

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Wednesday January 14th, 2026
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 January 14th, 2026. 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, City Engineer Kent Louwagie, Chief of Police Ryan Hanson, Police Officer Jeremy Puff, Police Officer Melissa Morazan, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, Volunteer Firefighters: Jeremy Sovich, Otis Ostendorf, Kevin Houdek. Members of the public present: Kristy Modra and Daniella Chavez.

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

- (a) Approve Agenda for January 14th, 2026
- (b) Approve Meeting Minutes for December 22nd, 2025
- (c) Approve Donation Resolution No. 26-01-14-01 for December 2025

Resolution #26-01-14-01

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS

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

Donor	Amount	<u>Purpose</u>
Public Donations	\$148.00	Outdoor Ice Rink
Terry Perry	\$50.00	Outdoor Ice Rink
ECP/Liberty Diversified International	\$125.00	Outdoor Ice Rink
Lions Club	\$2,500.00	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 Long Prairie acknowledges and accepts the donations received in the month of December 2025 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 14th day of January 2026 by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie.

ATTEST:

Candace Bruder

City Administrator/Clerk

Council Reports

James Kreemer

Mayor

Public Works: Council Member Krueger informed the council that new flyers have been posted to provide information on renting the new hangars once they are completed. The Public Works have been busy with some snow removal and plowing, taking down Christmas decorations, and maintenance at the water treatment plant, repairs on airport runway lights (struck by lightning last year), and the daily rounds at the treatment facilities.

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Kreemer informed the council that Planning & Zoning meeting was held in December, and some of those items are on the agenda with detail.

Police Department and Fire Department: Mayor Kreemer provided an update that over the past twenty-four days of 12/22/25 through 01/14/26 the LPPD had 409 calls with an average of 17.04 per day. This includes: 1 with suspicious activity, 4 civil related, 164 traffic related, 10 juvenile, 15 medicals, 2 disturbance-domestic-assaults, 177 assists, 6 thefts, and ordinance specific are: 2 animal-related, 6 noise-related and 10 snow-ordinance (2 garbage-related, 10 vehicle-related) complaints. The chief notes that the LPPD received 40 Buddy Bears donated by Glacial Ridge, or A.B.A.T.E. American Bikers for Awareness, Training & Education of Minnesota. These will be a welcome addition for Officers to dispense at various opportunities within our community. Lateshia Harden started D.A.R.E. Training at both the LPGE Elementary and St. Mary's Catholic Schools today and will be continuing on a weekly basis. Our part-time officers Eric Goedert, Boe Garthus and Daniel Steuck all have reviewed and completed their FTO Training manuals and are actively scheduled and working. The LPPD has received numerous reports that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has been in Long Prairie and was confirmed this morning. Local law enforcement is working on sitting down and talking with enforcement agents about community concerns.

Fire Chief Laumeyer informed the council that the apparatus maintenance is in, service will be happening on the trucks this week. MN Cities will be sending a check for \$12,900 for the prorated damage of the equipment that was damaged last February during a fire call. Mayor Kreemer then informed council with more information from the fire chief's report about a DNR fire truck that is still waiting to be finished, painted and back to our Firehall. The old grass rig truck will then have to be returned to the MN DNR State Forestry Department in Little Falls. The Annual Township Fire Contract Meeting will be on April 1st, 2026, at 6:30 pm at City Hall at the Council Chambers and all are invited to attend. On April 7th the Fire Department will be hosting First Aid/CPR/AED training. Also note that the ISO is still being worked on and there are items that need to be done to regain enough points to retain a rating of 4. If not, it would increase fire insurance rates for the citizens of Long Prairie. An item that carries points and doesn't cost the Fire Dept is a Rental Inspection Ordinance Code. It would help if it were implemented in 2026, and it was noted that the process has been started.

Administration Report: City Administrator Candace Bruder informed the council that she had agenda items that they would be going through.

Liquor Store Park & Recreation: Council Member Schroeder informed the council that the Liquor Store Year End Inventory went well and is completed at this time. There were also talks on the data sheets provided to council which showed the slowest days being Sundays and to have a discussion with Pam about whether it is worth it to be opened on Sundays. Council Member Schroeder also stated that the Todd County Park Board is in the process of buying a small parcel of property that is on the westside of Riverside Park, for two reasons- so they can make a canoe access and to potentially put a bridge in.

EDA, Library/Health and Wellness: Council Member Gripne informed the council that January is blood donation month. One donation can save up to three lives. Most donors are 25-64 years of age. January is also Mental Health Awareness month and National Birth Defects Prevention month. The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21st. As for the library, January 2nd through February 28th is the winter reading program for adults and teens. This year has the title of "Chill Out and Read". Register at the library to win prizes and track your reading. Another upcoming event will be held on Friday, February 6th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm is Kerry Grombacher's Song and Stories of the American West will be presented at the library. This program is for all ages and is funded by the Legacy Amendment. On Thursday, February 12th the Thursday Afternoon Book Club will meet from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. The GRRL has a new mission and vision for 2026-2030 which is to: Support learning; Share their story (all about what the library offers and how it helps the community; Welcomes all; and Grow partnerships (work with groups and businesses to do more together. Core values are exceptional service, forward thinking and community focus.

Tourism: Council Member Perez informed the council that he is still in talks with Light Way Construction as far as the quotes for the Senior Center, and hopefully by the next meeting he has estimates for council as to how much the work would cost to perform.

Engineer Report: City Engineer Kent Louwagie informed the council that since the last city council meeting, there have been additional discussions with Wally Zastrow (Long Prairie Township Board) regarding their plan for 6th Street SE. A summary of that discussion is as follows: The township is proposing a 2" mill and overlay of the existing pavement, but they have concerns that widening the road would likely require re-grading the road ditches and could potentially impact wetlands. They are not planning to widen the road. As for the cost splits: Costs on the city/township boundary would be split 50/50 between the city and township. On the north end of 6th Street, there is a paved shoulder on the west side, about 9' wide by 1140' long. If this is included in the mill and overlay, it would be 100% city cost. The center 24' of the road in this area would be split 50/50. The south portion of 6th Street that outside of city limits would be 100% township cost. The Lake Charlotte Road right of way is within city limits, we expect this short segment would be split 50/50. The township anticipates the total construction cost will be less than \$175,000. They are currently seeking quotes. If we assume the construction cost is \$175,000, the cost breakdown as described above is likely around \$70,000 City and \$105,000 Township. At the December council meeting, we noted that if the city proceeds with this project,

a decision would be needed whether this project would be assessed. City Ordinances Chapter 5, Section 5.201, et. seq. describes public improvements. Specifically, a mill and overlay is an assessable project under the city code, provided the conditions of 5.205 are met. Section 5.205 states: "Where an improvement is constructed which is of special benefit to properties within a definable area, it is the intent of the council that special assessments be levied against the benefitted properties within that area to the extent that the costs of such project can be deemed to benefit the properties..." If the City considers this mill and overlay project to be a pavement improvement that should be assessed, there is a specific process that must be followed along with corresponding resolutions to be adopted. Bolton and Menks fees to perform this work for the city could range from \$20,000 to \$30,000. If the city chooses not to assess the project cost, then the city should decide if the township or the city will lead this project. The city may also want to consider developing a cost-sharing agreement with the township.

