



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Finance Director: Amanda Nowezki; Planning Consultant: Lori Johnson; 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:

Mayor Miner reported that the Holiday Tree Lighting event had turned out great, and he thanked Santa and Mrs. Claus for making an appearance. He expressed appreciation to the Park Board for their work organizing and hosting the event, and to event sponsors including Caribou Coffee, Ace Hardware, and the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. The following day, the Long Lake Fire Department Auxiliary hosted their annual Food and Toy Drive at Fire Station 1. There was also a wonderful gathering, and he noted that Santa Claus had also found time to attend the Food and Toy Drive event.

Over the last few weeks, Mayor Miner had attended a retirement event for Orono School Board members Mike Bash and Allie Howe; a Wayzata Crime Prevention Coalition meeting, at which it was recognized that Tim Hultmann was finishing up 11 years of serving on the coalition; and also an event honoring the 45 years of service for the Independence Mayor.

He shared that long-time resident and former Orono High School teacher, Jerome Borgert recently passed away and would be missed. Mr. Borgert's memorial service would be held at 11:00 am on January 11, 2025 at the Rettinger Funeral Home.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of November 26, 2024, City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of November 26, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting
- C. Approve Minutes of December 3, 2024, City Council Work Session Minutes

- D. Approve Minutes of December 3, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting
- E. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-63 Approving the Issuance (Renewal) of 2025 Residential and Commercial Refuse Hauler License
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-59 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2024-10 for Sled Dog Days at Birch's on the Lake to be held on dates in January and February 2025
- H. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-61 Accepting a Donation of Six Boxes of Holiday Lights from Gopher Ace Hardware of Long Lake, Minnesota
- I. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-60 Conditionally Appointing Nikolas Lopez to the Position of Paid On-Call Firefighter for the City of Long Lake
- J. Adopting Resolution No. 2024-62 Approving a Wage Step Increase for Public Works Maintenance Worker I, Michael Decker, due to having a Satisfactory Performance Review

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, 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

Presentation of Community Service Award to City Council Member Gina Joyce

Mayor Miner commented that Council member Gina Joyce was finishing up her first term serving on the City Council, where she had served for the last four years. He noted that she and her husband, Thomas, had also served on the Park Board for the City. He stated that he had appreciated having Council member Joyce on the Council and felt she had done a lot of great things to help the City, including the work she did on updating the City's logo, her efforts in dealing with the Fire Department situation, and in helping reestablish the Holiday Tree Lighting event.

Council member Kvale stated that she felt the rebranding that Council member Joyce was involved in for the City turned out great.

Council member Feldmann recalled that he had joined the Council at the same time as Council member Joyce and shared that it had been fun working with her.

Council member Dyvik noted that he had appreciated Council member Joyce's perspective and opinions on things because they were always well thought out and independent.

City Clerk Moeller presented Council member Joyce with a going away present made by her sister, a glass blower, that featured the City's former logo. She thanked Council member Joyce for everything she brought to the City and added that she had been a joy to work with over the years.

Mayor Miner presented Council member Joyce with a plaque commemorating her Community Service Award in appreciation for her dedicated service and commitment to the City.

There was a round of applause for Council member Joyce.

Council member Joyce stated that it had been an honor to serve the community and explained that it had not been an easy decision to leave. She indicated that she was grateful to have worked alongside the Council and staff and had learned from all of them.

Adoption of Ordinances Amending the City Code and Zoning Code Related to Cannabis and Cannabis Businesses

Planning Consultant Lori Johnson introduced herself, explaining that she worked with Hannah Rybak at WSB and was filling in for her tonight. She gave a presentation that provided an overview of the law passed by the state related to adult-use cannabis and cannabis businesses in Minnesota; the proposed buffer map edits to include the request from the Planning Commission that the disc golf targets at Nelson Lakeside Park be added as a buffered item, and to end the relevant buffers at Highway 12.

Moeller added that what was presented was the most restrictive the City could be and explained that she saw value in asking City Planner Rybak to apply this buffer map to an aerial photo in the future so the Council could understand exactly what it touched. She explained that the buffer map was intended to be a tool that can be used by staff.

Council member Dyvik agreed that should be made clear to everyone.

Planning Consultant Johnson stated that in addition to the map, she felt it may also be helpful to just have a general list.

Council member Kvale asked about low-potency cannabis.

Moeller replied that low-potency hemp edible retail businesses were already registered and operating, and the maximum of five businesses that the City is currently allowed to register was maintained.

Council member Kvale described the general locations where the different types of cannabis-related business would be allowed to locate in the City.

Johnson reviewed details included in the two proposed Ordinances, No. 2024-02 and No. 2024-03.

Council member Feldmann expressed frustration with some of the ambiguity included with the state's language and rules.

Council member Kvale asked if the soccer dome was considered a school.

Johnson explained that Planning Consultant Rybak had communicated to her that there was a school looking at that facility, which is why it had been included. She reiterated that at an upcoming meeting, she would ask Planning Consultant Rybak to show the buffer map with an aerial map, and perhaps a list, so it is clear to the Council what businesses would be affected.

Moeller noted that Mayor Miner had pointed out something earlier today via email. He had noticed there were a few references that came from the model ordinance indicating that the City 'shall not charge an application fee' and other locations where language referenced 'the application fee, as required'. She noted that City Attorney Thames agreed with the concerns raised by Mayor Miner and reviewed the minor changes in language he had made.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Kvale, to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-02, An Ordinance Amending the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10-Businesses and Product Regulation, Article VIII. Cannabis, Edible Cannabinoids and Drug Paraphernalia.

Mayor Miner clarified that the Long Lake City Council had not set out to make it so cannabis could be sold in the City, and that the action being taken was because the state statute required doing so. He explained that he felt that the City had intentionally made things as restrictive as possible.

Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-03, An Ordinance Amending the Long Lake Zoning Ordinance Related to Cannabis and Lower Potency Hemp Edible Businesses. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, to include the disc golf targets at Nelson Lakeside Park as a buffered park attraction. Ayes: all.

Public Hearing: Adoption of an Ordinance Amending City Code to Reflect the Implementation of a Residential Organics Recycling Collection Program

Moeller revisited the history of the Council's past approval of entering into a five-year contract with Waste Management of Minnesota for biweekly residential recycling collection, providing refuse and recycling collection for designated City buildings and facilities at no charge, and also providing weekly City-wide organics collection on an opt-in basis. She reported that this required amendments to the City Code in order to reflect that the City will be administering a City-wide organics collection program rather than requiring all licensed residential refuse haulers to make this collection available to Long Lake customers.

Council member Kvale pointed out that she felt certain portions of the language were confusing and suggested some wording changes to make it more clear.

Moeller read through the language Council member Kvale referenced and indicated that she felt the words 'and/or organics' could be removed for clarity.

Council Member Kvale suggested some additional language that she felt could be refined.

Moeller summarized that she believed what Council member Kvale was trying to achieve in a particular section of the ordinance was to separate out how residences are addressed versus restaurants and other businesses.

Council member Kvale agreed that she felt it could be essentially three sentences, including information that makes it clear that everybody will have their own designated hauler for trash, residents will have the City contracted hauler for organics and recycling, and commercial/industrial can get their stuff directly from their haulers for recycling and organics.

Moeller believed that she understood what Council member Kvale was requesting and stated that she could accomplish what was being asked. She noted that the City has already started receiving new sign-ups for the organics service and had also heard a fair amount of positive feedback that the City was taking this on.

Mayor Miner opened the public hearing at 7:38 pm. There being no public comment, he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-04 amending the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 28 – Solid Waste, and Chapter 36 – Utilities, to reflect the City’s implementation of a residential curbside organics recycling collection program, with the language amendments, as discussed, to Section 1, subdivision a. under General Requirements to better separate out residential and business services. Ayes: all.

Adoption of 2025 City Fee Schedule

Moeller reported that on an annual basis, the Council adopts the City Fee Schedule for the upcoming year and reviewed some highlights of fees that were included.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Dyvik, to approve Ordinance No. 2024-05 adopting the 2025 Fee Schedule for the City of Long Lake and direct staff to publish a summary ordinance. Ayes: all.

Mayor Miner noted that at the last meeting, the Council had discussed the Metropolitan Council charge for wastewater treatment that was going up by around \$99,000. He indicated that Finance Director Nowezki had reached out to their Metropolitan Council representative who is looking into this situation and will hopefully be getting back to the City with additional information on why the City’s charges were going up so much.

Adoption of Final Payable 2025 Levy, City Budget, Capital Improvement Program, and Pay Plan Resolutions

City Administrator Weske reviewed details within the proposed final 2025 levy, budget, CIP, and pay plan resolutions.

Council member Dyvik asked what Orono’s decision was regarding the fire rescue/utility vehicle.

Weske responded that Orono had not approved the 2025 CIP for the Long Lake Fire Department, but did approve the operating budget.

Council member Dyvik commented that essentially meant that Orono will not pay any of the costs for the new vehicle, despite it being included in the CIP, as required by the contract.

Weske noted that it had also been approved at the last Fire Advisory Board meeting, as well. He observed that he did not believe the matter had actually been brought to a vote, so the Orono City Council may simply have not acted on it.

Council member Dyvik recalled that regarding the Long Lake Fire Department budget and expenses, it had been suggested by a member of the current Orono City Council that somehow, Long Lake was somehow profiting from Orono’s contributions through the contract. He indicated there have been several statements made by them that Orono pays 95% of the budget and asked the question why Orono should be paying for Long Lake’s budget. He explained that there were two things wrong with that statement -- because instead of 95%, it was actually 85% - and the other was the statement that essentially suggested that Long Lake was somehow profiting from Orono’s participation in the three-city Joint Powers Agreement. Within the agreement, each City pays for the service areas that they have as a percentage of the total area. He clarified that Long Lake does not profit from this contract, like Orono has done with contracts with other cities that supplement their revenue. He indicated that the Fire

Department arrangement was a not-for-profit agreement among the cities, so if there is a surplus, that amount is refunded to the three cities, which had happened in 2023. He emphasized that he wanted to make it clear that the suggestion that has been made that Long Lake was somehow lining their own pockets with those funds was simply not true.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Dyvik, to adopt Resolution No. 2024-55 establishing the Final Tax Levy Collectible in 2025. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2024-56 establishing the Final 2025 Total City Budget. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2024-57 establishing the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Miner, to Adopt Resolution No. 2024-58 establishing the 2025 Pay Plan. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Feldmann, to Approve General Fund Transfers, as presented. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Thanks to Public Works - Council member Kvale thanked Public Works staff for being out early last weekend plowing.

Farewells, Holiday Notes and Observances - Council member Feldmann reiterated his appreciation to Council member Joyce for her service to the City and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Council member Dyvik thanked Council member Joyce for her years of service to the City and wished her well in her next chapter.

Mayor Miner agreed that Council member Joyce would be missed. He expressed appreciation to the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for putting on a holiday event at the Red Rooster last week and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He stated that as they finish up 2024, he wanted to once again express how much he appreciated serving with this Council and staff and added that he was looking forward to serving in the coming year with new Council member Newcomer.

Council member Joyce reiterated her thanks to the Council, City staff, incoming Council member Newcomer, and the community, because it had been a wonderful four years serving the City. She shared that she was proud of what this Council had endured and their ability to stand up for what is right for the City.

Weske stated that he was also thankful for Council member Joyce and her contributions over the last four years.

Nowezki thanked Council member Joyce for being a wonderful individual to work with and commented that she felt the entire Council had done a wonderful job for the City. She observed that they have come very far while maintaining their integrity.

Moeller wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy holidays, and expressed her appreciation to all. She noted that 2024 had been a year of roller coasters and challenges, but she felt that they were still able to accomplish a lot.

Mayor Miner reminded everyone that the City offices would be closed on December 24 and 25, 2024, as well as January 1, 2025. He noted that the next City Council meeting would be on January 7, 2025.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:05 pm, and asked Council member Joyce to bang the gavel and close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator