

**City of Long Prairie**  
**7:00 P.M., Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**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 April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Mayor David Wright called the meeting to order with Council members Jim Kreemer, Clint Krueger, and Lilah Gripne present. Others present were JoAnn Schroeder, City Attorney Joe Krueger, Police Chief Ryan Hanson, Fire Chief Dan Laumeyer, Amanda Hinson, Officer Trevor Larson, Bob Klick, Kent Louwagie, Jake Huebsch, Kevin Klimek, Marika Oliver, Deb Laumeyer and Chris Haasser.

Mayor David Wright swore in JoAnn Schroeder to serve the vacancy for council member.

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

- (a) Approve Agenda for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**
- (b) Approve Donation Resolution 24-04-04-08.**
- (c) Remove Lions Club Presentation from Agenda**

**Resolution #24-04-01-08**

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS**

**WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie has received the following donations during the month(s) of March for the following purposes:**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Track farmer</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>Concert in the Park</b>

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA THAT: The City Council of the City of Long Prairie acknowledges and accepts the donations received the month of March.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The City Council of the City of Long Prairie expresses its thanks and appreciation for the donations to all Donor(s) listed.**

**Adopted this 1st day of April 2024 by the City Council of the City of Long Prairie.**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Theodore Gray**  
**Interim City Administrator/Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Wright**  
**Mayor**

(Public Comment)

Kevin Klimek addressed the council with concerns about the road project and pavement on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW and assessment questions. City Engineer Kent Louwagie addressed those concerns and provide an update on the negotiations with the contractor with the goal to have the work completed

this summer. In regards to the assessments Kent explained the process the council took, which was to hold the assessment hearing ahead of the projects start.

(Council Reports)

**Public Works:** Council Member Krueger presented the council public works report. The daily water/wastewater rounds and samples are going fine, Public Works has been busy plowing snow, and working on equipment maintenance. In the next few weeks we will be plowing snow as needed, sweeping streets, patching potholes, and getting parks and ball fields ready as weather permits.

**Public Safety:** Mayor Wright reported on Public Safety. Fire Department, 20 calls in the month of March. Several units needed repairs over the last month. April 17<sup>th</sup> confined space training will be completed by members of the department. The annual Firemen's Relief Association Dance will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm at Thunder Lodge. The Police Department has had 122 calls over the last two weeks. Officer Morazan has completed her 6-month probationary period. Officer Morazan and Officer Gothier attended the Long Prairie Grey Eagle job fair. Discussion was had on updating the video/recording systems for the department.

**EDA:** Mayor Wright commented on the EDA meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Provided an update on the day care center project.

**Planning & Zoning:** Council member Kreemer provide an update on the last Planning and Zoning meeting that was held on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Health & Library:** Council member Gripne stated that there will be a Rural Health meeting on Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>. The library has recently had several windows repaired.

**Tourism:** Mayor Wright commented on the applicants for the Tourism Commission, which will be approved at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

(Old Business)

The bills from March 18<sup>th</sup>'s meeting were brought back for review and approval. An explanation was provided by interim City Administrator/Clerk Ted Gray on the reasoning on why the approval was granted for the CDL Training per city policy and why it would need council approval.

Council member Gripne motioned, seconded by Krueger to approve the bills except for the payment to Alexandria Tech for the CDL training.

Discussion was had regarding the city's policy on trainings for employees to obtain certifications such as CDL. If the council would not approve a determination would need to be provided on how to proceed. Mayor Wright requested that the motion be amended to move this discussion until after new business item number 9.

**Council member Schroeder motioned seconded by Krueger to move the bills item until after new business item number 9. Motion passed.**

The council reviewed a video banner proposal that had been presented at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Discussion was had regarding the costs and discounts presented.

**Council member Kreemer motioned seconded by Gripne to approve the agreement with Golden Shovel to create a Video Banner Advertisement for the City of Long Prairie, not to exceed \$8,500 in expense. Motion passed.**

(New Business)

The city council reviewed four items from the Planning and Zoning meeting which was held on Tuesday. First item that was presented was confirmed dates for Planning and Zoning meetings. They would be scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 4:30 pm, except for December. A schedule was provided to the council.

**Council member Kreemer motioned seconded by Gripne to approve the 2024 Planning and Zoning meeting dates. Motion Passed.**

The council reviewed the resignation of Bill Hohenstern and the appointment of Joey Harris to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Council member Kreemer motioned seconded by Gripne to accept the resignation of Bill Hohenstern from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion Passed.**

**Mayor Wright motioned seconded by Gripne to approve the appointment of Joey Harris to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion Passed.**

Jake Huebsch from Sourcewell provided an explanation to the council on the Service Contract that allows for Sourcewell to provide the City of Long Prairie with services related to Planning and Zoning Administration.

The council reviewed a request from Prairie View Manner on the possibility of adding no parking signs due to snow removal issues. Greg Vanderheyden expressed concerns with individuals parking their cars on 6<sup>th</sup> Street SE between Central Ave and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE. Presented to the council was a sign stating, “No Parking Snow Removal Route 2 am - 7 am Nov 1 – Apr 1”. Council member Kreemer commented that these are the same signed on 4<sup>th</sup> Street S by Harmony Apartments and have worked well.

**Council member Kreemer motioned second by Gripne to approve the posting of no parking signs on 6<sup>th</sup> Street SE between Central Ave and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE. Motioned Passed.**

**Council member Gripne motioned second by Kreemer to approve resolution 24-04-01-07 PERA Police Officer Declaration for Jeremy D Puff. Motioned Passed.**

**RESOLUTION # 24-04-01-07  
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 Jeremy D Puff, 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 is 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2024; the original of which is on file in this office. I further certify that five members voted in favor of this resolution and that five members were present and voting.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Theodore Gray  
Interim City Administrator/Clerk**

The council reviewed the plans and specifications to authorize the advertisement for bids for the 2024 Airfield Pavement project.

**Council member Gripne motioned seconded by Krueger to authorize the advertisement of bids for 2024 Airfield Pavement Maintenance Project. Motion passed.**

The Council acknowledged the appointment of William Pesta to be a commissioner of the HRA of Long Prairie.

Mayor David Wright provided an updated list of department and committee appointments for the City Council. They are as follow: Council member Krueger, Airport & Public Works; Council member Kreemer, Planning & Zoning, Public Works, & Acting Mayor if Mayor Wright is absent; Council member Schroeder Liquor Store & Parks and Recreation; Council member Gripne, Health & Library; and Mayor Wright, Administration, Community Concerns, Tourism, and EDA.

The council discussed a special meeting request for April 10<sup>th</sup> to interview candidates for the City Administrator/Clerk position. The council will be interviewing five candidates starting at 8:00 am.

The City Council closed the meeting at 7:54 pm to review disciplinary action for Dan Laumeyer for not obtaining a CDL.

The City Council re-opened the meeting. The council discussed old business item number 1, which was to approve the bills from February-March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Discussion was had on the approval of the training costs for Dan Laumeyer to obtain a CDL. After discussion the following motion was made:

**Council member Wright motioned seconded by Krueger to approve the bills including the training costs to Alexandria Technical College for CDL training. Motion passed 3 to 2.**

Deputy Clerk Deb Laumeyer presented to the City Council her notice of retirement effective April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**There being no further business, motioned by Gripne seconded by Kreemer to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.**

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Ted Gray, Interim City Administrator/Clerk

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David Wright, Mayor