

**City of Long Prairie
Council Meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, November 4, 2013**

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, November 4, 2013. 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 October 21, 2013. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Towle motioned Gripne seconded to approve change order #1 for the 2013 airport improvements which would change the substantial completion date for the project to July 15, 2014 with no additional change in the contract price for the runway and apron airport improvements. Motion unanimously carried.

The council reviewed the union negotiation tentative agreement for the public works and police department unions. The tentative agreements with the unions are for the following items:

- change the use of sick leave to meet state statutes which went into effect August 1, 2013
- equally split the increase in family health insurance premiums for 2014 and 2015
- include in the city's personnel policy a stipulation that allows full time employees with at least 25 years of service to the city, upon their retirement, they will receive \$250 per month towards health insurance premiums for a period of 5 years or until the employee qualifies for Medicare, whichever is shortest
- to allow police officers to carry over an unused uniform allowance of up to \$200 into the following year
- to change wording of section 28.1 of the public works contract would also change to read the employee who chooses to attend training sessions that are not required but approved by the supervisor, shall be paid at straight time for all training, travel time, and meals
- to change the wording of section 29.1 in the police contract to read the employee who chooses to attend training sessions that are not required but approved by the chief shall be paid at straight time for training, travel, and meals
- to include a 2% wage increase for both 2014 and 2015
- to increase the public works hourly wage for those individuals who hold the following class of licenses for water and/or wastewater licensure as follows:
 1. Class D license from \$.15 cents per hour to \$.25 cents per license
 2. Class C license from \$.50 cents per hour to \$.70 cents per license
 3. Class B license from \$.75 cents per hour to \$1.05 per license
 4. Class A license from \$1.25 per hour to \$1.75 per license

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to approve the tentative union negotiation changes as listed above. Roll call: Yes; Rowan, Towle, Gripne, Klick, Rasmussen. Motion unanimously carried.

City Administrator Venekamp stated in discussions with the nonunion employees the only item brought up was by the Chief of Police. The chief, on occasions, has worked security at some of the dances when he's not been able to find officers willing/unable to work. In those instances, Kevin had asked to be paid similar to the officers working the dance/event. The individuals hosting the dance are required to pay for the security; therefore, there isn't any cost to the city in reimbursing the chief/officers.

Council member Klick motioned Rowan seconded that if the police chief is required to work the dances, since he is unable to find any other employee willing to do so, that he would be reimbursed. Motion unanimously carried.

The council discussed the upgrading of employee job descriptions. It was noted that some job descriptions have not been updated in quite a while.

Mayor Rasmussen appointed council members Rowan and Gripne to review the employee job descriptions and to make recommendations for updating the job descriptions.

Council member Rowan motioned Klick seconded to treat the full time non-union employees in the same manner as the full time union employees as far as wages and benefits. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Rowan motioned Rasmussen seconded to increase the part time wages 2% for both 2014 and 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

Council member Towle stated the public works department had a water leak on main street in front of Larson Optometry.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer stated the fire department air tanks can no longer be hydro tested as of December 31, 2014. The cost to purchase new tanks is estimated at \$625 per bottle and 30 bottles would need to be replaced as of December 31, 2014. Jim stated he will keep the council up to date as to the cost and possible funding for those tanks. It was suggested a possibility may be a FEMA grant for the purchasing of the tanks.

Council member Klick stated the EDA/manufacturers breakfast went well. The company presenting this year was Central Bi Products and the council heard several comments concerning the nice presentation

Council member Klick motioned Gripne seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

David Venekamp
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor