

City of Long Prairie
7:00 P.M., Monday October 16th, 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 October 16th, 2023. Council member Gripne called the meeting to order with the following present by phone or at City Hall: Council members Clint Krueger, Jim Kreemer and City Administrator Ted Gray. Mayor Jodi Dixon and Council member David Wright were absent. Others present Police Chief Ryan Hanson, Amanda Hinson, Bev Heinze, Ambrose Kruzel, Joseph and Linda Bless.

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

- (a) Approve Agenda for October 16th, 2023, with the addition of new business item #9: Review Change Order #8 for CSAH 38 & CSAH 56**
- (b) Approve Council Meeting Minutes from October 2nd, 2023.**
- (c) Approve City Bill from September-October 13th, 2023.**

Motion carried unanimously.

(Public Comment)

Linda Bless addressed the city council regarding concerns with the proposed apartment development in the Industrial Park.

(Council Reports)

Public Works: Council member Clint Krueger presented the council with the Public Works report. The department is continuing to prepare for winter, by winterizing bathrooms, sprinklers, and hooking up plow trucks.

Public Safety: Council member Jim Kreemer reported on the Police and Fire Departments. The Fire Department will be participating at the Baptist Church's Trunk or Treat. The Police Department had 187 calls. The 2023 Squad was hit by a deer, we are waiting on estimates for the repairs. Officer Lowe conducted robbery training at Magnifi Financial. Officer Gothier completed DARE training and will start the course at the school after January 1st, 2024. The Police department will also be involved in the Trunk or Treat.

Planning & Zoning: Council member Jim Kreemer reported on the upcoming planning and zoning meeting on October 17th.

Health and Wellness: Council member Gripne presented information on funding that Todd County received to assist in the homelessness issues in our communities.

Library: Council member Gripne reported on Library activities. The library is looking for a student liaison to be a part of the youth advisory council. This would be to attend Great River Regional Library meetings and provide input on library activities. October 15th through the 21st is National Friends of the Library week.

Administration: Administrator Gray discussed a proposal to pursue job description and market evaluation updates for city staff. This will be presented for approval at the November 6th council meeting.

(New Business)

The council reviewed a petition request from Jamie Flan, Robert Stein, Gould Construction, and Linda Kielty to vacate city streets and alleyways located in the area around 2nd Ave NE, 4th Ave NE, Marquette ST NE, and 9th ST NE.

Council member Kreemer motioned Krueger seconded to approve resolution 23-10-16-25 calling for public hearing for vacation of City Streets and Alleyway. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution #23-10-16-25
A Resolution Setting a Public Hearing on a Vacation**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA DOES
HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, the City Council pursuant to Minnesota Statute 412.851 desires to consider the vacation of the street and alleyways requested by petition on October 17th 2023. The described streets and alleyways are located between Nicollet St aka 11th ST NE Aldrich St aka 3rd Ave NE.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONG
PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA:**

- 1. The council will consider the vacation of such utility easements and a public hearing shall be held on such proposed vacation on the 20th day of November 2023, before the city council in the city hall at 7:00 p.m.**
- 2. The City Administrator/Clerk is hereby directed to give published, posted and mailed notice of such hearing as required by law.**

**Theodore Gray
City Administrator/Clerk**

**Lilah Gripne
Council Member**

The council reviewed a request from Jamie Flan to purchase 390 9th ST NE from the City of Long Prairie. Through discussion and without a full council, the decision was made to table the discussion until the next city council meeting.

Council member Kreemer motioned Krueger seconded to table the purchase request for 390 9th ST NE until November 6th, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Gray presented to the city council the 2024 Health Insurance renewal. The city would be seeing a 3.2% increase for the health insurance plans.

Council member Kreemer motioned Gripne seconded to approve the Police Officer PERA Declaration Resolution 23-10-16-23 for Lateshia Harden. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 23-10-16-23
PERA POLICE OFFICER DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of other; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Long Prairie hereby declares that the position titled Police Officer, currently held by Lateshia Harden, meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

- 1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;**
- 2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;**
- 3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime**
- 4. Said position gives this employee full power of arrest, and**
- 5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff's department.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee's initial Police and Fire salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD**

I, Theodore Gray, City Administrator/Clerk of the City of Long Prairie, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct transcript of the resolution that was adopted at a meeting held on the 16st day of October 2023; the original of which is on file in this office. I further certify that 3 members voted in favor of this resolution and that 3 members were present and voting.

**Signed: _____
Theodore Gray
City Administrator/Clerk**

Date: _____

Council member Krueger motioned Kreemer seconded to approve the Police Officer PERA Declaration Resolution 23-10-16-24 for Melissa Morazan. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION # 23-10-16-24
PERA POLICE OFFICER DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of other; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Long Prairie hereby declares that the position titled Police Officer, currently held by Melissa Morazan, meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

- 1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;**
- 2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;**
- 3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime**
- 4. Said position gives this employee full power of arrest, and**
- 5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff's department.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee's initial Police and Fire salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

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Signed: _____

**Theodore Gray
City Administrator/Clerk**

Date: _____

Council member Kreemer motioned Krueger seconded to approve the Snow Removal Truck Rental Contract for Chad Twardowski Excavating INC at \$125.00 an hour with a \$500 minimum charge. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Kreemer motioned Krueger seconded to approve the Snow Removal Truck Rental Contract for Ron Twardowski Trucking at \$125.00 an hour with a \$500 minimum charge. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Gripne motioned Kreemer seconded to approve the Acknowledge the Long Prairie Combined Fund Raffle. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Gray presented to the City Council Change Order #8. The change order would increase the contract to \$47,616.60. The improvements that are to be completed are construction temporary bituminous tapers before final wear course in 2024 on Riverside Drive, expand bituminous driveway and correct drainage issue, and repair culvert at 17 Riverside Drive. Gray explained the expanded driveway and drainage issues on Riverside Drive.

Council member Kreemer motioned Gripne seconded to approve Change Order #8 in the amount of \$47,616.60 for the CSAH 38 and CSAH 56 road project. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, motioned by Kreemer seconded by Gripne to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Ted Gray, City Administrator

Lilah Gripne, Council Member