



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 16, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Finance Director: Amanda Nowezki; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Todd Newcomer (with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

Prior to the regular meeting, the Council met in a work session to discuss tree removals in right-of-way as well as preliminary levy and budget considerations; and the EDA met to discuss decertification of a TIF district.

Last week, he attended a meeting with Hennepin County Commissioner Edelson at which she had shared updates with the area Mayors, and he had also met the new County Administrator.

He also had attended the Wayzata Fire Department pancake breakfast on September 14, 2025, and the event had experienced a great turnout.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of September 2, 2025 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of September 2, 2025 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve a 60-Day Probationary Status Extension for Public Works Maintenance Worker I Noah Mackey
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-28 Approving Issuance of a Special Event Permit for the Gear Western Country Half Marathon and 5K Event on October 11, 2025; Approve Issuance of a Noise Variance Permit for the Event
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-34 Reappointing Tim Hultmann to the Position of Economic Development Authority Resident Member for a Term Effective Through December 31, 2026

- G. Approve an Application for Exempt Permit for the Church of St. George to Conduct Gambling Activities Including a Raffle at the 'Annual Holiday Boutique' Event on Saturday, November 22, 2025
- H. Approve a Temporary On Sale Liquor License and an Application for Exempt Permit for the 2025 'Day of the Dead Celebration' at the Church of St. George on Saturday, November 1, 2025

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Recognition of City Administrator Scott Weske

City Clerk Moeller reported that City Administrator Weske is leaving his employment with the City to take a position with the City of Greenfield, and his last day will be September 19, 2025. Weske began working with the City in January 2014, and Council and staff desired to recognize him for his service to the City and express their gratitude. She reminded the Council that a get-together is scheduled for September 17 at McGarry's from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm to celebrate Weske's years of service and to wish him a fond farewell.

Mayor Miner commented that he had appreciated having City Administrator Weske in his position for the last 11 years. He mentioned that Weske was the only City Administrator he had worked with at the City, so it would be an adjustment.

Councilmember Dyvik also noted that Weske was the only City Administrator he had worked with during his time in office.

Mayor Miner indicated that the Council had appreciated City Administrator Weske's longevity and institutional knowledge within the City. He presented City Administrator Weske with a Community Service Award plaque honoring him for his time and service to the City of Long Lake.

Mayor Miner shared that everyone on the City Council wished City Administrator Weske luck in his new position.

B. Decertification of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-6 of the City of Long Lake

Finance Director Nowezki stated that staff was asking the Council to decertify Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District No. 1-6. She introduced Jason Aarsvold from Ehlers to present to the Council and answer any questions they may have related to the decertification.

Jason Aardsvold, Ehlers, explained that the City had a TIF district that had paid for all of its obligations, and when that happens, the City is required to decertify the district. He noted that the Resolution proposed for Council approval was very similar to the one that the EDA took action on prior to the Council meeting. He reviewed the process of calculating what portion of the cash balance the City would be able to use in other parts of the City, indicating that they should be able to keep about \$350,000 in the TIF fund that would be able to be used to cover eligible project costs. The remainder of the balance would be transferred to the County for proportionate redistribution to the City, County, and

school district. His estimate was that there would be about \$276,000 that should come back to the City, and those funds would be unrestricted.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-33 approving the decertification of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-6 of the City of Long Lake. Ayes: all.

C. Adoption of Preliminary 2026 Payable Levy; Establish Truth in Taxation Public Meeting Date to Discuss Levy and Proposed Budget

Weske reviewed the proposed 2026 preliminary budget and levy information, including factors related to local government aid, an anticipated increase in license and permit revenue, a cost of living adjustment for employees, staffing changes, and insurance premiums. He briefly compared operating levy, debt service levy, and total net levy changes between 2024, 2025, and the proposed 2026 numbers. He reviewed information related to tax capacity, tax levy, and tax rate history going back to 2018; and highlighted certain items that had been accounted for within the proposed budget including 2050 Comprehensive Plan work, a seal coating transfer from the General Fund to the Seal Coating Fund, a Fire Department transfer from the General Fund to the Fire Department Capital Fund, and removal of Emerald Ash Borer-impacted dead or dying trees from City parks and rights-of-way. He explained that they had not included a transfer of funds from Fund 401 for City Hall, and also encouraged looking through all the funds to consider delegating some of the reserves into the special funds to present a good starting point for a revised CIP. He added that the Police contract obligation increased by \$8,200 from 2025, and the Fire Department budget will increase by about \$196,000 from 2025.

