

City of Long Prairie
Council meeting
7:00 P.M., Monday, September 19, 2016

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 19, 2016. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Devin Hines, James Ruiz, Lilah Gripne, Tony Towle and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Thomes.

Councilor Towle motioned Gripne seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of a variance and conditional use permit. Motion carried.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve the council minutes of September 9th and the payment report. Motion carried.

Dennis Bacon presented the council with the audit report. Dennis discussed the audit report for 2015. His overall was the city is sitting in very good standings. We've actually made a little bit of money. Our increase in cash this year was \$355,719 over last year. The liquor store had a net of \$42,882 which is wonderful.

Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to approve the 2015 audit presented by Dennis Bacon. Motion carried.

Council discussed a Variance application for Kenneth Thull. The notice was submitted to the property owners within 350 feet. The Planning Commission went to the site visit on September 12th at 4:00 p.m. at the property address of 24351 County Road 5 and reviewed the variance request for Kenneth Thull. Planning and Zoning discussed with Kenneth about the 20 x 80 storage shed and it looks like Kenneth will be only doing a 20 x 70 due to the back corner of the building being such a slope. The Planning Commission approved the variance request and passed on a motion to approve to the city council.

Councilor Gripne motioned Ruiz seconded to approve the variance request passed on by the Planning Commission for the 20 x 70 storage. Motion carried.

Council discussed a Conditional Use Application submitted by Long Prairie Packing. Notices went out on August 29th to all property owners within 350 feet. The Planning Commission had their public hearing on September 12th at 4:15 at 10 Riverside Drive at Long Prairie Packing. Council reviewed the request from Long Prairie Packing to construct a building 20,229 square feet of office space and loading facility in approximately 2,234 square feet of a mechanical engineer room to the existing building. They will be removing 2.41 acres of existing asphalt and installing approximately .637 acres of new asphalt of the parking area. They will be importing about 414 cubic yards of fill.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to accept the Conditional Use Application from Long Prairie Packing. Motion carried.

Council discussed the update from the 2016 sewer/water and road project. Fairview Avenue will be getting the sidewalk and topsoil within the next week. They will be working on 8th Street putting in curb and gutter on Tuesday and Wednesday. They will be extending the sewer

and water the next two weeks on the north side. Centra Care in the next two weeks will be extending out the connections from 1st Street. All of this work is depending on the rain and if the weather holds up.

Council discussed the speed study going out on T.H. 27 by the new entrance for the Centra Care Hospital. Bolton & Menk will need to send a letter of application for a speed study for the purpose of having the speed limit of 30 miles per hour extended out to the Centra Care entrance.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to go forward with Bolton and Menk to prepare a speed study to send to MnDOT. Motion carried.

Council discussed the 2017 adoption of the budget by September 30th. The budget always can be lowered but it never can be increased from this point on once we approve it. The total proposed levy for 2017 is \$849,269. This is an increase of \$238,520. Of this increase, \$109,520 is for items that will be purchased in 2017. The other \$129,000 is bond payment increases. The city's budget for expenditures for all governmental operations is \$1,776,498 which is \$168,820 more than last years of \$1,607,678. The reason for some of the increases is, of course, the bond payments. But of the \$109,520 purchases for a new server, new computer technical support, laserfiche software, street equipment, floor jack, safety equipment, and also there was a decrease in the local government aid in the amount of about \$10,852. The city will need to put money away for the new generator that will not be purchased until 2020. The budget still includes the \$55,000 towards seal coating for 2017. The council contributes \$4,000 to the Christie House.

Councilor Towle motioned Hines seconded to approve the following resolution adopting the preliminary 2016 tax levy:

**RESOLUTION #16-09-19:01
ADOPTING THE FINAL 2016 TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE
IN THE YEAR 2017**

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie, County of Todd, Minnesota, that the following sums of money are proposed levied for the current year, collectible in 2017 upon the taxable property in the City of Long Prairie for the following purposes:

Levy Purpose	
General Fund	\$395,269
2010 G.O. Bond	198,000
2012A G.O. Bond	256,000
 Total Levy	 \$ 849,269

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Donald Rasmussen
Mayor

Motion carried.

Council received a snow removal truck rental 1 year proposal from Chad Twardowski Excavating, Inc.

Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to approve the snow removal proposal as presented by Chad Twardowski. Motion carried.

Councilor Ruiz gave the police report prepared by Kevin Langer. There were five arrests/due to drug issues. There was a tractor that was ran into Centra Care with an arrest. Police department was quite busy.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer had a request from the fire department to be put into the budget for a ground fill for the tankers and Jim will be getting some numbers for that.

The library needed some lights replaced.

Planning and Zoning has just completed another planning and zoning meeting. EDA will be having their annual meeting on Thursday. The Manufacturers' breakfast will be October 11th at 7:00 a.m. Minnesota Fresh will be the guest speaker.

The tourism met and are starting to work on their winter events.

Administrator Thomes will be attending a Region III meeting on September 21st.

Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to adjourn at 8:10. Motion carried.

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor