



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 5, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

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 offered the following comments and updates:

The City Council had met in a work session prior to the regular meeting at which they had discussed the 2024 Preliminary Levy and Budget. Further discussion and adoption will occur at the September 19, 2023 City Council meeting.

Mayor Miner reflected that he hoped everyone had a nice Labor Day weekend. Public Works Director Diercks had informed the Council that the watering season for the hanging planters downtown ended as of Labor Day. He expressed his appreciation to the Public Works staff for coming in on weekends to make sure they were watered throughout the season.

Mayor Minor shared that Brad Roehl, a former Long Lake firefighter and Fire Chief, had passed away a few weeks ago and a memorial service was held on August 26, 2023.

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. Receive Minutes of August 15, 2023 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-34 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit S#2023-10 for the Birch's on the Lake Fun Run 5K and 10K to be held on September 24, 2023
- D. Receive Minutes of August 29, 2023 Special City Council Work Session

Council member Kvale asked about the vendor claim from Patrick Dunne of WSB who has billings for July 3, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31 that are all related to erosion control, rainfall inspection, and drive time; however, there are also ones for The Stax and Zvago projects for the same dates with

the same descriptions. She asked if WSB could add more detail because it seemed odd that the billing description included the exact same data for all three places.

City Administrator Weske explained that WSB has a schedule where they come out and do on-site MS4 compliance inspections of all the ongoing redevelopment projects on the same date. He indicated that they write their reports on-site on Mondays and send them to City staff.

City Clerk Moeller added that the inspection expenses are allocated to the project escrows.

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Marty Schneider, 1176 Wayzata Boulevard W – Mr. Schneider was in attendance on behalf of the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce to give a summer recap as well as a fall preview. The Chamber would like to thank the City as well as the Public Works staff for their help with organization for Buckhorn Days and logistics at the Corn Days Parade, and he noted that both events went exceptionally well. With regard to Buckhorn Days, they had seen very good business participation in the event including The Stax and the West Hennepin Pioneer Museum. He reiterated that there were a lot of fun activities going on and the Chamber just wanted to take a moment and thank the City for staff's assistance. He commented that the Chamber has spent some time on figuring out what they would like to accomplish beyond festivals, and because the City will most likely have a 20-25% increase in its population, the Chamber has discussed focusing on finding a way to create a bridge between the residents and the businesses in the City. He noted that they are planning to appear before the Council at their first meeting in October to make a formal presentation regarding www.elevatehennepin.org, which is an initiative that Medina and Plymouth also take part in. He explained that it is free of charge and any business can participate and receive up to 25 free hours of consulting services and access to other virtual and in-person modules. The Chamber is planning to roll it out during the coming week as well as to more formally publicize it to the community at-large in October. The Chamber may be looking to the Long Lake Economic Development Authority for some additional promotional funding. Mr. Schneider advised that he would send additional information to City Clerk Moeller so she can share it with anyone who may be interested. The Chamber would also like to reintroduce a business directory and link their website with the City's website. He summarized that he had just wanted to give the Council a bit of a preview before their official presentation in October.

Mayor Miner thanked the Chamber and Mr. Schneider for the hours they have dedicated to volunteering at the events in the City.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Summary of August 29, 2023 City Council Special Meeting – Closed Session Pursuant to MN Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3(b): Discuss Enforcement Action Related to the Fire Services Contract

Mayor Miner reported that the Council had met in a Special Meeting and held a closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 subd. 3(b) for the purpose of providing direction to staff in preparation for the upcoming mediation proceedings with Orono on September 26, 2023.

Appointment Filling a Vacancy for an Unexpected Term on the Planning Commission

Moeller indicated that long-time community member and Planning Commissioner Steve Keating passed away this past year, which left a vacancy on the Planning Commission. She stated that Judd Axelson has expressed interest and applied for this position. Staff recommends that the Council

appoint Mr. Axelson to the position and noted that he was in attendance at the meeting tonight should the Council have any questions for him.

Mayor Miner thanked Mr. Axelson for his interest in filling Mr. Keating's significant vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Axelson expressed his appreciation to the Council for considering him for the position. He added that he has been interested in participating in the Commission for years and believes it will be a great way for him to contribute to the City.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-35 appointing Judd Axelson to the position of Planning Commissioner for a term expiring December 31, 2026. Ayes: all.

Review Rough Draft of Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 – Animals (Repeal and Replace)

Moeller indicated that updating the City's Animals chapter of City Code rose to the priority list with a recent dog incident, but also due to staff receiving a number of escalating complaints about particularly off-leash dogs. She stated that she had prepared a rough draft of a full repeal and replace of the Animals chapter for the Council's initial feedback, reviewed details of the proposed amendments, and highlighted some of the key points that would be addressed by the new chapter.

Council members asked questions and offered some ideas for potential language changes that may provide clarification and for ease of understanding.

Moeller mentioned that she had sent the draft to City Attorney Thames and the Chief of Police for their review and comments as well. The plan is to hold a public hearing at the September 19, 2023 City Council meeting and for the Council to consider adoption of the proposed ordinance. Additionally, the proposed new utilities chapter ordinance has been noticed for review and consideration at the same meeting.

Reschedule November 7, 2023 City Council Meeting

Moeller noted that November 7, 2023 is a General Election Day in Minnesota and therefore, the City Council cannot meet on that date as regularly scheduled. Staff recommends the meeting be rescheduled to either November 6 or November 8.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, to reschedule the November 7, 2023 City Council meeting to Monday, November 6, 2023. Ayes: all.

Updates and Discussion Regarding Fire Department Matters

Mayor Miner reiterated that the Council had held a work session last week in order to prepare for the upcoming mediation on September 26, 2023 with representatives from Orono and a third party mediator.

Mayor Miner reported that a Future Fire Services group meeting had also been held last week. State legislators were invited to attend, and Senators Kelly Morrison and Warren Limmer were in attendance. They discussed creation of a task force that would meet this fall with a goal to have a report ready for the next legislative session. The concept of the task force would be to look at ways the state can help with encouraging merging of Fire Departments in order to achieve better resource availability and just generally encourage partnerships. He stated that he felt the group had a really good discussion on this topic. Council member Dyvik added that the idea was to see if there was a way to incentivize cities to come together. Most of the cities involved in the Future Fire Services meetings seem to be in favor of this approach but taking the first step has been tough for everyone. Mayor Miner mentioned that the next Future Fire Services meeting would be held in November.

Long Lake is also providing information to Orono for their budget preparation purposes. Fire Advisory Board meetings were held recently to work through the annual Fire Department budget. Mayor Miner added that Fire Chief Heiland has put together information on the duty crew pilot program that began on August 1, 2023.

Council member Dyvik commented that he had seen the initial report from Fire Chief Heiland and asked when it would be shared with Orono.

Weske replied that it would be shared with them the following day.

Council member Dyvik voiced that he would like to see more detail in the report, for example, which days and shifts are most popular for duty crew sign ups. He stated that he would like to provide Orono with as much information as possible since they have had so many questions about it and have expressed concerns about not budgeting enough for 2024.

Weske confirmed that he had access to additional detailed information and would add it to the report.

Council member Feldmann noted that his name had come up during a recent Orono meeting regarding the response times information. A few residents had approached him and communicated that it had sounded like the response time issue had been resolved with Orono, which Council member Feldmann asserted was not accurate. The emails he had exchanged with Orono regarding the matter had stopped in July and there are still discrepancies in the data. It was implied at Orono's meeting that Council member Feldmann had somehow signed off on this issue and that they had come to some sort of resolution. He wanted it to be clear that was not true or accurate. The response time data is still an open issue and he is interested in finding out exactly how those numbers came to be.

Council member Dyvik stated recalled there was a question from a resident during the work session about when the City would be able to share information from the mediation process. As of this time, no one is sure how long the process will last, but he wanted to assure the community that once they are able to share information, they will. He stated that his understanding is that the representatives from Orono will be Orono Mayor Walsh and Council member Johnson. He reflected that he found that interesting because Orono's appointed negotiating team is Orono Council members Johnson and Veach, and their Fire Advisory Board representatives are Orono Council members Veach and Crosby, which means they have three different pairs of individuals involved.

Council member Dyvik added that he was pleased Fire Chief Heiland had started the pilot duty crew program and was already collecting data. He noted that he thinks having 50% of the shifts covered already is a great start. Council member Feldmann observed that gathering the data is an important first step to assist in future decisions. Mayor Miner agreed and acknowledged that there may be tweaks needed within the pilot program, but changes will be able to be made based on data.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nelson Lakeside Park Work Items – Council member Dyvik was aware that the City's contractor will be paving the parking lot and the trailer parking at Nelson Lakeside Park, and expressed his understanding that the trailer parking spaces would be made deeper but the total number would be not expanding. Public Works Director Diercks confirmed Council member Dyvik's understanding was correct. Council member Dyvik asked about the swimming area and if they would be going back to the size that they previously had. Public Works Director Diercks indicated that the swimming area would return to its original size for the next swimming season. Council member Dyvik also asked

about whether feedback had been received from the MnDNR regarding the boat ramp area. He had been helping someone this weekend and with the water level so low, there is a big hole that has developed in the launch area which causes trailers to just drop down in the hole and get stuck. Diercks reported that he may have worked out a solution to that issue with the current paving contractor. The contractor thinks they may be able to place some three-inch rock in the hole, which would help. Council member Dyvik inquired about what could be done with the slabs in the ramp area, because they are kind of all leaning different ways. Diercks responded that the slabs move every year due to ice but stated that he would go take a look to see if there was anything that could be done to improve the situation.

Internet Update - Mayor Miner noted that the Council had experienced internet troubles during the work session and asked if there was any update on new fiber connections. Diercks replied that he believes that the connections have only been stubbed and have not yet been fully extended.

Holiday Tree Lighting – Council member Joyce reminded everyone that the Holiday Tree Lighting Event will be held on December 8, 2023 at Holbrook Park from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Agendas and Meetings Management Update – Moeller shared that the Agenda and Meetings Management module that the City had purchased in conjunction with the website is usable and she had begun her training. From what she has seen thus far, she is very excited to put it to use in the future. She encouraged Council members to let her know whenever any may be ready to discontinue the paper copies of their packets.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator