

**City of Long Prairie  
Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M., Monday, August 5, 2013**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 5, 2013. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Lilah Gripne, Bob Klick, Art Rowan, Tony Towle, and City Administrator/Clerk David Venekamp.

**Council member Towle motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of July 15, 2013 as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council reviewed an estimate from the engineering firm, Bolton and Menk, concerning the installation of a standby generator at the city office complex. The purpose of the generator would be to provide power to the city buildings should electrical power at the building be disrupted. The generator would be a 40 kilowatt generator powered with natural gas. The generator would be installed in one of the fire department bays and would be vented through an existing window opening in the bay. The estimate includes the generator, ventilation, electrical services, and switches for the generator. The estimated cost of the project would be \$91,260.00.

City Administrator Venekamp stated the city may be able to save costs by purchasing the unit after January of 2014 since the city will no longer be required to pay sales tax on items. The city could also look at a used generator which would help reduce the costs of the project. In addition to the cost of the generator, the city will have the annual cost of maintaining the generator.

**Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to pursue the possible installation of the generator; however, the city had not budgeted for it and that the funds should be set aside for the installation of the generator over the next couple of years. Motion unanimously carried.**

**Council member Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve the following resolution authorizing execution of a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for airport maintenance and operations:**

**RESOLUTION #13-08-05-08  
AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION**

It is resolved by the City of Long Prairie as follow:

1. That the State of Minnesota Agreement No. 03898, "Grant Agreement for Airport Maintenance and Operation," at the Long Prairie Municipal Airport is accepted.
2. That the Mayor and City Administrator are authorized to execute this Agreement and any amendments on behalf of the City of Long Prairie.

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David Venekamp  
City Administrator/Clerk

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Don Rasmussen  
Mayor

Motion unanimously carried.

The council discussed the union notice to begin negotiating the two city union contracts. Mayor Rasmussen appointed Council members Gripne and Towle to represent the city in their union negotiations.

The council reviewed a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Health for the closing of private wells within the city's wellhead protection area. The city had received a request for the sealing of 8 wells from property owners. The grant would pay the entire cost of sealing those wells. The grant would also provide funds to investigate drain fields within the wellhead protection area.

**Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to submit the grant application to the Minnesota Department of Health requesting \$10,000 which would be used for the sealing of wells and investigation of drain fields within the wellhead protection area. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council discussed the land to be used for a Frisbee golf course. In contacting the county, the city owned land would need to go through a conditional use permit for the golf course. Even though the land would be a park use, under the city's ordinances, the county planning and zoning commission is considering it as a semipublic use of the land. And, therefore, would require a conditional use permit. The council could also annex the 14 acres into the city; thereby, not needing a conditional use permit as required by the county.

**Council member Klick motioned Towle seconded to proceed with the annexation of the 14 acres of land into the city limits. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council reviewed a request by American Legion Post #12 to allow having alcohol in a fenced off area of the parking lot while the band is playing for the Bike and Trike Rally. The American Legion has indicated they will fence off an area of their parking lot where individuals could listen to the band and have alcohol. They would also have individuals making sure that the alcohol does not leave the fenced in area.

**Council member Rowan motioned Gripne seconded to approve the American Legion Post #12's request to have alcohol within a fenced in area of the parking lot for the Rockie Lynne concert for the Bike and Trike Rally. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council discussed the city providing security at the hospital when an individual is brought in who may be dangerous to themselves or to the staff at the facility. At times, the city has had to call in an off duty officer to be at the hospital. Police Chief Kevin Langer had talked to Dan Swenson, the hospital administrator, concerning the security issue. To reimburse the city for the

officer's expense, the hospital had agreed to pay a fee of \$50 per hour with a minimum of 2 hours when the city provides security.

**Mayor Rasmussen motioned Klick seconded to enter into an agreement with Centra Care for providing security as requested by the hospital at a fee of \$50 per hour with a minimum 2 hour fee. Motion unanimously carried.**

The council brought up the need to publish in the Leader that four wheelers are required to be licensed in order to be operated on city streets. The council stated they are seeing numerous four wheelers being operated by individuals without licenses and also individuals who are under age operating the four wheelers on city streets.

Council member Towle mentioned the public works crew has been busy removing trees on the state highways and prepping for seal coating within the southern part of the city.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer asked the council if they could also run an article in the paper about recreational fires. Kreemer stated he has seen people burning garbage in what are supposed to be recreational fires. The council suggested they would run an article in the paper on the recreational fire.

Police Chief Kevin Langer stated the department had 332 incidences for the month of July. Langer also proposed the city council consider a social host ordinance which would make the home owner responsible for underage drinking at their residence.

Council member Klick stated the EDA met at their annual meeting and reappointed the same officers as the past year. Klick also noted that Tim Harvey has decided to no longer be on the board and that the board will need to replace him.

The council discussed a drive by the Honda corporation to help save outdoor movie theatres. The theatres are being required to put in a digital projector and the cost of the projector is forcing some of the drive-ins in the nation to close because they cannot pay that cost. The theatre with the most contacts to Honda will be awarded funds to purchase the new digital projectors. Honda is estimating that they will give out 5 of these awards next year.

**Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

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David Venekamp  
City Administrator/Clerk

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Don Rasmussen  
Mayor