



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 19, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner reported that the Economic Development Authority had met prior to the City Council meeting and had discussed possible uses and beautification for the City-owned former BP station property at 1905 Wayzata Boulevard W.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of March 7, 2024 City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of March 7, 2024 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve Issuance of a 1 to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Church of St. George's Festival of Music Event on May 4, 2024

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

Resolution in Support of an Application to the MnDNR for an Outdoor Recreation Grant for the Holbrook Park Skate & Splash Plaza Project

Park Board member Leachman recalled that she had given a formal presentation on this grant proposal at the City Council's recent March 7 work session meeting and reported back on a few items that had arisen from that discussion, including a meeting with the Orono Youth Hockey Association that had

taken place during the previous week. The Orono Youth Hockey Association is actively interested in supporting the City's application and efforts to improve the Holbrook Park skating facilities.

Council member Kvale asked if there was a dollar amount that the City would have to meet for this grant.

Ms. Leachman explained that the grant provisions require a 50% match from the applicant up to a maximum of \$350,000, but noted that match does not necessarily have to be a cash match. The 'match' can come from a variety of sources such as staff time, City resources, equipment, materials, volunteer time, and donations. It would be up to the City to find the matching funds or labor to meet the \$350,000 requirement.

Council member Kvale questioned whether cost estimates were available for the proposed project.

Ms. Leachman outlined the goals of achieving a regulation size hockey rink, a separate and adjacent pleasure skating rink for younger skaters, and an integrated splash pad. At this time, ballpark numbers without commitments from rink designers/builders range between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000. Different configurations of the project or phasing could be considered, and she reiterated that the dollar figures were just ballpark figures at this point.

Council member Dyvik noted that there are options.

Council member Kvale inquired if the City would have to accept the grant or if, when the times comes, they could still decide it was not something they wanted to actually spend money on.

Council member Dyvik believed the City would still have options for a final decision and pointed out that the City may not need to spend a lot of money if the community comes together and helps fundraise for this project. He referenced the City of Eagan who had undertaken a similar project and recalled that he did not believe the City had to put in any funds for that project because of the outside funding sources that contributed.

Council member Kvale commented that she thinks it is nice that the supporting Resolution says that the City will reach out to residents about the project because the site is a neighborhood park, and Long Lake is not Eagan. She stated that she did not want a project to create something that would stress the neighborhood or result in traffic problems.

City Clerk Moeller shared that staff had already generated a mailing list in order to target the side streets near Holbrook Park that could be impacted by an increase in traffic.

Council member Dyvik emphasized that there is already a hockey rink and a warming house at the park and the project is essentially to improve what is already there.

Council member Kvale asked if there would be somebody at the park that would collect money or fees for rink use.

Council member Dyvik voiced that he felt those kinds of things are all details that would be looked at later in the process.

Moeller mentioned that outside of the project elements, they would be notifying the neighborhood regardless so they would be aware of any construction that may be happening.

Ms. Leachman recalled that on behalf of the City, a stakeholder outreach meeting was held with Orono Youth Hockey last week. The proposed project was presented and details were shared in order to obtain the Association's feedback. A few things they'd learned about the organization through the meeting discussion is that the OYHA is highly limited in terms of access to ice sheets in the area. She stated that they also learned that the demand for youth and young adult hockey has skyrocketed and continues to increase. The organization has struggled with scheduling ice time for the different leagues and age groups. They also learned that the Mound facility was not in the greatest shape and may need substantial upgrades or even may be retired. As the proposed project was presented to include an outdoor refrigerated rink space that would support skating from November through about March, it became apparent that the OYHA's interest in partnering with the City was very strong. The communication following the meeting was that they would continue to support the City in its endeavors and if the grant did not come to fruition, this may still be a starting point of a partnership.

Council member Kvale recalled that when her kids were going through hockey they found that outdoor ice was not ideal because of the temperature. She asked if the idea from the OYHA was really to have more of an outdoor rink or an indoor rink.

Council member Dyvik suggested that they let Ms. Leachman finish her presentation before they opened additional discussion. He reminded the Council that this would be a refrigerated rink so refreezing would not be an issue.

Council member Kvale observed that if the weather is extremely cold, it is very hard to play hockey outdoors.

Council member Dyvik stated that following Ms. Leachman's presentation to the OYHA, they'd communicated that with or without the grant they would be interested in partnering with the City.

Ms. Leachman confirmed that was also the message she took away from the meeting with the OYHA. She also felt that the meeting showed there is likely a strong component of the community that would support these efforts. Since the Council work session, Park Board members have spent time taking a look at site conditions to ensure they would not be infringing on wetlands or endangered species, and ultimately found that the project location would be considered a 'no impact' site. They had also spent the last few weeks working to refine the project description. The Park Board is recommending that the City proceed with a grant request for the project which would include a hockey rink, a pleasure rink, and a splash pad, and see where things shake out. She assured Council member Kvale that there would still be the opportunity to 'pull the plug' if things changed or the City decided that they did not want to proceed.

Council member Joyce stated that she would like to see the splash pad kept in the plans and not excluded.

Peter Kolar, Orono Youth Hockey Association (OYHA), informed Council that he was in charge of the ice scheduling this past year and could attest to what had been shared that it was a nightmare. Conceptually, the OYHA supports applying for the grant and exploring a mutually beneficial arrangement with the City. He highlighted details of the current ice situation and limitations in the area and shared some of the prices they have been paying for ice time. The OYHA has a significant need for ice. He

explained that they are a fundraising driven organization and noted that they could also help out with sweat equity, man hours, and maintenance.

Council member Kvale recognized that it appears ice time is a long-term problem for Orono Youth Hockey and asked if they were looking for other ways to get another rink.

Mr. Kolar confirmed that they are and this effort with the City would not detract from that, as it will be a substantial undertaking and will be a long-term project. He stated that the kids love outdoor ice, but without the refrigerated component, it cannot be relied upon.

The Council and Mr. Kolar discussed possible maintenance activities and volunteer opportunities that the OYHA could be involved in.

Mr. Kolar indicated that they would like to partner with the City and that their organization has the 'bandwidth' to offer more 'dibs' hours for the various work that would be associated with the rink along with the fundraising.

Council member wondered whether if the OYHA were to contribute a certain amount of money, would they want something in return.

Mr. Kolar replied that they would likely want a guaranteed amount of time on the ice.

Council member Dyvik commented that there are still a lot of details that would need to be worked out, and there may be other organizations that may be interested in the facilities in addition to the OYHA.

Public Works Director Diercks asked Mr. Kolar how often OYHA would rent during the week.

Mr. Kolar stated that they would rent every hour that they can get.

Diercks asked if that meant that if the City had the rink open for rental five hours a day for five days a week, they would take it all.

Mr. Kolar confirmed that they would take it all if it was available.

Council member Joyce asked if the OYHA had a bare minimum time in mind that they would need to have guaranteed if they decided to partner with the City in this effort.

Mr. Kolar answered that he did not have a reply to that question, but could supply the City with a number so the City can plan accordingly.

Moeller reminded the Council that what is before them tonight are not details about the space and how it will be used, but just whether they would support the proposed Outdoor Recreation Grant application. She reiterated there are still many details to be worked out, and sought confirmation from Ms. Leachman that supporting the grant application would not commit the City to the project.

Ms. Leachman responded that was correct and indicated that the recommendation from the Park Board was for the Council to officially support the grant application for the conceptual project.

Weske noted that April 1, 2024 was also the deadline for the Hennepin County Youth grant, so this Resolution would also show that the City has a partner willing to support their endeavor which may also help them achieve a sports grant through the County as well. He would recommend piggybacking them together.

Mayor Miner asked if the City could apply for both grants.

Weske replied affirmatively and explained that they get more points in application scoring if they have a partner, so for the Hennepin County grant, the City would partner with the OYHA and jointly apply for the facilities grant.

Ms. Leachman indicated that after the grant application had been submitted, their first effort would be to establish fundraising plans and the City would have five to six months to focus in and see what would be possible in finding the matching funds.

Council member Dyvik asked Public Works Director Diercks for his opinion on this whole idea.

Diercks stated that he thought the project was wonderful a wonderful idea for the community, the region, sports, and non-sports users. He did not believe the workload for Public Works would be much of an addition over what they have already been doing.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Miner, to adopt Resolution No. 2024-13 in support of an application to the MnDNR for an Outdoor Recreation Grant for the Holbrook Park Skate & Splash Plaza project. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Dyvik, to authorize City staff to submit an application for a Hennepin County Youth Sports grant, as long as no conflicts were found with the MnDNR grant application. Ayes: all.

Consider Approval of a Lease for the Use of City Property with Veit & Company, Inc. for a Job Management Site

Weske reviewed the proposed lease for use of City property behind the P3 sports dome for a job management site for contractor Veit & Company as part of the CSAH 112 project. City Attorney Thames had been out of town and had not been able to review the agreement prior to meeting packet preparation; therefore, he would ask that approval of the agreement allow for final revisions by the City Attorney. Staff had negotiated a lease price of \$1,000 per month for use of the site.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the Lease for Use of City Property with Veit & Company, Inc. to utilize City-owned land located at 2445 Industrial Boulevard W as a job management site related to the CSAH 112 Phase 3 project, subject to final revisions by the City Attorney; and authorize the City Administrator to execute the agreement. Ayes: all.

Consider Adoption of a Policy Regarding Mobile Food Unit(s) and Food Cart(s) on City Owned Property

Moeller outlined past discussions and a creative approach to allowing mobile food vehicles on specifically City-owned properties through implementation of a policy document. She advised that the City has periodically been approached by entities interested in having mobile food units/carts at locations throughout the City. She gave a brief overview of the proposed policy that had been prepared and clarified that it was not intended to apply to larger special events which include food units as a secondary component, such as Buckhorn Days. She noted that she had distributed an updated copy of

the policy just prior to the meeting because since the time the Council's meeting packets had been distributed, City Attorney Thames had a chance to review everything that had been put together and had recommended some minor changes.

The Council discussed the amount of units that could be allowed at various City-owned properties, parking, and overall demand.

Moeller suggested that the limitations in the policy could be amended to initially allow up to three units at the 1905 Wayzata Boulevard W property, one unit at other City owned properties, and could review to determine whether adjustments were warranted.

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Miner, to adopt the 'Policy Regarding Mobile Food Unit(s) and Food Cart(s) on City-Owned Property', amended to clarify that up to three units can be allowed at 1905 Wayzata Boulevard W at any one time and all other City-owned properties will be limited to one unit, subject to final revisions by the City Attorney. Ayes: all.

Updates Regarding Fire Department Matters

Mayor Miner reported that a Fire Advisory Board meeting had been held last week and Chief Heiland had provided an overview of Fire Department 2023 year-end statistics. For 2023, Fire Department operations had come in under budget, resulting in a refund of 2023 funds to cities based on the contract terms. He pointed out that they were able to come in below budget despite the fact that there was about a 17% increase in the number of calls in 2023 compared to 2022, and congratulated Chief Heiland and his team for their work in 2023 to be able to come in under budget while also having an increase in call volume. He also advised that there were a few legal documents filed last week and he believed that Judge Miller will be issuing a ruling on City of Long Lake v. City of Orono within the next few weeks.

Mayor Miner also indicated that Chief Heiland had presented his annual report to the Orono City Council on March 11, 2024 and he felt he had done a very good job doing so. The City had been assured by the Orono City Administrator that Chief Heiland would be treated in a respectful manner by the Orono Council; however, that was not entirely the case in his opinion. He felt one of the Orono Council members as well as the Orono Mayor had treated Chief Heiland disrespectfully, which was not appreciated. He reminded the Council that at their last meeting they had directed City Administrator Weske to meet with the Orono City Administrator to discuss future operational issues.

Council member Kvale asked if the meeting was intended to discuss dissolution of the contract or mediation efforts.

Weske explained that the meeting had been intended to provide for a discussion at the administrative level of 'all things' and to gain an understanding of what Orono's expectation is of the Long Lake Fire Department beginning July 1, 2024. He noted that he had not wanted the two Chiefs to be involved right away. He reflected that they were able to have a good meeting and he would support the two Chiefs having some conversations about things like mutual aid and what operational circumstances will look like if Orono is not ready when they wanted to be.

Council member Joyce observed that she thought it is was good the two administrators had met and she feels it is important to work toward open communication; but she wanted to reiterate that if anything has changed with Orono, the CAD zone can stay within the contract to assure that public safety comes first. She noted that after the recent Orono Council meeting she'd spoken to Council members Veach

and Johnson, and she is glad that conversations are happening. When it comes to mutual aid, she would like to know if there is a limit or definition to determine if someone is abusing the power of mutual aid.

Weske responded that it is the kind of thing that will be defined between the two Chiefs.

Council member Joyce highlighted the importance of making sure that they get ahead of that potential issue so that mutual aid cannot be abused.

Weske outlined different scenarios and protocols that would be used for mutual aid for the example of a structure fire type incident, but noted that they should not be using mutual aid for things like lift assists. He indicated that those operational areas would be discussed and reviewed by the Chiefs as well as City Attorney Thames.

Council member Kvale stressed the importance of memorializing any understandings to prevent a situation where there is just a 'handshake agreement' between the chiefs.

Council member Dyvik mentioned that he had been very pleased to see the Fire Department be able to come in under budget for 2023 despite the many challenges that they faced and in light of all they were able to accomplish. He voiced his appreciation for the leadership of Chief Heiland who was able to bring that all together for the Department.

Council member Feldmann agreed and noted that there was a dramatic increase in calls which should also be emphasized while still coming in under budget.

OTHER BUSINESS

LMCC Office Update - Council member Kvale shared that Jerry Rockvam had passed away last week, so the purchase agreement for the LMCC building has been withdrawn and it will now be put on the market. The lease between the LMCC and the City would also be on hold since they now have to market their former building.

Long Lake Creek Dam/Culvert Cleanup - Council member Dyvik reported that he and a neighbor had put on their waders and went down to Long Lake Creek between the dam and the culvert and hauled out some of the branches that were blocking things. They had just thrown the material up onto the side and asked if Public Works could come haul it away. Diercks stated that Public Works will go gather up the debris.

Basketball Game Report - Council member Dyvik had attended a very exciting basketball game between Orono vs. Benilde-St. Margaret that had a total of three buzzer beaters. He asked City staff to play the last 30 seconds of the game and noted that it had been an emotional roller coaster for the spectators. He congratulated the Orono Basketball team and wished them well as they move onto the State tournament games later in the week.

Mayor Updates - Mayor Miner indicated that the Northwest Hennepin League of Municipalities had met last week where they had heard a presentation from the County Assessor, and he highlighted some of the information that was shared related to Long Lake. He also mentioned that the Long Lake Fire Department and the West Suburban Fire District will be having upcoming pancake breakfasts in the next month.

Park Board Grant Work - Council member Joyce expressed her appreciation for the work the Park Board has done on grant research.

Livestream Notification Light - Moeller referenced the red light shining in the back of the Council Chambers and advised that in the future, it will be on to indicate when the livestream of Council meetings has begun. She noted that the livestreams are scheduled to begin at 6:29 pm.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator