

City of Long Prairie
Council meeting
7:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 17, 2015

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Tony Towle, Art Rowan, Devin Hines, Lilah Gripne, and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Thomes.

Councilor Rowan motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of January 20, 2015, and the February bills. Motion unanimously carried.

Becky Hillig presented the council with a request for the parade route for Prairie Fest 2015. The parade route will be the same as previous years. Prairie Fest will run from June 19th to June 21st over Father's Day weekend. To date, they have given out \$24,000 in college scholarships. This year they will be awarding \$12,800 with the help from Wally & Patricia Olson. They will not be having a midway this year but will replace it with an inflatable village with bounce houses for kids of all ages, an obstacle course & more. This will be staffed by local volunteers. They will again be having a beer garden, demo derby, music events, car show, as well as volleyball & bean bag tournaments. CentraCare will be holding their health fair and 5K walk/run. The fire department will be holding their waffle breakfast on Sunday.

Nancy Potter presented the council with an update on Long Prairie's Great River Regional Library for 2014. Circulation was up 5.4% in 2014. The library checked out 34,388 books. People listened to 4,315 audio books and borrowed 2,389 videos. Internet usage was down 12% with 5,311 people using the public computers at the library. However, the wireless access saw an increase of 34% from 2013 with 2,207 hits. The library again has many different programs including 55 children's programs with 1,939 participants. There are 10 programs for adults with 283 participants and 16 programs with 68 participants. Nancy stated she enjoys working with the library and hopes everyone would want to come and check it out for 2015.

Councilor Rowan asked for an update on the pilot project at the water treatment plant. Hopefully, we should have some updates by the next council meeting.

Councilor Towle asked if Mosquito Park has been broken up into designated sections so we can get some people in there to start cutting trees down.

Council discussed the Radar Sign Utilization Contract that went into effect as of February 9th with the Long Prairie Police Department and the City of Pierz.

Councilor Gripne motioned Rowan seconded to approve the Radar Sign Utilization Contract. Motion unanimously carried.

Councilor Towle motioned Hines seconded to accept the following donation from June Ringwelski for \$20.00 to the Police Department:

**Resolution #15-02-17-01
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS**

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie has received the following donations during the month(s) of February, for the following purposes:

Donor	Amount	Purpose
June Ringwelski	\$20.00	Police Department

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA THAT: the City Council of the City of Long Prairie acknowledges and accepts the donations received the month of February.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the City Council of the City of Long Prairie expresses its thanks and appreciation for the donations to all Donor(s) listed.

Adopted this 17th day of February, 2015, by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie.

ATTEST:

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor

Motion unanimously carried.

City Administrator/Clerk Thomes presented the council with a computer software upgrade from Banyon to Civic Systems. Thomes stated several reasons for requesting an upgrade.

Council reviewed the computer software conversion service proposal from Civic Systems.

Councilor Rowan motioned Gripne seconded to upgrade the computer software from Banyon to Civic Systems. Roll call: Yes; all. Motion unanimously carried.

City Administrator/Clerk Thomes presented to the council three options we received for the upgrade to our current copy machine. Council was in favor of Option A - the remanufactured Canon Color Copier.

Councilor Towle motioned Rowan seconded to purchase the remanufactured Canon Color Copier with a maintenance agreement, Option A. Roll call: Yes; all. Motion unanimously carried.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to accept the award of a \$15,000 Blandin pre-engineering proposal for the City of Long Prairie in regards to building the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. Motion unanimously carried.

City Administrator/Clerk Thomes presented the council with a request to attend the Blandin Leadership Training from March 23-27, 2015; July 14-15, 2015; and September 29, 2015. Thomes has been chosen by the Blandin Foundation to attend this training. The Blandin Foundation pays for all the training.

Councilor Towle motioned Gripne seconded to allow City Administrator/Clerk Thomes to attend the Blandin training. The training will be considered like all other training for the city and Thomes will not have to use vacation hours. Motion unanimously carried.

Councilor Hines stated the wastewater department needed to purchase a new pump. Public works will be handling that and will check on the progress of their new piece of equipment coming in for this year.

Councilor Rowan asked Fire Chief Jim Kreemer how everything was going in the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer thanked the council for coming to the township meeting.

The police department had an all staff meeting which went very well. The department has placed a new speed sign on Hwy 27 by the Cenex gas station. Residents have commented on how much the sign has helped to slow the traffic down.

Councilor Towle stated he would like to see areas designated to start the cleanup of Mosquito Park.

Councilor Gripne stated the EDA meeting is this Thursday and Planning and Zoning has rescheduled a meeting for Monday, February 23rd to review Centra Care's TIFF project.

Mayor Rasmussen stated that Tourism is turning some music in the park over to the Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce and that is going very well.

City Administrator/Clerk Thomes stated the National Joint Powers check of \$51,000 has been received. Discussion on Solder's Field needs to be put on the agenda for the next council meeting. Thomes will be traveling to Sauk Rapids on the February 27, 2015, to assist with the MCFOA audit.

Councilor Gripne motioned Rowan seconded to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor