

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Tuesday January 17th, 2023
City Council Meeting Held in Person & Via-Teleconference

The Long Prairie City Council met in person and by phone at City Hall, 7:00 pm, on Tuesday January 17th, 2023, Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present by phone or at City Hall: Council members, Jim Kreemer, Lilah Gripne, Clint Kreuger and City Administrator Ted Gray. Council member David Wright was absent. Others present Fire Chief Dan Laumeier, Kent Louwagie, Officer Trevor Larson, Amanda Hinson, Todd Hagen, Otis Ostendorf, Kyle Bodle, Bob Klick, Josh Spieker, and Brandon Hudalla.

Council member Kreemer motioned Gripne seconded to approve the consent agenda:

- (a) Approve Agenda for January 17th, 2023.**
- (b) Approve Council Meeting Minutes from January 3rd, 2023.**
- (c) Approve December 2022-January 2023 Bills**

Motion carried unanimously.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Council member Kreuger reported on the Public Works activities. The daily water/wastewater rounds and samples are going fine. Public works has been busy with removing snow around lights and buildings at the airport, cleaning sidewalks that have not been cleaned, removing snow around hydrants and off of boulevards around the courthouse and middle school. In the next few weeks, we will continue to plow/remove snow as needed along with equipment maintenance and shop projects.

Public Safety: Administrator Gray reported on the Police and Fire Departments. The Police Department had 166 incidents in last two weeks. Chief Hanson will be attending Chiefs Training on January 30th through February 3rd at Camp Ripley. The new police squad will be built on January 30th. The Fire Department will be assisting with the Ice Demo Derby on Saturday January 21st. EAM will be in Thursday to do annual truck inspections. The department will be participating the Lions Prairie Plunge will be held on February 25th. The annual Fire Department township meeting will be held on February 1st.

Library & Health/Wellness: Council member Gripne reported on upcoming Library & Health/Wellness activities. On February 10th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, the library will be hosting a Health Mn Safe Talk Training. On February 12th there will be quilt bingo at the Clarissa Ballroom.

Community Concern for Youth and Elders: Mayor Dixon reported that the Senior Center will be welcoming the High School Food's class will be bring lunch on Thursday January 19th. In March the AARP classes will be starting in person.

Administration: Administrator Gray introduced Todd Hagen from Ehlers who presented to the council the upgrade the City of Long Prairie's Bond Rating from an A3 to an A2 rating.

Administrator Gray presented a request of support for CentraCare and the University of Minnesota to establish a medical school campus in central Minnesota.

Mayor Dixon motioned Kreuger seconded to approve the support of the University of Minnesota Medical School and CentraCare in establishing a medical school campus in central Minnesota and expanding their current residency program, to attract, train, and retain rural physicians in greater Minnesota and rural America. Motion carried unanimously.

(New Business)

Otis Ostendorf, President of the Long Prairie Volunteer Fire Department, presented to the council the Fire Department officers for 2023 for appointment.

Mayor Dixon motioned Kreuger seconded to approve the appointments of Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, 1st Assistant Chief Kyle Bodle, and 2nd Assistant Chief Josh Spieker. Motion carried unanimously.

The Fire Department members present discussed concerns of safety related to the joint access between the City of Long Prairie parking lot and the Coborn's parking lot. Through discussion the council asked Administrator Gray to research this concern and provide options for a solution.

The council reviewed a request to increase the payment from Tourism to the Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce. After discussion Mayor Dixon motioned Krueger seconded to approve the increase from \$2,600 to \$2,900. A roll call vote was called, Gripne Abstained, Kreemer no, Kreuger yes, Dixon yes. With the vote being 2 to 1, Mayor Dixon requested that this be brought back for further discussion at the next council meeting.

Administrator Gray presented to the council a purchase agreement from Central Bi Products to purchase City owned wastewater ponds in the amount of \$30,000. Administrator Gray explained the transaction process and location of the ponds that are to be sold.

Council member Kreemer motioned Dixon seconded to approve the purchase agreement between the City of Long Prairie and Central Bi Products to purchase water ponds in the amount of \$30,000. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, motion by Gripne seconded by Kreemer to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Ted Gray, City Administrator

Jodi Dixon, Mayor