



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 20, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik (left the meeting at 6:45 pm with prior notice), Mike Feldmann, Deirdre Kvale, and Todd Newcomer

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; and City Clerk: 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:

He expressed his appreciation to Councilmember Dyvik for taking over for him and serving as Mayor Pro-Tempore at the previous City Council meeting when he was unable to attend.

On May 8, Long Lake and Orono had held a Fire Services Joint Open Forum meeting and he thanked Trinity Lutheran Church for hosting the event. He noted that the City received a lot of good feedback from the forum, and a video of the open event is available for viewing on the City's website under the Fire Service Updates tab.

Mayor Miner reminded residents that Memorial Day would be on May 26, 2025. He highlighted the annual commemorative events that will occur at the cemeteries and Nelson Lakeside Park, and encouraged attendance.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of May 6, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-11 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2025-05 for the Temporary Outdoor Patio at Bucks Pub effective through October 1, 2025
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-13 Approving Issuance of a Special Event Permit for the Minnesota Inboard Summer Surf Tour Stop on June 28, 2025; Approve Issuance of a Noise Variance Permit; and Authorize HCSO Water Patrol Unit Permit Issuance
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-14 Accepting the Donation of Equipment Items to the City of Long Lake for the Long Lake Fire Department

- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-16 Appointing Mark Preissing to the Position of Park Board Member for a Term Effective Through December 31, 2027

Council member Kvale referenced the vendor claims and payroll and asked about the amounts paid to PSN for utility online billing, noting that there were two entries of around \$150 for software support that both appear to be for April.

City Administrator Weske clarified that the payment was split between two account codes, which meant that the amount paid in total was one payment divided among two funds.

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Introduction of Mark Preissing, Park Board Appointee - City Clerk Moeller introduced newly appointed Park Board Member Preissing and commented that the City was fortunate to have such a qualified individual joining the Park Board.

Mr. Preissing, a resident of the Zvago Long Lake community, shared that he was a retired public school teacher, a former director of community education, and had been heavily involved in a lot of park and recreation programming and initiatives.

Mayor Miner expressed his appreciation to Mr. Preissing for stepping forward and being willing to serve on the Park Board.

Bryan Miller, 295 Lakeview Avenue – Mr. Miller displayed photos of Lakeview Avenue to highlight a series of concerns included completely faded ‘no parking’ signage in need of replacement; a City culvert located about six inches above grade that had created a speed bump across the driveway at 249 Lakeview Avenue and needed to be reset to its proper location; and a culvert on Central Avenue in the backyard of his property on Lakeview Avenue that frequently floods because the culvert is too high on one end and needs resetting or replacement. Lastly, he shared an aerial map photo that was taken in 1940 to show that his neighborhood area was original dating back to not long after the City was founded, and voiced that he and neighbors felt it would be nice if the City spent a bit more time and attention to the Lakeview Avenue area. He reflected that they felt they had been neglected with the City not replacing the signs or addressing the culverts and drainage issues.

Councilmember Dyvik explained that he had to leave the meeting early to attend his daughter’s band concert.

Marty Schneider, 1176 Wayzata Boulevard W – Mr. Schneider provided the Council with a preview of Buckhorn Days, which was scheduled to be held on July 12, 2025. He gave a brief overview of some of the events and activities that have been planned for the day of the event including live bands performing, a fishing tournament, dog races, a bean bag toss, and a car show.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Resolution of Support for the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Partnership and with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Downtown Long Lake Feasibility Study

Weske recalled that in 2014, the had MPCA completed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study that identified five impaired lakes in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed District. He touched on the history of partnerships, grants received, and projects undertaken to address some of the water quality issues. He reported that the MCWD had received a grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to conduct a feasibility study for the downtown Long Lake area and was ready to initiate the study with the support of the City.

James Whisker, MCWD Administrator, gave a presentation that provided an overview of the MCWD's role and discussed the Long Lake Creek partnership.

Rachel Baker, MCWD Project Manager, introduced herself.

Mayor Miner pointed out that Ms. Baker's father was a former Mayor in Long Lake and noted that her maiden name was Bash.

Ms. Baker outlined some details related to the MCWD's proposed Downtown Long Lake Feasibility Study, the grant funding acquired for the study, their organization's hope of collaboration with the City to see how they can integrate stormwater improvements into the downtown landscape, reviewed the project timeline and potential next steps, and answered Council questions.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-12 accepting the Long Lake Creek Roadmap and supporting the ongoing partnership with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and cities of Medina and Orono to advance efforts to improve water quality in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed. Ayes: all.

Mr. Whisker thanked the City for their support and continued partnership. He noted that he would be leaving staff with some handouts that the City could make available to the public.

B. Ordinance Amending Section 19 of the Zoning Code to Update Requirements for Residential, Business, and Swimming Pool Fences

Moeller reported that the City's fence requirements were quite outdated and have needed an update to bring them up to more current standards. She reviewed the proposed fence related language updates included in the ordinance prepared for the Council's consideration, and indicated that the Planning Commission had reviewed the draft ordinance at their May 13, 2025 meeting and unanimously recommended approval. She added that prior to the Council meeting, Councilmember Kvale had caught an error related to a cross-reference that should be changed from 'subdivision 8' to 'subdivision 11' and confirmed that staff had already made the necessary change within the document.

Councilmember Kvale read aloud a portion of the language related to a 'fence in a required front yard not exceeding three and a half feet' and asked what was meant by 'required'.

Moeller responded that the section referred to may also need to be amended because it should just say, 'fences in the front yard shall not exceed'. She suggested that they strike the word 'required' in the paragraph numbered as section five on page 53 of the packet.

Councilmember Feldmann shared a situation with development that had occurred near his property and asked what governed erosion control fencing.

Moeller replied that erosion control requirements are project-specific, but she noted that the proposed ordinance includes a provision that establishes clear expectations for how long erosion control fencing may remain in place.

Councilmember Newcomer questioned whether the chicken ordinance had also included some fencing content as well.

Moeller communicated that while she did not recall all of the provisions, the fencing requirements within the chicken ordinance would be specific to chickens.

Mayor Miner pointed out some areas where changes had been proposed to remove the word for numbers and replace them with numbers themselves, but noted that it was not done consistently within the document.

Moeller explained that the intent of doing so had been to apply grammar standards. It is typical for numbers under ten to be spelled out, and for numbers over ten to be depicted by the number.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Miner, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-01 amending Section 19 of the City's Zoning Ordinance to update requirements for residential, business, and swimming pool fences, as amended per Council discussion. Ayes: all.

C. Adoption of Code of Conduct Policy for City Council and City Advisory Boards

Moeller reviewed what had occurred at previous Council meetings, recalled some of the past discussion points related to preparation of the Code of Conduct policy document, and noted that City Attorney Thames had spoken with Councilmember Kvale regarding some of her specific concerns she'd voiced at the Council's May 6 meeting at which a second draft of the policy had been presented. The City Attorney had prepared some content revisions as an outcome of his conversation with Councilmember Kvale, and Moeller displayed a redlined version of the updated policy document to point out the language changes City Attorney Thames had made.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt the Code of Conduct Policy for City Council and City Advisory Boards as presented. Ayes: all.

D. Approve Establishing the Position of Part-Time Firefighter

Weske explained that this item was essentially a bookkeeping item and noted that the fire services contract amendment recently executed by Orono and Long Lake allows for part-time firefighters, and the proposed action to establish the position would ensure that the Fire Department has a hiring mechanism to facilitate maintaining its high standards of public safety and responsiveness for the residents in the community. He reflected that while the action requested would officially establish the new part-time firefighter position, staff is not looking to hire for the position immediately.

Mayor Miner inquired about benefits and asked if documentation needed to include that this would be a PERA-eligible position.

Weske observed that the position was automatically qualified for PERA because they would not be getting as much vacation as would a full-time employee.

Councilmember Newcomer asked whether the compensation information should be identified in the Resolution or if it should remain blank given that the intent was not to hire for this position right away.

Weske responded that the dollar amount listed was what the Department was currently paying the paid-on-call duty crews.

Kvale suggested that they could include language that says 'commensurate with experience'.

Moeller clarified that the Resolution's action would be amending the City's 2025 salary pay plan to include the position within the plan. The Resolution also states that the hourly rate may be adjusted from time to time by Resolution of the Council, and the City's salary pay plan is reviewed and adopted by Resolution annually at year-end.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-15 establishing the position of Part-Time Firefighter; and to authorize the Fire Chief and City Administrator to hire for the position as needed to supplement Fire Department staffing levels. Ayes: all.

E. Fire Department News and Updates

Mayor Miner commented that Orono and Long Lake are continuing to work on a Joint Powers Agreement to create a jointly operated Fire Department, with the hope that Medina and Minnetonka Beach would also be interested in participation. He conveyed that Fire Chief Heiland and his leadership team have been working very closely with Orono Fire Department leadership, along with the two cities' Administrators, to work out operational issues that will need to converge as the departments work together, which has been going well. He also mentioned that the two Fire Chiefs are pulling together a group of firefighters from both departments to form a committee to work on some possible naming options for the future Department.

OTHER BUSINESS

Responding to Comments Received Regarding Lakeview Avenue - Councilmember Feldmann referenced the comment shared under Open Correspondence regarding the need to replace parking signage on Lakeview Avenue, and asked if the City had a stash of signs available somewhere that could be put to use. Weske stated that there may be some available, but they might be non-compliant with current regulatory signage requirements. He mentioned that street signs need to be reflective and follow certain new sizing requirements. He indicated that the City would have to check pricing for compliant signage. Moeller added that the other issues raised concerning the Lakeview Avenue roadway, drainage, and culvert conditions would have to be answered by Public Works Director Diercks.

LMCC and Midco Updates - Councilmember Kvale reported that at the recent LMCC Commission meeting, Jim Lundberg had tendered his resignation/retirement as of December 2025. She explained that the LMCC would go down to a one-person operation with Tyler Rabe remaining on staff, which will result in cost savings for the organization, and contract producers would continue to provide content. She added that while there has been some interest in their building that's currently for sale, offers were not at the price the LMCC was hoping for. Mayor Miner mentioned that he had received a flyer in the mail advertising the upcoming availability of Midco services in the City.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator