

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday July 24th, 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 Monday July 24th, 2023. Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order with the following present by phone or at City Hall: Council members, David Wright, Jim Kreemer, Clint Krueger, Lilah Gripne and City Administrator Ted Gray. Others present Police Chief Ryan Hanson, Kent Louwagie, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, Amanda Hinson, Dave Ruda, Daiv Freeman, Maria Eldidy, Miozoti Nieves, Gaberial Perez, Crystal Fritzler, and Jody Bebault.

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

- (a) Approve Agenda for July 24th, 2023, with the addition of New Business Item number 5: Temporary Liquor License for the Long Prairie Legion Street Dance.**
- (b) Approve Council Meeting Minutes from July 10th, 2023.**
- (c) Approve Bills from June-July 20th, 2023.**

Motion carried unanimously.

(Public Comment)

Jody Bebault addressed the City Council regarding ordinance violations and concerns that had been raised at a previous council meeting. Jody asked why these violations were not being addressed. Jody also expressed concerns with the new proposed apartment development.

Dave Ruda addressed the City Council regarding the 2nd Ave Apartments and their conditional user permit. Dave asked questions on the outcome of the speed limit study on HWY 27 that was to be completed, why on the lot to East of the 2nd Ave Apartments was not being mowed, and why the areas that were being mowed were being completed by city staff, as well as the removal of snow by city staff from the sidewalks in that area. Dave questioned the Planning and Zoning committee's review of this apartment as well as the new proposed apartment development. Dave expressed concerns with the safety and security issues that a new apartment could bring to the committee.

Crystal Fritzler addressed the City Council regarding the proposed apartment development. Crystal expressed concerns with safety and security issues that a new apartment could bring to the area. She shared that the residents in this areas were not being heard in regards to their concerns with the development.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Clint Krueger presented the council with the Public Works report. Public Works will continue to work on painting lines, repairing hydrants, and patching streets over the next few weeks.

EDA: Council member Wright reported on the upcoming EDA meeting. The EDA has submitted all of the approved Downtown Revelations grants to the Initiative Foundation for their review and disbursement.

Public Safety: Council member Wright reported on the Police and Fire Departments. The Fire Department members will be completing their annual physicals in August. The Fire Department is hosting their annual Chicken and Corn Drive Through on Thursday August 10th. All donations received will go towards the purchase of a new rescue truck. The Police Department has had 175 calls over the last two weeks. The department will be completing interviews for the administrative assistance job position in the next.

Planning and Zoning: Council member Kreemer reported on the upcoming Planning and Zoning meetings that occurred on July 17th and July 18th.

Community: Mayor Dixon reported on the TCCA bus that will be headed to the State Fair. The 4th Tuesday of every month at the library is a dementia counseling group. Long Prairie will be having a city-wide garage sale on August 4th and 5th.

Kent Louwagie from Bolton and Menk provided the council with a road project update. Kent addressed concerns that had been raised regarding the establishment of grass/turf in the CSAH 38 portion of the road project. They will be working to take care of the weeds and will be replanting this fall. The utility work is mostly completed on the North half of Riverside Drive, over the next few weeks they will be completing utility work on the South half of Riverside Drive.

Mayor Dixon addressed the council regarding the increased 4-Wheeler traffic and that City will be looking at revised ordinance handle this growing issue.

(New Business)

Council member Wright motioned Krueger seconded to approve Resolution 23-07-24-16 Authorize to Execute MnDOT Airport Operations Contract. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-07-24-16
AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION AIRPORT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION GRANT
CONTRACT**

Said resolution is on file at City Hall and may be viewed Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gabriel Perez addressed the City Council regarding his conditional use permit request to construct 8 efficiency apartments at 140 Central Ave.

Council member Kreemer motioned Dixon seconded to approve the conditional use permit with the conditions that, all building permits are applied for that all State Building and Fire Codes are met, licenses Contractors must be used for the Electrical and Plumbing installation. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Council reviewed information regarding the cannabis laws. They expressed concerns with conception of cannabis in public places, such as parks and sidewalks. They discussed what regulation could be if an establishment to sell this product would be allowed in the community.

At this time licenses to sell cannabis will not be issued until sometime in 2024. Administrator Gray will continue to review the law and provide ordinance updates on the use of cannabis in public places and on zoning requirements regulating the sale of cannabis in the community.

The City Council discussed the 1st Ave S Alleyway Project. The project would be an addition to the current road and utility work that is happening in town. The work would update storm water and replace the alleyway. The proposed cost would be \$89,608, which is \$9,608 more than the estimated amount that was presented in June.

Council member Kreemer motioned Dixon seconded to approve the addition of the construction of 1st Ave S Alleyway in the amount of \$89,608. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dixon motioned Kreemer seconded to approve the Temporary Liquor License requested by the Long Prairie Legion for a street dance in their parking lot. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, motioned by Gripne seconded by Kreemer to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Ted Gray, City Administrator

Jodi Dixon, Mayor