

**City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, April 1, 2013**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 1, 2013. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Lilah Gripne, Bob Klick, Tony Towle, and City Administrator/Clerk David Venekamp. Council member Art Rowan was absent.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of March 25, 2013. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rasmussen called to order a 7:00 p.m. public hearing on the Forsha Family Trust request to rezone Lot 2 Block 4 Tweed's Fourth Addition from Residential (R-1) to Highway Commercial (C-2) with the following present: Dawn Forsha, Neal Biermeier, Brian Weidendorf, Brian Swanson, Lyle Danielson, Jon Kringen, Geri Wiegele, Dave Vanselow, Jen Vanselow, Nancy Berg, Jeff Berg, Linda Bleess, Marta Chavez, Jose Pentar, Julie Bodle, Heather Luebesmier, Darlene Bodle, Jim Kreemer, Dick Smith, William Nelson, Clint Krueger, Kevin Langer, and Pam Reinbold.

Brian Swanson and Brian Weidendorf of Land and Lease Development presented the request to the council to rezone the property for a drive-thru family restaurant. Mr. Swanson stated they would like to have the lot rezoned highway commercial similar to the lots adjacent to it on its west side. Mr. Swanson indicated this lot would be needed to accommodate the size of the building as well as to also provide better parking for those individuals using the business. The restaurant would be open 24/7 and would employ 60 to 70 individuals which would be both part time and full time employees.

Jeff Berg stated he questioned if the building had 30 foot setbacks from the residentially zoned areas.

Jennifer Vanselow questioned the amount of lights affecting the neighboring residential property as well as the number of vehicles using the property; and the impact it could have on their dogs and children from a safety and noise issue. It was also questioned whether or not the alley would be used for the business.

Mr. Swanson indicated that their parking lot would be curbed and that the alley would not be used for the business.

Long Prairie School Superintendent Jon Kringen stated he had some concerns about the students' safety and traffic past the school. Jon asked, if possible, to have signage to direct traffic away from the school. Mr. Kringen felt there would be additional foot traffic and vehicle traffic past the school which may be a safety concern for students.

Jeff Berg questioned where the driveway approaches were going to be located and if the council would table this until the issues of the residents could be addressed.

Brian Weidendorf stated they have not seen the final plans for the building and those would be submitted when the business is seeking their building permit; at which time, the driveway locations would be noted as well as any possible screening to prevent vehicle lights from the adjoining areas. Setbacks from property lines would also be addressed in the building permit.

Mayor Rasmussen read a letter to the council which was submitted by Eli Goplen stating her concerns of the rezoning of the property.

Jennifer Vanselow questioned whether or not the property values would go down on the adjoining properties should this project proceed.

The council indicated the Planning and Zoning Commission had reviewed the request and voted to recommend the property be rezoned from residential to highway commercial.

It was noted that the individuals requesting the rezoning would not need to come before the council or to have a public hearing; if they did not need this lot as part of the development. The other lots in this development are already zoned highway commercial and had the developer used just those lots, the residents would not have any say in the screening or development of the property as long as they met city ordinances.

There being no additional comments, Mayor Rasmussen closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Council member Gripne stated that she realized the concerns of the neighbors and that, as best as possible, the city should look at trying to address those concerns in the building permit process.

Council member Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve the rezoning of Lot 2 Block 4 from Residential (R-1) to Highway Commercial (C-2) as requested by the applicants. Roll call: Yes; Gripne, Klick, Towle, Rasmussen. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rasmussen called to order a 7:30 p.m. public hearing on proposed Ordinance #13-04-01-01 titled Ordinance Designating Certain Minor Offenses as Payable Offenses. Those in attendance for the public hearing were Jim Kreemer, Kevin Langer, Lyle Danielson, and Geri Wiegele. The ordinance would change the penalties for violating several city ordinances from misdemeanors to petty misdemeanors. Individuals would be fined instead of being able to request trials for minor offenses. The court system had asked the city to make the changes to help free up the court system from having to deal with the petty offenses. There being no questions from those in attendance, Mayor Rasmussen closed the hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to approve Ordinance #13-04-01-01 titled Ordinance Designating Certain Minor Offenses as Payable Offenses. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rasmussen called to order a 7:40 p.m. public hearing on proposed ordinance #13-04-01-02 titled An Ordinance Amending Certain Provisions of Chapters 8 and 10. Those in attendance for the public hearing were Jim Kreemer, Lyle Danielson, Geri Wiegele, and Kevin Langer. The purpose of the ordinance was to change several sections of city ordinances concerning parking of vehicles on public property or city streets, beach and park hours, and the impoundment of city bikes. There being no comments from the public, Mayor Rasmussen closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to adopt ordinance #13-04-01-02 titled An Ordinance Amending Certain Provisions of Chapters 8 and 10. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Towle motioned Klick seconded to adopt the following resolution setting fine amounts for violations of minor offenses set forth on the payable offense list:

**RESOLUTION #13-04-01-03
RESOLUTION SETTING FINE AMOUNT FOR
VIOLATION OF OFFENSE SET FORTH ON
PAYABLE OFFENSE LIST**

The City Council of the City of Long Prairie, Minnesota does ordain:

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie is authorized to designate certain offenses as minor offenses for which the maximum penalty is payment of a fine not to exceed the amount set for statutory petty misdemeanor offenses established by State law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Long Prairie is authorized to establish the fine by resolution.

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

1. The fine for a violation of any offense designated as a payable offense as set forth in the Payable Offense List shall be \$50.00.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie on this 1st day of April, 2013.

David Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor

Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed a Health for Life Grant application for a Frisbee golf course which would be located in the south end of Lake Charlotte Park and the city's wooded land south of Lake Charlotte Park. The park board had been approached by individuals requesting the Frisbee golf

course and whether or not the city would be willing to participate in the project. The park board had recommended to the council that they apply for the grant for the Frisbee golf course.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded for the city to apply for a grant for a nine hole Frisbee golf course which would be constructed on the south end of the Lake Charlotte Park property. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Towle stated the city's new mower is in and the street sweeper repairs will take approximately three more weeks.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer stated the fire department will be reprogramming the radio in the dispatch room to allow the department to act as a backup for Todd County's radio system and civil defense siren system should the need arise.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated the department handled 281 incidences in March. Sergeant Duane Breiter and Officer Rodger Lowe will be attending a night pursuit driving course which is required every five years by the officers.

Council member Klick stated the park board discussed finishing the bike path to Lake Charlotte Park.

Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Dave Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor