



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Staff Present: City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Jahn Dyvik (with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner shared that the funeral for Weston Paszkiewicz, son of Long Lake Fire Department Deputy Chief John Paszkiewicz, had been held last week. He expressed his appreciation to the community members who showed up to support the family and the LLFD at the luncheon they hosted after the service. The City's condolences go out to the Paszkiewicz family and the Long Lake Fire Department on this loss.

He commented that he hoped everyone had a great Thanksgiving celebration, and thanked John and Diane Hughes for hosting their 22nd annual Thanksgiving 'Turkeys on the Luce' fundraiser event.

Mayor Miner highlighted upcoming events, including the Holiday Tree Lighting on December 6 at Holbrook Park from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, and the Long Lake Fire Department Auxiliary Food and Toy Drive on December 7 at Fire Station 1 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of November 18, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of November 18, 2025, City Council meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-43 Authorizing Signatories for the City's Financial Banking and Investment Accounts
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-42 Conditionally Appointing David Thorson to the position of Paid On-Call Firefighter

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Newcomer, 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. Legislative Updates and Review – Representative Andrew Myers, District 45A

District 45A Representative Andrew Myers provided the Council with an update on the most recent legislative session and the impacts current and pending legislation may have on Long Lake.

Mayor Miner mentioned that both Lake Minnetonka and Long Lake were facing water quality issues and referenced a recent meeting held in partnership with the Long Lake Waters Association and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to discuss the issues that have been observed specific to Long Lake.

He also voiced the need for encouraging the State to see if there was anything they could do to remove roadblocks associated with pensions related to fire services and combining departments.

City Clerk Moeller reflected on the significant impacts of expanded early voting upon small cities like Long Lake, which as an example, only has two staff members in the office. She explained that if the City weren't located within the metro area, it wouldn't be an issue because in other areas, the counties often retain early voting duties and don't substantially delegate them to the cities. She emphasized that the burdens of the growing demand for early voting extend beyond the City's resources and take away from the service level staff must be able to provide in other areas.

Councilmember Feldmann added that there seemed to be a 'one size fits all' mindset from the County for matters like early voting, and observed that there needs to be a more efficient mechanism for those types of situations.

Moeller suggested that the County could utilize their Regional Service Centers for early voting.

Mayor Miner referenced Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and the amount of money that the County puts into supporting HCMC facilities. He pointed out that he believed statistics showed that about 40% of the patients served at HCMC were not from the County and suggested that it would be nice to have State-wide resources allocated and used because HCMC is the best Level One trauma center in the state. He indicated that it would be good if the legislature could step up and help fund HCMC to take some of the burden off County taxpayers.

B. Public Meeting to Discuss Proposed 2026 Budget and Levy (Truth in Taxation)

Moeller explained that she would be sharing a presentation that had been prepared by City Administrator Nowezki in her absence due to a family vacation. For the benefit of the viewing public, Moeller added that Nowezki had reviewed her budget proposal and Truth in Taxation presentation in detail with the Council at their November 18 work session meeting. Moeller reviewed 2026 operating budget impacts and factors; highlighted a chart depicting budget allocations by department; discussed changes to capital improvement planning proposed for 2026; the final levy proposal; and the history of the tax levy. She clarified that the intent of this agenda item was to provide a Truth in Taxation presentation, and to offer an opportunity for the public to provide feedback or ask questions of the City. She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to share the City's final 2026 budget and levy versus to review changes in home and property valuations, which are handled through the Open Book/Board of

Appeal process. She added that no formal action would be taken tonight and the final 2026 budget and levy would be adopted at the Council's December 16 meeting.

Mayor Miner asked if there were any members of the audience who wanted to speak on the City's proposed 2026 budget and levy information.

John Anderson, 1862 Symes Street – Mr. Anderson stated that he was a new resident in the City and understood that their home value had increased by about 20%, but mentioned that the City portion of his proposed taxes went up by 32%.

Moeller noted that his valuation had increased, therefore, the City portion of his tax statement would have increased. She explained that the information he was referencing from the County though was based on the preliminary taxes payable notices. The City Council had initially adopted a preliminary levy increase of 9%, and at final levy, staff's recommendation was that the levy only be increased by 4%.

Mayor Miner added that the notices sent out did not include the most recent information about the City decreasing its proposed levy.

Moeller reviewed the process for certifying the preliminary levy and the final levy.

Mr. Anderson questioned how much the County had pushed down to the City in terms of services that they were currently paying for that they had not been paying for 18 months ago.

Mayor Miner replied that in Long Lake's experience, the opposite scenario had occurred and shared the example of the County offering to take on Assessor services at no additional charge to the City, which represented a significant cost savings versus the City paying for independent City Assessor services.

There were no additional public comments.

Moeller encouraged the Council to contact her or Administrator Nowezki if there was anything that they would like to see changed before adoption of the final budget and levy at their next meeting. She reminded residents that if they had any questions, they were welcome to call City Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Comments From Councilmember Newcomer - Councilmember Newcomer stated that he was looking forward to attending the upcoming Holiday Tree Lighting event. He noted that he had been encouraged to see the way everyone had been able to offer support and come together surrounding the tragic loss of Weston Paskiewicz.

Deputy Chief Posting - Councilmember Feldmann reported that a job opening for the position of Deputy Chief for the Shoreline Fire Department had been posted, and Chief Heiland is pleased with the number of candidates who have expressed interest.

Comments From Mayor Miner – Mayor Miner mentioned that he was continuing to work with State and County officials regarding the Highway 12 emergency access gate in an effort to facilitate funding partnerships for needed gate improvements. Additionally, on December 3, he would be attending a meeting at Wayzata City Hall along with other Lake Minnetonka area Mayors to hear a proposal regarding the possibility of engaging a lobbying firm.

LMCC / Jim Lundberg's Retirement Party - Councilmember Kvale reminded Council that Jim Lundberg's going-away and retirement gathering will be held on December 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Carbone's Pizzeria.

Tree Lighting Celebration - Moeller commented that there would be free cookies available at the Holiday Tree Lighting celebration on Friday night and highlighted other activities to be included in the event, such as a DJ playing music, and local craft vendors in the warming house. Mayor Miner thanked the Park Board for their hard work on the event.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk