



**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 18, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Scott Weske; Finance Director: Amanda Nowezki; Assisted Fire Chief: Cody Farley

**Absent:** None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Mayor Miner stated that during the previous week, he'd attended a Northwest Hennepin League of Municipalities meeting at which they had received a presentation from the Hennepin County Assessor. Their updated report of valuation information would be available to the public later this week on the County website.

Last Thursday, Mayor Miner had been a presenter at the Wayzata West Metro Chamber of Commerce annual 'Meet the Mayors' event, along with Mayors from the cities of Wayzata, Plymouth, and Minnetonka.

Additionally, yesterday Mayor Miner attended a meeting with State Senator Ann Johnson Stewart along with other Mayors in her district to discuss current happenings at the capital.

**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 4, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of March 4, 2025, City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve the Resignation of Juan Carlos Morales from the Long Lake Fire Department
- E. Approve a Six-Month Probationary Status Extension for Public Works Maintenance Worker/Noah Mackey
- F. Approve Issuance of a 1 to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the PEO Chapter BW MN Organization to Host a 'Wine Tasting Celebration and Fundraiser' Event at Zvago Long Lake on April 5, 2025

*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**

### **A. Receive and Accept the 2024 Audited Financial Report**

Finance Director Nowezki introduced Andrew Berg from Abdo, the City's external auditing firm, and indicated that he would be presenting the 2024 Audited Financial Report to the Council.

Andrew Berg, Abdo, opened by providing an overview of the overall audit results and procedures. He indicated that they had issued an unmodified/clean opinion for the City and also had found no instances of non-compliance. He noted that the City did receive two internal control findings for preparation of financial statements and limited segregation of duties which were the same as last year, but clarified that these are very common regular findings in smaller cities. He presented detailed information highlighting General Fund balances in comparison with the last five years; budgeted to actual financial results; reviewed revenues and expenditures by type; commented on Special Revenue, Fire Department, and Capital Projects fund balances; reviewed the status and trends applicable to the City's Debt Service funds, the Water Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Surface Water Fund; and the Recycling Fund; and commented on cash and investment balances by fund type. He outlined key performance indicators for tax rates and taxes per capita, debt, and expenditures; and answered Council questions about details from the audit information.

Mayor Miner asked if the details included in the slide presentation could also be found in the report, for example, the debt per capita.

Mr. Berg stated that the peer group information would not be included in the actual financial statements.

Mayor Miner observed that he was happy the City was seeing the Water Fund and Sewer Fund balances show some improvement.

### **B. 2024 Long Lake Fire Department Annual Report (Year in Review)**

Assistant Fire Chief Farley shared that Fire Chief Heiland was feeling a bit under the weather today and had asked him to fill in and present the Department's annual report with the Council. He indicated that the Fire Department leadership team remained the same as the previous year, and the Department currently has 38 active members who are Firefighter II, EMR or EMT, and Hazmat certified, including six probationary members. He added that to be fully staffed, the Fire Department would prefer to have about 50 firefighters, and the Department is planning to do a fair amount of recruiting throughout the year ahead. He highlighted the years of service breakdown for firefighters; and reported on statistics including emergency call activity, historical call activity, mutual aid received and delivered, and first unit average on-scene time details. He commented that overall, the Department's average response time was eight minutes and 10 seconds. He reviewed data identifying the responders per incident for daytime and nighttime calls, and noted that the majority of calls came in between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm, which was a bit different than in the past. He presented the calls received by month as well as duty crew

shifts' in service, on-scene times, calls per month and added that the average fill rate for the duty crew shifts was 50.5%. He recalled that in 2024, Firefighter Tom Aldrich retired after 35 years, Firefighter Paul Buellmer retired at 20 years, and Firefighter Erik Palmer retired after 13 years. He reviewed years of service milestones that were reached by members of the Department. He reminded the Council to 'save the date' for their Annual Pancake Breakfast on May 4, 2025, and mentioned that they also plan to hold the 5K/Fun Run in the summer. On October 6, 2025, the Fire Department will hold the annual Fire Prevention Open House; and in December they would also host the annual Toy and Food Drive event that will include Santa paying a visit to Station 1.

Mayor Miner commended the Department for the work that they had done on the recent grass fire.

Farley noted that the grass fire ended up burning about 20 acres of grass and trees, and gave a brief description of some of the equipment and tools that they were able to use in order to be able to put out this type of fire in a remote area.

Mayor Miner commented that he hoped the morale in the Department continued to rise and reflected that the Department and the City had been through a lot over the last few years. He stated that the City had been working hard to have the fire services issue resolved and explained that they had been meeting with a few members of the Orono City Council to discuss future fire services under the current contract, as well as after the contract ends.

Councilmember Newcomer observed that he felt the representatives from Orono and Long Lake had been doing a fantastic job in their discussions about future fire services, and that both the Long Lake Fire Department and the Orono Fire Department had been doing a great job serving the community as a whole. He indicated that based on the discussions, it sounded like the two cities and Fire Departments would be working in close proximity to each other until the end of the current contract. He noted that they were planning to get a lot of input from all the stakeholders, such as cities, citizens, and the two councils, to see what this may look like going forward.

Farley stated that the Firefighters were looking forward to having a voice at the stakeholder table and would be able to bring their experience and ideas forward when they talk about the direction the Department would take in the future.

Councilmember Newcomer explained that he felt the Firefighters would be the most important voice at the table because they had the most knowledge.

Farley communicated that the Department had been able to accomplish a lot over the last year even with everything that was going on behind the scenes. He listed off some examples, including replacing Engine 11 and selling the old engine; the installation of new tires on Tanker 11; the installation of new suspension on Utility 11; revamping of the HVAC systems at Station 1; inspection and necessary improvements to generators at both stations; repair of one of the furnaces at Station 1; and new parking lot lights at Station 1. He reiterated that there were a lot of good things that happened in 2024 for the Department.

Mayor Miner added that he recently received a tour of Station 2 and had found it to be really warm and inviting.

Farley agreed that it looked really nice and expressed his appreciation to the Auxiliary for helping them work on Station 2, and added that they had also helped to spruce up the lounge area at Station 1 given that more Firefighters have been present at the station with the implementation of duty crews.

Councilmember Newcomer asked how the attendance numbers had been for the blood drive event.

Farley responded that the community really stepped up in honor of Weston Paszkiewicz, which meant that the blood drive was packed full.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Fire Facilities Evaluation** - Councilmember Newcomer noted that Fire Chief Heiland had a company reach out to him and stop by to propose an offer to prepare an evaluation of the two fire station facilities, and asked if the Council still needed to address that item. Mayor Miner stated that his understanding was that Fire Chief Heiland will be reporting back to the Council on their recommendations. Weske indicated that the matter would be brought back at a work session meeting, and there had also been discussion of possibly bringing it to the Fire Advisory Board before the Council.

**Next Council Meeting** - Mayor Miner reminded the Council that their next meeting would be held on April 1, 2025. Councilmember Feldmann mentioned that he would be unable to attend that meeting.

#### **ADJOURN**

*Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:19 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske  
City Administrator