The final bill amount did end up going over by \$2,396.05 over the original contract amount – this is what Change order #1 entails. It includes some additional compliance requirements for rock and native grass seedings. This spring Phase II will start with a new contractor. Funding for this project is the through the LCCMR.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve Pay App No. 3 to Jeff Leyk for \$6,271.30 for completion of Phase I at Riverside Park; motion was Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Change Order No. 1 for the additional work at Riverside Park; motion was Seconded by Council Member Perez. Unanimously Approved.

Resolution No. 26-03-11-07

A Resolution of Application to the Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water Revolving Fund for Water Treatment Plant Improvements

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie is hereby applying to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for a loan from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund for improvements to its municipal drinking water system as described in the loan application.

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie estimates the loan amount to be \$2,092,500 or the as-bid costs of the project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA, THAT:

1. The City has the legal authority to apply for the loan, and the financial, technical, and managerial capacity to repay the loan and ensure proper construction, operation and maintenance of the project for its design life.
2. The City hereby expresses its official intent to use proceeds of this loan to reimburse construction expenditures made prior to the issuance of its general obligation bond to the Public Facilities Authority.

Adopted by the Council this 11th day of March, 2026

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve Resolution No. 26-03-11-07 Application to the PFA Drinking Water Revolving Fund for Water Treatment Plant Improvements in the City of Long Prairie; motion was Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

Resolution No. 26-03-11-08

**A Resolution of Application to the Public Facilities Authority
Drinking Water Revolving Fund for Water Tower Improvements**

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie is hereby applying to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for a loan from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund for improvements to its municipal drinking water system as described in the loan application.

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie estimates the loan amount to be \$976,375 or the as-bid costs of the project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA, THAT:

1. The City has the legal authority to apply for the loan, and the financial, technical, and managerial capacity to repay the loan and ensure proper construction, operation and maintenance of the project for its design life.
2. The City hereby expresses its official intent to use proceeds of this loan to reimburse construction expenditures made prior to the issuance of its general obligation bond to the Public Facilities Authority.

Adopted by the Council this 11th day of March, 2026

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Resolution No. 26-03-11-08 Application to the PFA Drinking Water Revolving Fund for Water Tower Improvements; motion was Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.

Mayor Kreemer motioned to amend the previous Resolution related to the Water Tower Improvements to also approve the authorization of Bolton and Menk to go out for bids for the Water Tower Improvements to include LED Lighting to the Water Tower as an option that can be removed later if council decides that; motion was Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Pay App No. 10 from C & L Excavating for \$6,710.26 for Main Lift Station Improvements; motion was Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the 2025 and 2026 Interfund Transfer amounts in Fund Accounting; motion was Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Pam Koska and Ian Sanchez to attend the MMBA (MN Municipal Beverage Association) Conference April 18-21st; motion was Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve Katrina Scheve (Year 2) and Callaway Neumann (Year 1), to attend the 2026 MN Municipal Clerks Institute May 4th-8th; motion was Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Candace Bruder to attend the 2026 MCMA (MN City Management Association) Annual Conference from April 29th-May 1st; motion was Seconded by Mayor Kreemer. Unanimously Approved.

There being no further business, Council Member Krueger motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion Seconded by Council Member Gripne; unanimously approved meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor