



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 16, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Planner: Hannah Rybak; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Jahn Dyvik and Gina Joyce (both with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner reported that the Long Lake Fire Department had held their annual pancakes and french toast breakfast on April 14, 2024, which had been well attended.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of April 2, 2024 City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of April 2, 2024 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-15 Conditionally Appointing Rob Bahneman to the position of Paid On-Call Firefighter for the City of Long Lake
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-16 Conditionally Appointing Juan Carlos Morales to the position of Paid On-Call Firefighter for the City of Long Lake
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-17 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2024-01 for the Temporary Outdoor Patio at the Red Rooster Bar & Restaurant effective May 1 through October 1, 2024
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-18 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2024-02 for the Temporary Outdoor Patio at Carbone's Pizzeria Long Lake effective May 1 through September 30, 2024
- H. Receive 1st Quarter 2024 Revenues and Expenditures

Council member Kvale referenced Consent Agenda Item H and noted that some of the debt service funds were in the negative. She asked if that was because the City had taken them out of a different fund and were just waiting for the property tax payments to come in.

City Administrator Weske explained that sometimes they do not receive all of the anticipated special assessments, and that the funds being short right now is just a temporary situation.

City Clerk Moeller added that Finance Director Nowezki had made a note in her staff report outlining the fund balance factors for Fund 392-394 and had explained that the funds would receive revenue from the 2024 property tax settlements. She indicated that Finance Director Nowezki had asked for Council feedback on the new Fund Balance sheet that she had included.

The Council confirmed that they liked the simplicity of the new Fund Balance sheet and found it helpful.

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Bryan Miller, 295 Lakeview Avenue – Mr. Miller recalled that in years past, former Mayor Schneider had sent out a survey about what residents wanted the future of Long Lake to look like and believed the majority said they wanted a ‘cozy and cottage-y’ vibe that would be similar to Excelsior. While in college, he had taken a pre-architecture class and one thing he’d learned was that flat roofed buildings were a design that stemmed from communism. He pointed out that two of the new structures in the downtown area are flat roofed buildings. He stated that at the last Council meeting there had been mention of some interest in putting residential usage on the former BP lot. He shared that he did not believe that is what the City needed in that location and felt it should be used for a retail destination, like an ice cream shop or a pizza by the slice establishment. He observed that he would like to see it become a place where people can walk up from the beach and get something, but that for whatever goes there, he would like to see it have a pointed roof so it gives the sense of being more ‘cottage-y’.

Moeller commented that staff had found that a residential use would not be allowed as part of the deed restrictions on the former BP property, so that discussion was no longer occurring and staff has had talks with a different party regarding a possible coffee shop proposal.

Mr. Miller commented that he felt whatever goes in at that location needs to be a destination spot. On another subject, he mentioned that he was a member of the Wayzata Crime Prevention Coalition, had attended the Wayzata State of the City address last week, and he felt they did a great job of engaging their citizens which gave him some ideas for some things that Long Lake could do in future years. Lastly, he asked about the possibility of getting a culvert at the end of his street replaced, as it is currently dilapidated and has not actually drained in years.

Leslie Buehler, 255 Greenhill Lane – Ms. Buehler indicated that she’d sent in an email a few months ago regarding storage of boats, RVs, and trailers. She reflected that she doesn’t really know what the City rules are, but asked if something could be done about vehicle storage throughout the City. She added that she has seen some vehicles that never move which, to Mr. Miller’s point, is not ‘cottage-y’.

Mayor Miner recommended that she contact staff if there is a specific situation or request. He noted that the City has increased their enforcement of code compliance issues over the last six months or so.

Moeller added that there is also an item later on tonight’s agenda for discussion regarding updating the parking regulations for boats, trailers and RVs.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Public Hearing – Request to Vacate Easements Dedicated in the Belle Aire Estates Plat (1957) Found on 244 Harrington Drive

City Planner Rybak gave an overview of the request to vacate easements impacting the property at 244 Harrington Drive that had been originally dedicated in the Belle Aire Estates subdivision from a 1957 plat. The easements were discovered when the property owner applied for a home equity loan, and unfortunately, now that the easements have been discovered, the property owner is unable to obtain additional loans or sell the property without clearing the title issue. She clarified that the easements that were found should have been vacated when the Shady Creek Addition creating the 244 Harrington Drive lot was platted in 1973, but that did not happen as it should have, and this application is attempting to correct the error made at that time. She outlined the notification process and stated that staff recommends approval of the request.

Mayor Miner opened the public hearing at 6:50 pm. There being no public comment, he closed the public hearing.

Moeller reported that the applicant was unable to attend the meeting because he was overseas on vacation, but had passed along his appreciation to staff and the Council for looking into this and helping him clear the title on his property.

A motion was made by Feldmann to adopt Resolution No. 2024-19 vacating the affected easements dedicated in the Belle Aire Estates plat, found on 244 Harrington Drive.

Council member Kvale had some questions related to the specific wording within the Resolution and referenced language that she felt was unclear.

City Planner responded that the language had been prepared at the request of City Attorney Thames.

Moeller stated that she believed what the language was trying to convey was that the action was not intended to affect any of the other easements that had been granted as part of Belle Aire Estates or any after.

Council member Kvale stated that she felt that provision was worded in a confusing manner.

Moeller reiterated that staff had followed the format presented by City Attorney Thames; however, the Council could add language to the motion to state that the Resolution's approval was, 'subject to final edits by the City Attorney'.

Council member Kvale was supportive of Moeller's suggestion and asked that staff and the City Attorney review the language that may cause confusion.

The motion was amended by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to adopt Resolution No. 2024-19 vacating the affected easements dedicated in the Belle Aire Estates plat, found on 244 Harrington Drive, subject to final edits to be made by the City Attorney. Ayes: all.

Presentation/Discussion – Updating Parking Regulations for the Storage of Boats, Trailers, and Recreation Vehicles; Updating Certain Parking Requirements by Use

Rybak advised that the intent for updating the City's parking regulations for storage of boats, trailers, and RV's was just to add a few clarifications and additional regulations into the Code in order to be more specific on how many there can be and where they can be stored. During the Council's review of the draft Ordinance, questions were raised about people adding gravel in order to create parking areas, but gravel is not an allowable driveway surface and gravel pads or drives that are already in town would be considered 'legal non-conforming'. Another question raised at the previous meeting was related to the definition of a 'recreational vehicle and equipment'. The intent of recreational vehicles and equipment was for the equipment to be recreational and not intended to be things like commercial construction equipment that would not traditionally be found on a residential property. She shared examples of what would be considered recreational equipment including, trailers, fish houses, and canoes. Further, based on the Council's previous review, she'd recognized that the Council was not in favor of the current definition for recreational vehicle and read aloud her suggested change to this definition to include more specific details.

Council member Kvale questioned whether an off-road racing vehicle would be considered just a motor vehicle, and if the City had a limit on the number of cars that can be parked at a property.

Rybak replied that there is currently not a limit in the City, but added that most cities she has worked with have a requirement of no more than four vehicles parked outdoors on a residential property. She pointed out that if the Council was interested in that, it could be added in as part of this package.

Moeller commented that passenger vehicle limiting language was not something that had come to the staff's attention before, but this would be their opportunity to include it as part of this proposed amendment.

Mayor Miner asked if the City had received complaints about this kind of issue.

Moeller responded that they have occasionally gotten complaints of an excess of passenger vehicles parked at a property. She asked if the Council wanted to include a parking restriction on the number of motor vehicles that are parked outside on residential properties.

Weske gave an example of a vehicle that may be used for off road racing because he did not believe those could be registered as a motor vehicle nor can they be put on a trailer.

Rybak explained that the reference to the off road racing vehicles could be removed if the Council felt it would be an issue.

Weske commented on situations in which a professional racing group has their cars on a trailer in their driveway/yard, and that would make them illegal.

Rybak suggested that they could remove everything besides demolition derby from the last sentence of the recreational vehicle definition. She noted that she has seen a few actual 'monster trucks' with wheels as tall as she is parked outside of homes.

Weske stated that he felt the definition just needed to be cleaned up a bit so it is more clear.

Rybak reviewed some of the other definitions that she wanted the Council to provide their feedback on.

Council and staff discussed equipment such as Bobcats; exterior storage and screening requirements within the Code; driveway length and pavement requirements; and the intent behind the Planning Commission's recommendations with regard to parking location setbacks.

Anita Secord, 114 Brown Road N, spoke as a member of the Planning Commission and briefly outlined the reasons behind the Commission's recommendations related to the parking regulations.

The Council discussed amending the parking setback to five feet, the importance of keeping the code consistent, and registration requirements for vehicles.

Rybak explained that the City would need to hold a new public hearing because of the scope of the proposed amendments. She would be bringing an ordinance including all the proposed amendments discussed to an upcoming meeting after a new hearing.

Long Lake Garden Club 2024 Budget Proposal and Recommendations, Concepts for 1905 Wayzata Boulevard W Property

Laureen Carlson, Long Lake Garden Club volunteer, gave a presentation that outlined their planned projects for 2024; expense categories; City assistance requested in their efforts; work completed in 2023; and proposals and recommendations for City projects in 2024, most notably at the former BP site. She outlined the parameters for proposals at the BP site including no digging, removal of boulders around the edges, and that there be no permanent fixtures. She explained that the overall goal would be to make the site more visually appealing and shared details of four possible plans that the Garden Club was proposing for the lot, and the costs associated with each proposal. She added that they may also be looking for a commitment from the City on hardscape items, such as picnic tables and trash receptacles.

Moeller recalled the importance of avoiding creating a public perception of the site being a 'park' environment, because a park use is not allowed on the property per the deed restrictions. The City had recently adopted a policy that would allow for up to three food trucks to apply for permits to occupy the site. Staff had not received any applications but will likely do some marketing in order to get the word out about what the Council had approved, and to see if it generates any interest.

Ms. Carlson pointed out that with the uncertainty related to food trucks, the Council could just choose the option to add five raised garden beds along Wayzata Boulevard W as a way to beautify the site. She stated that the way they have designed their plans, these could just be wheeled over to make space if warranted.

Council member Kvale was supportive of the idea of using the raised beds proposed because they would also be able to be used in other locations throughout the City.

Ms. Secord questioned how soon the Council would like the Club to focus on the BP site project. She stated that they would need to order the raised garden beds and the soil. She added that the City would also need to find picnic tables, especially if food trucks come. She confirmed she would recommend five planters and reminded the Council that everything that they were proposing would be moveable.

Council member Kvale indicated that she loved the ideas that had been put together, but she liked the idea of just having four raised garden beds and adjusting, if they need to, once they find out if there is interest from food trucks.

Council member Feldmann agreed and really liked that what the Club had proposed would be completely moveable.

Weske noted that they may be able to get donations from the Chamber of Commerce or area businesses that would also free up some of the Garden Club's limited budget for other uses.

Ms. Secord shared examples of how local businesses had been generous with their support in the past.

Ms. Carlson encouraged the Council to consider moving forward with five raised garden beds.

Council members discussed the number of raised beds; whether the wheels will work well on the gravel and if there may be another way to move them if necessary; and budget options.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Miner, to approve Option D, with a budget not to exceed \$2,200. Ayes: all.

Updates Regarding Fire Department Matters

Weske stated that he and the Orono City Administrator have been communicating to discuss what the transition in the Station 2 coverage area may look like.

Council member Kvale shared that she had really enjoyed the pancake breakfast and thought the maple syrup that was donated was delicious.

Weske believed that there were about 1,350 people who had attended the breakfast. He noted that the milk they had left over was donated to area daycare centers.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Attendance at Events - Mayor Miner had attended the Northwest Hennepin League of Municipalities meeting last week and the group had received a good update from the League of Minnesota Cities on a few of the legislative items. The League of Minnesota Cities annual conference will be held in Rochester this year and he encouraged members of the Council to attend if interested.

Spring Cleanup and Curbside Leaf Pickup Dates – Moeller reported that the residential curbside leaf pickup dates are scheduled for May 7 and 14, 2024. If pickups are missed, residents would need to call their garbage haulers. She also advised that the Spring Cleanup Day at Orono Public Works will be held on April 27, 2024, and more detailed information about the cleanup day event is available on the City's website.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk