

**City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, March 5, 2012**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2012. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Art Rowan, Tony Towle, Lilah Gripne, Bob Klick, and City Administrator/Clerk David Venekamp.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of February 21, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rasmussen called to order a 7:00 p.m. public hearing on a rezoning request by Robert Polipnick. Mr. Polipnick is requesting to rezone a 55 acre parcel in the northeast portion of the city from residential (R-1) to agricultural (A-O). Those present for the public hearing were: Lyle Danielson, Kevin Langer, Judy Breiter, Duane Breiter, Geri Wiegele, Alice Siegle, Pete Nelson, Jim Kreemer, Steve Daoust, Linda Daoust, Kathleen Nauber, Devin Hines, Jeff Hines, Neal Leagjeld and Robert Polipnick.

Mr. Polipnick stated that when the property was originally annexed into the city, it was zoned as residential. Unfortunately, due to the collapsed housing market, he has been unable to sell the lots in the adjoining subdivision as fast as originally thought. Mr. Polipnick still has 8 lots available in the housing development just south of the area for rezoning. According to Mr. Polipnick, he has a purchase agreement for the sale of the property if he can get it zoned to agricultural. Mr. Polipnick stated the cost to continue to develop it as a housing development is too high and that is why he is selling the property.

Jeff Hines, the realtor for the purchaser, stated the buyer's intent for the property is to crop farm the land with no farm animals on the property. Hines stated most of the property surrounding the housing development, especially to the east and south, is agricultural and crop farmed. The potential buyer has contacted surrounding property owners for access to the property without using the road; however, at this time he has not obtained it.

The council noted that Gary and Bobbie Schroeder had submitted a letter to the council opposing the rezoning request.

Duane Breiter stated he purchased his lot in 2007 when it was owned by a different owner. Duane stated if it is rezoned there would be farm equipment using the street which in his mind is already too narrow. The farm equipment would also carry dirt out into the streets.

The council discussed the fact that, should it be rezoned agricultural, the city ordinance allows farm animals in agricultural and industrial zones. There is nothing preventing future owners of the property to have farm animals on the property.

Steve Daoust stated he was opposed to any type of development that would increase the amount of traffic passing their property. Daoust indicated that due to the number of cars parked on the street and the narrowness of the street; it becomes difficult for the residents to use the street.

The council discussed the fact that the property owners did not seem so much opposed to the rezoning of the property as the fact that the individuals using the property would most likely need to use the city street to gain access to it.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to rezone the property from residential to agricultural providing that the seller can provide permitted access to the property without using the city street. Roll call: Yes; Rowan, Towle, Klick, Rasmussen. No; Gripne. Motion carried.

The council discussed possible public improvements along 7th Street NE, 2nd Avenue NE and 4th Avenue NE. In reviewing the proposed project area, it was noted the city does not have all of the street right-of-way along 7th Street NE. There appears to be 6 to 7 properties for which the city does not have the right-of-way. Prior to beginning the public improvement project, the city should try and obtain sufficient right-of-way from those property owners. The council recommended to begin trying to obtain the necessary easements for the project.

The council, at their previous meeting, had discussed the water tower repairs which involved sandblasting rusted areas and repainting those areas. The city engineer contacted the paint supplier for the tower and he had agreed to re-inspect the water tower and provide the council a report on the condition of the paint. The paint supplier had reviewed the tower back in 2009 and at that time stated the city may want to look at it in 3 years. The paint supplier will be reviewing the condition of the tower on March 7th and will provide a report to the council at a later date.

City Administrator Venekamp reported to the council on the February 22nd bond sale by the city. The council had authorized paying off two 2003 bonds and doing a refunding issue on two 2006 bonds. The total amount of the issue was for \$2,045,000.00. The city received 6 bids on the project. The low bidder was UMB Bank in Kansas City, Missouri at a true interest cost of 1.5664%. Venekamp stated the 2nd lowest bid was United Bankers Bank and Minnesota National Bank of Long Prairie. Due to the low interest rate, the city was able to save \$312,395 over the life of the issue. This is a greater savings than what was originally projected.

Council member Gripne motioned Towle seconded to adopt the following resolution designating a polling place and the precinct boundaries for the city which was due to the redistricting of the congressional districts based upon the 2010 census.

**RESOLUTION #12-03-05-06
RESOLUTION RE-ESTABLISHING PRECINCT AND POLLING PLACE
FOR THE CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE**

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of Minnesota has been redistricted; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute section 204B.14, subd. 3 (d) requires that precinct boundaries must be reestablished within 60 days of when the legislature has been redistricted or at least 19 weeks before the state primary election, whichever comes first;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Long Prairie, County of Todd, State of Minnesota hereby reestablishes the boundaries of the voting precincts and polling places as follows:

Precinct: The precinct is all that property lying within the corporate limits of the city.

Polling Place: City Hall, 615 Lake St. S.

Adopted by the city council this 5th day of March, 2012.

David Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor

Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Towle motioned Klick seconded to approve two 15 minute parking spaces on the southwest side of 3rd Street South just north of 2nd Avenue South as requested by the county administrator. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve two handicap parking spaces as requested by tenants of the Reichert Apartments for the parking lot at the intersection of Central Avenue and 3rd Street South. Motion unanimously carried. (The parking lot is owned by the city and the county, Police Chief Kevin Langer was going to bring the request to the county commissioners for their approval also).

Council member Klick motioned Rowan seconded to approve pay request #7 to Di Mar Construction in the amount of \$102,049 for work at the wastewater treatment plant facility. Roll call: Yes; Rowan, Towle, Gripne, Klick, Rasmussen. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to approve payment #8 to Larson Excavating in the amount of \$83,067.37 for the 2010 improvement project. Roll call: Yes; Rowan, Towle, Klick, Rasmussen. No; Gripne. Motion carried.

The council reviewed a resolution on establishing a new fee schedule for mechanical/plumbing permits. The city's current permit fee structure for mechanical plumbing permits is the same as the city's building permit fee structure. Both fees are based upon the cost of the project. It was brought to the city's attention that the plumbers have a hard time trying to determine the permit fee since it's based on the value of the work being done. The proposed resolution sets the

City Administrator Venekamp informed the council the wastewater treatment plant project is proceeding as scheduled. The contractor is installing the motors and controls..

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer stated the city has had a request by Sauk Centre to bring a fire department unit to their April 28th Big Rig Show which is from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jim stated he would like to bring the ladder truck.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to allow the fire department to take the ladder truck on April 28th to Sauk Centre to participate in their Big Rig Show. Motion unanimously carried.

Jim Kreemer stated the department will be doing pipeline safety training on Wednesday; and on Saturday and Sunday members of the department and police department will be involved in a 16 hour course on train the trainer for the use of the 800 MHZ radio system.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated they had 214 incidents in February. Officer Breiter has completed a 40 hour course on cybercrimes. The course was paid by grants the department had obtained. Kevin stated the department and city attorney are also reviewing the city ordinances for possible changes to the violation sections of the ordinances from misdemeanors to petty misdemeanors. The suggestion to change the ordinances was made by the judges in order to eliminate the need for trials in the case of misdemeanors being appealed.

Chief Langer asked the council if they had time to look at the limited parking signs along the north and west side of the school. The current signs indicate it is limited parking; however, they do not have a time limit on the signs. Kevin suggested that the council look at placing a 1 hour limit on the parking.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to limit the parking on the north and west side of the school to a 1 hour limited parking area during school hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Klick stated the park board has approved the purchasing of three new docks for the beach at Lake Charlotte Park. The park board is also taking price quotes on cementing a portion of the bicycle path.

Mayor Rasmussen stated the airport commission is in the process of requesting engineering qualifications for work at the airport. Since the city receives FFA funds, a requirement of receiving those funds is that every 5 years the city must do a review of the engineering services for the airport.

City Administrator Venekamp stated the county is looking at doing a flyover for GIS data this year. If the city would like to have a higher resolution flyover, which would be done at a lower altitude, it would cost the city approximately \$3,000 which could be spread over a 3 year time period. It was estimated the last flyover was approximately 5 years ago. The higher resolution provides better picture quality for the city GIS services.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to approve the cost of doing a lower elevation flyover for the city in order to provide better resolution of the aerial photography. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Gripne motioned Rowan seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

David Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor