

**City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, August 19, 2013**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 19, 2013. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Bob Klick, Art Rowan, Tony Towle, Lilah Gripne, and City Administrator/Clerk David Venekamp.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of August 5, 2013 and the August invoices. Motion unanimously carried.

Norma Orozco asked if the council would be willing to close off 3rd Street South from Central Avenue to 1st Avenue South from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on September 14th for a street party sponsored by the Committee for the Hispanic Congregation at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The party is for the purpose of raising funds for the annual Lady of Guadalupe celebration in December. They will have Mexican food and music; however, there will be no alcohol served at the event since it is a family event.

The council stated four stalls on the south end of the street is used for parking for the ambulance and, should they close the street, they would need to provide access to the parking stalls for the ambulance personnel. It was also suggested that the group would need to clean up after themselves once the party is over.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to approve the closing off of 3rd Street S. between Central Avenue and 1st Avenue South on September 14th from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as requested; providing they leave 4 spots available for the ambulance parking staff and that they also clean up the street after the celebration. Motion unanimously carried.

Norma also asked if they could use the parking lot at the corner of Central Ave. and 3rd St. for the celebration. The city and county own the parking lot. The council stated they did not have a problem with them using the parking lot however they also needed the approval of the county.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to approve the renewal of the club licenses for the VFW and American Legion Clubs. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Gripne motioned Klick seconded to acknowledge St. Mary's of Mount Carmel church's application to the state for a raffle. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed the proposed 2014 budget for the city. The budget calls for a total levy of \$566,986 which is \$30,265 less than the 2013 levy. The city will receive an increase in local government aid of \$183,302. The increase in aid is allowing the city to lower the levy and to restore some of the services that the city has cut over the past 5 or 6 years. Some items included in the budget is the hiring of a fulltime public works employee, increases in health care premium costs due to changes in the insurance policies, funds set aside for a standby generator, seal coating, purchase of a used snow hauling truck for the public works department, and a police vehicle for the police department. Venekamp stated the city's capital projects funds for

equipment for the police and public works departments seem to be able to provide enough funds for the equipment purchases proposed in the future. The fire department fund, however, does not appear to have the revenues to replace all of the equipment within the fire hall and that the department and council should review the equipment schedule for possible changes which would allow the department to set aside the needed funds for future equipment purchases.

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to set 7:30 p.m., December 2nd to review the 2014 budget and possible adoption of that budget. Motion unanimously carried.

The council discussed having contributed funds to the Christie House Historical Society over the past several years; however, they have not received any financial statement from the society as to the use of the funds.

Council member Gripne motioned Rowan seconded that the Christie House Historical Society be requested to supply the city with an annual financial statement. Motion unanimously carried.

City Administrator Venekamp stated they had met with Long Prairie Packing concerning the possible pond purchase, wastewater discharges to the city system and the MPCA permits for the pond system.

Venekamp stated the 2014 budget included funds for the hiring of a public works employee. In the next week, all of the part time employees hired for the summer will be done and the department could use an additional employee to help out. If the council were to begin the process, that employee may be able to be hired by the 1st of November, in time to help out with winter plowing.

Council member Rowan motioned Towle seconded to advertise for the hiring of a public works employee. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Gripne motioned Towle seconded to appoint Otis Ostendorf and Kelly Hawkinson, providing Kelly can pass his physical, to the Long Prairie Fire Department as recommended by the Fire Department. Motion unanimously carried.

The council discussed the possible sale of the microphone system at city hall. The city had purchased the system over 15 years ago. The system has not been used at the new city office building and it was suggested that it be put up for sale since it was no longer being used. The consensus of the council was that the system could be listed on K-bid along with other city equipment.

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

David Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor