

Long Prairie City Council
Meeting Long Prairie City Hall (Work Session)
10:00 am, Thursday, August 6th, 2026

The Long Prairie City Council met at City Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday August 6th, 2026. Mayor Jim Kreemer called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members, Lilah Gripne, Clint Krueger, Gabriel Perez and JoAnn Schroeder. City Administrator/Clerk Candace Bruder, Account Finance Clerk Callaway Neumann, Police Chief Ryan Hanson, Public Works Director Chad Bosl, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, Volunteer Fire Fighter Jeremy Sovich, Liquor Store Manager Pam Koska, City Engineer Kent Louwagie-Others Present.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve work session agenda; motion was seconded by Council Member Schroeder.

Discussion was held on requested updates for the Liquor Store in 2026 regarding the signage and a beer cave to the south of the building. The next project in 2027 is to start the conversation on taring the parking lot and adding additional parking spaces. Liquor Store Manager Koska stated that there haven't been improvements besides the roof in over 20 years.

Discussion was held and a presentation was given by Cloud Permit on a Community Development Software that could assist the city in organizing and tracking complaints, nuisance violations, rentals, improvements, planning and zoning, and public works requests essentially a property management system for the city to track everything related to each home in town.

Discussion was held on creating a Code Enforcement, Business/Rental Licensing, Building Permits, and Planning/Zoning Position to assist and manage the community development software that was previously stated. This position would also then take on the task of managing and identifying rentals and working with the rental inspector. This would be new venture for the city to enact a rental code and then there is a need to have staff to manage such a large and new undertaking for the City of Long Prairie.

Discussion was held on various topics by the City Administrator on project and updates. There was a status update on the senior center progress and deadline for grant submission. The next was a topic of concern related to cyber security and to start implementation of proactive measures to prevent intrusions. An update on creating a safety committee and having a newer safety and health program for the city and its employees and a presenter was available related to providing these needed services. A presentation from Sourcewell was given on grant potential and ideas on what they have to offer the city. Discussion on a lot in the industrial park. The upcoming EDA and Chamber Contract for 2027 was discussed and reiterated that this contract is with the Chamber of Commerce for services and request for an increase in the contract cost should be for that reason. The last administrative topic was the idea of selling a hangar with a dirt floor to a potential renter who inquired about it, the council decided it was best to keep the hangar in the cities possession.

Discussion was held by City Engineer Louwagie from Bolton & Menk on future projects and planning. The topics that were discussed were related to the updates needed related to the Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project that is upcoming in 2027. The next area of concern is Well 3B and what the future and for this well and if replacement is the next option. Another area of dire concern is the Todd Street Improvement Project and starting the planning process as soon as possible. Also, the future street improvement projects and overall city capital improvement projects were discussed so that we can prepare for the future and start the conversations. Another topic was potential expansion into city limits from MN Fresh and adding utilities to this location.

Discussion on some budget items related to updates to Christmas Decorations on HWY 71 for the future, fire department flooring updates and treating the ash trees in city limits.

Discussion was held by the Police Chief on his request for (2) Part-Time and (2) Full-Time Positions 2026 & 2027. He provided more information on his request to council and reasoning on his request and shifting from Part-Time to focusing on more Full-Time Officers and using grant funding that has been awarded to pay for part of this position.

The city council reviewed information regarding a proposed 2027 preliminary budget amount and suggested levy increase. 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.

There being no further discussion, Council Member Gripne motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion was Seconded by Council Member Perez; unanimously approved meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Candace Bruder
City Administrator/Clerk

Jim Kreemer
Mayor