

City of Long Prairie
Council meeting
7:00 P.M., Tuesday, September 5, 2017

The Long Prairie City Council met in regular session at City Hall, 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Mayor Don Rasmussen called the meeting to order with the following present: Council members Lilah Gripne, Devin Hines, Tony Towle, Randy Mechels and City Administrator/Clerk Brenda Thomes.

Councilor Gripne motioned Hines seconded to adopt the agenda as is. Motion carried.

Councilor Towle motioned Gripne seconded to approve the council minutes of August 21, 2017. Motion carried.

Molly Thompson and Brian Schmidt from Schlenner and Wenner were in attendance and gave the city their 2016 audit report. Schlenner and Wenner discussed the audit report for 2016. Their overall outlook for the city was that we were in very good standings. The auditors went over each of the funds with us and explained what it was from 2015 to 2016. They went over the beginning balance of the general fund of \$1,181,315 to the ending balance of \$1,097,285. The liquor store is in very good standings as well. The sewer fund decreased a little bit due to all the expenses we had in maintenance. The water fund is in good standing but we still will be looking at a potential rate increase later on after all the projects are done.

The overall report from Schlenner and Wenner:

- the city is using preferred accounting practices are being used by management
- no significant or unusual transactions noted
- no alternative accounting treatments discussed with management
- no significant estimates in the financial statement
- audit adjustments were posted appropriately
- no disagreements with management
- no consultations with other accountants
- no significant issues discussed with during the audit were encountered

Councilor Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the audit from Schlenner and Wenner for 2016. Motion carried.

Tim Thayer, a Long Prairie resident, addressed the council with concerns that are happening around 3rd Avenue SW and 4th Street SW. There is a section of roadway that needs to be corrected. He also talked about the houses that need to be looked at and we need to talk to Joe Krueger. Most of the houses in that area belong to Landlord. City Administrator will be working with Joe Krueger. Tim also talked about sidewalk issues. The city said that the property owners are responsible for sidewalks.

Councilor Mechels motioned Gripne seconded to have City Administrator Thomes work with Joe Krueger regarding some of the houses where the roofs need fixing, the broken windows need fixing, and long grass needs mowing. Motion carried.

Mike Stein and Holly made a request to the city council to close off 9th Street NE. They would like to close it off for the time of the Salsa Fest.

Mayor Rasmussen motioned Gripne seconded to close 9th Street NE from 2nd Avenue NE down to 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Bolton and Menk briefly talked about 2nd Avenue North. They are working on the sewer and water lines in that area. They are still waiting to see if we can start dewatering on 1st Street South. As soon as we can, they are going to get over on 1st Street South to start that dewatering. But at this time, they are still waiting.

Council discussed replacing the “Fire Station” flashing signs on T.H. 71. It is recommended that the City consider removing the existing signs and installing new signs rather than relocating the existing signs. The recommended system would provide several improvements. We have obtained two quotes for this type of system:

- TapCo (Brown Deer, WI): \$14,663.00
- MoboTrex (Davenport, IA): \$25,300.00

There has also been discussion regarding the need for a pedestrian crossing flasher for pedestrians crossing T.H. 71 at the intersection with T.H. 27. It is recommended the city install a pedestrian crossing sign, with Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons. We have obtained two quotes for this type of system:

- TapCo (Brown Deer, WI): \$9,488.00
- MoboTrex (Davenport, IA): \$9,278.00

It is recommended that the city acquire both sign systems from TapCo. This recommendation is based on the significant quote difference for the Fire Station signs, and it will be simpler to work with a single supplier.

Councilor Towle motioned Gripne seconded to acquire both systems from TapCo for the Fire Station signs and the flashing pedestrian crossing sign. Motion carried.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to approve Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$110,501.70. Motion carried.

Council discussed the sidewalk improvement ordinance program that we have and the quotes that we received from the Paulson’s.

Councilor Mechels motioned Towle seconded to approve \$1,517.59 to Russ and Amy Paulson for a portion of the sidewalk that the city would do a 50/50 match. Motion carried with Councilor Gripne voting no.

The Christie House supplied their financial statement but the council felt that the financial was not complete enough.

Councilor Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to hold the \$4,000 until they could submit a revised financial statement to the city. Motion carried.

Councilor Gripne motioned Mechels seconded to approve the next Block Time Support Agreement with XS Consulting. Motion carried.

Councilor Mechels stated public works was working with locates and just trying to stay caught up

with all the stuff going on with the MnDOT project. Broadband is starting to meet with residents and getting them signed up with fiber.

Fire Chief Jim Kreemer noted that David Otte is now on the fire department.

Councilor Hines noted that the next park meeting will be on September 18th.

Councilor Gripne noted that September 25th there will be 3 variances, a conditional use, a preliminary plat and a final plat.

Mayor Rasmussen noted there will be an airport meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Councilor Gripne motioned Towle seconded to adjourn at 9:00. Motion carried.

Brenda Thomes
City Administrator/Clerk

Don Rasmussen
Mayor