Mayor Miner recalled that the Council had discussed the proposed levy in a fair amount of detail during their work session meeting.

Councilmember Dyvik pointed out that the adoption action was for approval of a preliminary budget, and the final budget and levy can be reduced but cannot be increased over the preliminary levy proposed.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-29 establishing the preliminary property tax levy payable in 2026 for the City of Long Lake. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Dyvik, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-30 establishing the Truth in Taxation public meeting date as December 2, 2025 to discuss the proposed levy and budget for taxes payable 2026 for the City of Long Lake. Ayes: all.

D. Request to Approve Appointment of Interim City Administrator

Moeller advised that due to the resignation of City Administrator Weske, the City needed to retain the services of an Interim City Administrator to perform the general duties of the position until a new City Administrator is appointed. She recommended that the Council temporarily appoint Finance Director Nowezki to act as Interim City Administrator until a decision has been made regarding filling the vacant City Administrator position. Recognizing that Finance Director Nowezki would also be fulfilling the duties of Finance Director, she further recommended that Nowezki's base salary be increased to \$8,040/month during the time she serves as Interim City Administrator as well as Finance Director.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-31 appointing Amanda Nowezki to the position of Interim City Administrator effective September 20, 2025. Ayes: all.

E. Fire Department Transition/Future Fire Services News & Updates

Mayor Miner indicated that City representatives would be meeting with Orono representatives the following day to review the draft Joint Powers Agreement.

OTHER BUSINESS

Closing Message From Administrator Weske - Weske expressed his appreciation to the Council for everything they had done for him and noted that while there had been ups and downs during his 11 years with the City, there had been more ups than downs and it had been a great place to work.

Fall Leaf Pickup Dates - Moeller indicated that she had advertised fall leaf pick-up dates on the City's website for October 28 and November 4.

Administrator Mentoring Proposal – Moeller reminded the Council that at the September 2 work session meeting, they had briefly talked about a mentorship proposal they had received related to the City Administrator position. She informed Council that she'd received a revised proposal that came in under \$5,000, and she believed this was a reasonable number for the amount of time included. She concluded that she would bring the proposal back to the Council at a future meeting, but wanted them to be thinking about it beforehand.

MCWD Meeting - Nowezki reported that last week, staff had met with MCWD representatives and received an update on Long Lake's water quality. She and Public Works Director Diercks would be meeting again off-site with representatives from the MCWD at the end of the month to look at possible improvements to how wastewater is handled. She mentioned that there may be a grant opportunity available for the City to work towards improving the water quality of the lake. Councilmember Dyvik observed that the water quality this year had been about as bad as he had seen it on the lake all summer long, and described times when there were globs of green suspended below the surface, which he had not seen before. He added that he had done a bit of research on possible alum treatments and suggested that option also be considered by the City. Nowezki confirmed that there were also representatives from the Long Lake Waters Association at the meeting, and they were also adamant that they had noticed changes in the water quality this year that they had not seen in other years. The LLWA was pushing for a resolution to those issues, sooner rather than later. Councilmember Dyvik agreed with the LLWA's assessment of lake conditions. He noted that the work the MCWD does is great, but they are looking out ahead by about 10 years, and he would also like to see some results sooner than that. He had found that the lake was barely usable this past summer. Moeller added that it would be interesting to see if Hennepin County also becomes involved somehow because the water quality concerns had not unique to Long Lake. Poor lake conditions had been experienced on many other lakes similarly affected with beach closures, and requests were submitted to Hennepin County asking for testing for blue/green algae. Councilmember Dyvik offered to share the information that he had learned about the possible alum treatment options and ideas he had for funding the treatment with staff and the Council.

Out of Office – Moeller advised that she would be out of the office from September 18 through September 22 on a camping trip.

Fall Clean Up Day - Mayor Miner reminded residents that a Fall Clean Up Day would be held on September 20 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Orono Public Works facility, and voiced his appreciation for Orono inviting the City to partner in this event.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator