



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 6, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; and City Clerk/Zoning Administrator: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

The Council had met in a work session prior to the regular meeting during which they had discussed maintenance of and improvements to City parks and trails.

Mayor Miner had represented the City last week at an Orono School District event where they opened a 75-year old time capsule, and he shared some of the items that were revealed when it was opened.

The Shoreline Fire Department had hosted their annual Fire Prevention Open House on Monday night.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Kelly Grady, 271 Greenhill Lane – Ms. Grady indicated that she was a candidate running for City Council. She had been doing some meet-and-greet events with residents and knocking on doors, and was observing some commonalities in some of the concerns that have been shared with her. Some of the subjects she has heard a lot about were e-bike usage, water quality, and keeping taxes low.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of September 15, 2026 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of September 15, 2026 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve a Temporary On Sale Liquor License and an Application for Exempt Permit for the 2026 Day of the Dead Celebration at the Church of St. George

- E. Approve an Application for Exempt Permit for the Church of St. George to Conduct a Raffle at the Annual Holiday Boutique Event
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-45 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2026-14 for the Birch's on the Lake Fun Run 5K and 10K on October 11, 2026
- G. Receive 3rd Quarter 2026 Revenues and Expenditures as of September 30, 2026

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing: Certification of Unpaid Delinquent City Utility Accounts and Services Invoices for Assessment/Collection

City Administrator Nowezki explained the process for certification of unpaid City utility accounts and noted that this was something the City did on an annual basis. The process allows for the City to collect delinquent charges along with an administrative fee on the following year's taxes. Residents were notified in September about the status of their accounts and have the opportunity to address the Council at tonight's public hearing or submit a written objection. Staff had not received any written objections, and are requesting the Council approve the resolution for the certification of any charges remain unpaid by November 20, 2026.

Mayor Miner opened the public hearing at 6:44 pm, and as there were no public comments, closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Miner, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-44 for the certification and collection of delinquent 2026 water and sewer utility service charges, recycling program fees, storm water charges, and legal pass-through charges.

Councilmember Dyvik questioned if the number of delinquent accounts was typical for Long Lake.

Nowezki replied that over the last few years, the City averaged about two to three delinquent accounts that warrant certification, and she believes that they will most likely end up in the same range before the November 20, 2026 deadline. She added that the City is willing to work on forms of payment plans with residents when needed.

Councilmember Dyvik asked if all the accounts were for residential properties.

Nowezki noted that one business was included on the list.

Ayes: all.

B. Approve the Purchase of Replacement Outdoor Refuse Receptacles

Nowezki indicated that staff was continuing to work on following through with implementing the updated City logo that had been approved a few years ago, and one item that still features the old logo is the outdoor refuse containers in the City's parks and along the trails. She presented the style of container the Park Board had recommended for purchase and reviewed cost and shipping details.

Councilmember Dyvik questioned whether the containers had lids or if they were just open.

Nowezki responded that during a review of several container styles with Public Works, she had been advised it would be best if the containers were open on the sides.

Councilmember Dyvik asked if having them open would cause problems with bees and other critters.

Public Works Director Diercks stated that the biggest issue would be water, but the containers will have holes drilled in the bottom.

Councilmember Feldmann inquired if the new containers would have the City's logo on them.

Nowezki explained that neither she nor the Park Board were recommending adding a logo because the containers would be able to last a long time and decals don't tend to hold up well.

Councilmember Dyvik asked if staff had considered not going all in on purchasing all the new containers at once in case they don't work as planned.

Nowezki stated that the Council could adjust the number of containers to be ordered and clarified that the only reason she had suggested replacing all 26 receptacles at the same time was due to the weight of them and to save on overall freight costs.

Diercks reflected that the price the City received for all 26 trash containers was a very good deal.

Councilmember Dyvik stated that it looked like City Administrator Nowezki was planning to buy some extra tops for the receptacles and suggested that she also order some extra liners at the same time.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the purchase and replacement of 26 outdoor refuse receptacles and liners for \$21,630.

Councilmember Feldmann asked if staff needed additional budget funding to be able to purchase the extra liners and tops as discussed.

Nowezki clarified that she would not because the dollar amount for those items was low enough that she wouldn't require additional Council action.

Ayes: all.

C. Approve the Purchase of a New Portable Ice Rink System

Nowezki reported that the City had recently sent out a survey regarding the Holbrook Park ice rink area to residents in order to learn more about their priorities for the site; however, the Park Board hasn't had a chance to review the results and make an official recommendation to the Council. She gave a brief overview of the current issues and challenges with the existing ice rink, the difficulty in achieving and maintaining ice, and the option of moving forward with a portable ice rink system and maintenance contract in the City. She presented available sizes for portable rinks and touched on the anticipated cost of moving forward with replacing boards and installing a concrete surface to rehab the existing rink in its current configuration.

Mayor Miner asked whether there may be an option to have ice for the upcoming winter in the current rink space while paying a contractor to create and maintain it.

Councilmember Dyvik commented that with some grading already in the works for the area, it may be worth exploring that option.

Council and staff discussed costs associated portable versus permanent rink solutions, the use of the area as an off-leash dog park, the impact of the upcoming grading work, cost and maintenance of concrete slabs, staffing challenges within Public Works, the importance of running the options through the Park Board for their recommendation, size preferences and possibilities for upgrades if they decide on a portable rink, concern about the potential durability of the hockey boards, and possible options for the City to find a way to use contractors so the City can have ice this winter.

Mayor Miner added that something they hadn't yet touched on was the warming house, and observed that about 50% of the survey respondents said they would be more likely to use the rink if the building were open on a regular basis.

Nowezki noted that staff met today with a company that may offer a security solution for the City to be able to leave the warming house open more often, but she hasn't received pricing yet. She reminded the Council that it had been difficult to staff the warming house in the past.

Councilmember Kvale asked if there may be a possibility for the City to purchase a used portable rink for a better price.

Nowezki offered to reach out to the vendor and ask if that may be another option for the City.

Councilmember Newcomer voiced that he didn't believe the Council was going to be able to decide on this in time for the upcoming winter and suggested that in the long run, he would like to see some kind of multi-use area that may be able to be used for other things such as pickleball.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Dyvik, to table consideration of the purchase of a portable ice rink system until the next City Council meeting to allow the Park Board to discuss options and make a recommendation. Ayes: Newcomer, Feldmann, Dyvik and Miner. Nay: Kvale. Motion carried.

D. Consider the Purchase of a 2010 Mack GU 712 Single Axle Plow Truck

Diercks indicated that the City had an opportunity to replace the City's 2004 Sterling plow truck with a 2010 Mack GU 712 in excellent condition. He explained some of the challenges with maintaining and finding replacement parts for the City's current truck due to the discontinuation of the Sterling brand that occurred in 2009. He presented information on the 2010 Mack truck, including background on its usage by the City of Hastings, mileage, and refurbishment and reconditioning that had been completed.

Council and staff commented on the existing plow truck, how the purchase would impact CIP budgeting, work and updates that have been done on the Mack truck, minor repairs it may need, and longevity expectations for the Mack truck.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Newcomer, to approve the purchase of a 2010 Mack GU 712 single-axle plow truck as quoted from Transwest Truck Sales of St. Michael, MN, in an amount not to exceed \$89,900 (including tax and license).

Diercks stated that the purchase price would be lower than what was included in the packet because there would also be some trade-in credit to apply to the purchase.

Nowezki noted that she had the updated quote information on her desk and offered to go retrieve it so she could share the updated amount with the Council. She brought the quote back to the Council chambers and advised that the final quote with the trade-in would be \$75,448.50.

Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fire Prevention Open House - Councilmember Feldmann stated that he had attended the Fire Department Open House, which was a great event.

Orono Football Update - Councilmember Dyvik congratulated the Orono football team for beating Zimmerman 49-7 last week and noted that they have a tough game ahead this week when they play Marshall.

Park Board Meeting Schedule - Mayor Miner asked if the Park Board had a routine meeting schedule. Moeller replied that the Park Board was currently meeting on a monthly basis and they establish their next meeting dates at each of their meetings. She mentioned that they may take the months of January and February off if they choose to do so.

Pioneer Museum Presentation - Mayor Miner had spoken with Bob Gasch from the Pioneer Museum last week, and he'd expressed interest in coming to a Council meeting to give a presentation on the Museum and some history of the area. He asked if staff could pencil that topic in for a future workshop or regular meeting. Moeller indicated she did not have contact information for Mr. Gasch but would be happy to schedule him for a future agenda. She would recommend his presentation be scheduled during a regular City Council meeting to offer the Pioneer Museum some public air time. She commented that she personally had visited the Pioneer Museum and found it delightfully charming.

Safe Trick or Treating Event - Councilmember Kvale asked if Moeller had heard any rumblings about a potential Chamber of Commerce Halloween event. Moeller confirmed that she had heard there was some interest in putting an event together, but she hadn't received anything concrete yet.

City Hall Updates - Nowezki reported that the City Hall building doors have been replaced and the exterior windows have been painted. Public Works also removed some of the overgrown trees and helped clean up the landscaping. The new back office conference room has been painted, and she invited the Council to come take a look after the meeting. Mayor Miner expressed appreciation to City staff for their hard work on all the improvements at City Hall and around the City over the last year or so.

Employee Handbook Project - Moeller shared that staff had finally completed a draft of an updated Employee Handbook and it has been thoroughly reviewed by the City Attorney. Staff intends to send out electronic copy of the document to Councilmembers sometime next week, with discussion of the handbook scheduled for the October 20, 2026 work session meeting. Nowezki added that staff was hoping that following the work session, the Employee Handbook could be officially approved by the Council in November.

Clerk Updates – Moeller noted that fall leaf pickup dates had been posted on the City website. She informed Council that she would be out of state at family events from October 8 through October 11,

and once back in the office on October 12, she'll be diving into election work because in-person early voting begins October 16.

Public Works Updates - Diercks reported that he had spoken with an MnDNR hydrologist earlier in the morning regarding adding sand to the beach at Nelson Lakeside Park. He noted that he had a lot of questions and would be expecting a few more back-and-forth conversations to take place before he had all the answers he would need. He observed that it would be a great time to add sand to the beach because the lake is currently low. The last time they'd added sand was around 2019, and they had done so by adding the sand on top of the lake ice, which he would prefer to avoid if possible. He had also spoken with state goose control program staff and learned that the process has dramatically changed from the past. He advised that he would need some time to dig into the information he'd received.

Diercks commented that he had spoken with the City's well contractor earlier today because Well #1 has been down for about a month and he hasn't seen much action by the contractor. He gave an overview of the information the contractor had shared with him about what they found when they pulled the well and what the next steps, timeline, and price for completion of the work on the well would be.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk / Zoning Administrator