New Business

Mayor Kreemer provided the mayor appoints as follows:

Airport and Tourism: **Clint Krueger**

Public Safety, Administration and Planning & Zoning: **James Kreemer**

Health & Wellness, Library and EDA: **Lilah Gripne**

Parks & Recreation and Liquor Store: **JoAnn Schroeder**

Community Concern for Youth and Public Works: **Gabrier Perez**

Acting Mayor: **Clint Krueger**

Administration Report: **Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk**

City Engineer Report: **Kent Louwagie from Bolton and Menk**

Official Paper: **Long Prairie Leader**

Financial Institutions: **American Heritage National Bank, Minnesota National Bank, Mid-Central National Bank, Wells Fargo, RBC Wealth Management Firm, Ehlers Investments and other financially sound institutions which are in compliance with Minnesota Statutes governing city depositories as official depositories for the city for 2026.**

Auditors: **Schlenner Wenner & Co.**

Law Firm: **Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A.**

Insurance Agent: **Advantage One Insurance**

Council Member Kruger motioned to approve the Mayor Appointments for 2026; motion Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.

The council reviewed some proposed models for 2026 to decide if they would like to establish City Council Committees for 2026. This would provide more clarification between departments and the council members regarding the day-to-day operations of the City of Long Prairie. This is to start the conversation on how to organize transparency from council members to staff members. The council wants to do more research on this and see if they want to implement it.

The city council also started the idea of raising the rate of pay for council members in 2027. The rates wouldn't take place until the following year when newly elected officials take office. After some research it was noted that different towns have different approaches but the medium range

for council members is generally \$350-\$400 per month, which covers two city council meetings, the current council only receives \$150 a month and the mayor \$200 with each additional work session as an additional \$50. It should also be noted that if council committees are created, it does raise the question of whether they should be paid additionally or just simply increase the overall monthly stipend to cover all additional meetings. More research will need to be presented to council to accomplish this task before the next election cycle.

An internal application process was used this year to fill the Fire Department positions for this year, and the Fire Chief provided the department's requests. All the appointments from 2025 to 2026 are the same and as follows: Fire Chief- Laumeyer, 1st Assistant-Bodie, 2nd Assistant-Haasser, Secretary-Meyer, Treasurer-Sellnow, V.P. -Nelson, President-Ostendorf, Training-Laumeyer, and Safety-Koltes. The council only has to approve the Fire Chief each year.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve Dan Laumeyer as City of Long Prairie Fire Chief for 2026; motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve the 2026 Partnership Sponsorship Todd County Development Corporation Donation in the amount of \$2,500 for 2026: motion Seconded by Council Member Gripne. Unanimously Approved.

Council Member Krueger motioned to approve the Hilltop Regional Kitchen Donation in the amount of \$3,311 for 2026; motion Seconded by Council Member Schroeder. Unanimously Approved.

The planning and zoning commission passed a Lot Combination Application for Jeremy Weber for lots 36-0064800 and 36-0064300 at their last meeting. The real estate taxes are paid for the year, which is a State Requirement. Todd County would still like to have a formal motion by the city council for this lot combination. The parcels would then turn into one parcel, and the County will delegate the new parcel number after all the conditions are met by the applicant.

Council Member Gripne motioned to approve the application for a Lot Combination for Jeremy Weber for Parcel Number No. 36-0064800 and 36-0064300 into one parcel number which will be assigned by Todd County: motion seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

During the Planning & Zoning meeting a complaint driven rental ordinance was proposed. After more research and review from our city attorney he recommended that the city work on a full-blown rental ordinance including hiring a person to combat and organize this task. The council is well aware that this is going to be time-consuming and expensive, but it will get the job done. The registration fees would help pay the inspector but would not cover all of the costs.

Council Member Krueger motioned to proceed forward with a Rental Ordinance and to have Planning & Zoning proceed forward with the research and development; motion Seconded by Council Member Perez. Unanimously Approved.

Mayor Kreemer motioned to approve Candace Bruder and Callaway Neumann to attend the 2026 MCFOA Annual Conference March 24th-27th with shared hotel and travel expenses, motion Seconded by Council Member Krueger. Unanimously Approved.

There being no further business, Council Member Gripne motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Kreemer; unanimously approved- meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Candace Bruder, City Administrator/Clerk

James Kreemer, Mayor