

**City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, September 17, 2012**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 17, 2012. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Tony Towle, Lilah Gripne, Bob Klick, Art Rowan, and City Administrator/Clerk David Venekamp.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of September 4, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed a request to close Central Avenue between 1st Street and 4th Street for the homecoming parade which is September 21st. Last year the street was closed from 1:00 p.m. until after the parade. Several of the council members stated they had received phone calls questioning the time length that the street was closed for the parade.

Kendra Delage stated the amount of time for closing of the street allows them to get cars off the street. It was suggested instead of closing the streets at 1:00 p.m., they could be closed at 1:30 p.m. which would still allow sufficient time for the parade.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to close Central Avenue from 1st Street to 4th Street from 1:30 p.m. till the end of the parade on September 21st. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Rowan motioned Towle seconded to approve the club licenses for the VFW and American Legion. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed a variance request by Todd County to the south property line setback for Block 13, Original Townsite. The purpose of the variance would allow the county to extend a new entrance way between Annex I and Annex II. The entrance way would also include ramped sidewalks to allow for handicapped accessibility. The entryway would be 6' from the south property line. City ordinances require a 25' property line setback.

Council member Rowan stated the planning and zoning held the public hearing for the variance request earlier in afternoon and it was unanimously approved by the commission to recommend its approval to the council.

Council member Towle motioned Klick seconded to approve the 19' variance request to the south property line of Block 13 Original Townsite as requested by Todd County to allow for the construction of an entrance way within 6 feet of the property line. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed a proposal by Jade Berube from Ulteig Engineering to issue a final payment to Larson Excavating for the 2010 street improvement project. Larson Excavating had requested \$35,470.40 in additional work to be paid under the contract. Jade indicated the cost (based on the contract's unit prices) was \$9,270.40. Mr. Larson had been contacted several

times concerning the price differential however he had not responded to the city. In order to close the project Jade is recommending the council offer to pay the \$9,270.40 and not charge any liquidated damages against the company for not meeting the completion date of the project providing Mr. Larson accepts the final contract payment.

Council member Gripne motioned Rowan seconded to approve the recommendation of engineer Jade Berube to final out the project with the change order of \$9,270.40 with the understanding that the city would not pursue liquidated damages against the contractor, Larson Excavating subject to his accepting the final contact price. Roll call: Yes; Towle, Gripne, Klick, Rowan, Rasmussen. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Towle motioned Klick seconded to approve a snow hauling agreement with Cary Hudalla for a two year time period at \$85 per hour. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed a letter from the Minnesota National Guard Armory concerning the possible purchase by the city of the armory building. The purchase price is \$13,700. The council discussed the problems with the cleanup of the building and its possible costs.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to inform the National Guard that the council respectfully declines the offer to purchase the armory. Motion unanimously carried.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated Dan Hoeschen has started work with the city as a part time police officer. The Chevrolet Impala's engine broke down however it is under warranty and Chevrolet will replace the engine.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer stated the final training on the 800MHZ radios will be done on Wednesday.

The council reviewed the city's 2013 employee health insurance premiums. The city did not receive an increase in premiums; therefore the 2013 premiums are the same as the 2012 premiums.

Council member Rowan motioned Gripne seconded to approve the city's health insurance coverage with Resource Training at the 2013 insurance coverage and premiums. Motion unanimously carried.

City Administrator Venekamp stated that Jade Berube who has been the city's engineer with the firm Ulteig has left the company. Venekamp indicated the council has several options for engineering services such as; continuing with Ulteig, follow Jade to his new employer – Apex Engineering, go with Bolten and Menk who do the city's wastewater and airport work, or look for a totally different firm for services. The council does not have any projects needing immediate engineering services therefore they do have time to review the situation.

Consensus of the council was to discuss the situation at their next meeting.

**Council member Rowan motion Klick seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

David Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor