



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
June 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Deirdre Kvale (arrived at 5:38 pm), and Todd Newcomer

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Bryan Miller, 295 Lakeview Avenue – Mr. Miller highlighted some of the things that had stood out to him within the professional services proposal from WSB for the 2027 Street Improvement Project. He reiterated that he and his neighbors did not want curb and gutter included in the project and that overall the community's message was that the future of Long Lake should be more like Excelsior, not Wayzata. He asked that the City not make the street project contribute to Long Lake looking like a compartmentalized or modernized larger city.

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Review Professional Services Proposal for 2027 Street Improvement Project

City Administrator Nowezki indicated that she and Public Works Director Diercks had worked with City Engineer Scheu on developing concept plans for the 2027 Street Improvement Project. Goals throughout plan development have been to make sure comments from residents, Public Works, and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District are being considered; to ensure that the project will be visually aesthetic; and that it will function well. She noted that there is a stormwater treatment issue in the city and all future projects will need to take that into consideration.

James Wisker, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Administrator, noted that their organization didn't have strong opinions on proposed street project, but their engagement would be focused on the potential link between City transportation and water infrastructure. He indicated that they were working on development of a coordinated plan with Long Lake, Orono, and Medina to delist Long Lake and remove it from the impaired waters list. He hoped to connect with WSB early in the process to make sure they identify the regulatory requirements for the roads and evaluate whether there may be an economy of scale for taking dollars invested in right-of-way to allocate them to regional stormwater

projects. He shared details on some of the feasibility studies they were currently working on that could help address some of the requirements. He added that with the proposed engineering work, there were opportunities to collaborate and find some economies of scale for the water components related to the project.

The Council discussed the efficacy of dredging the stormwater ponds in Nelson Lakeside Park; treatment of drainage from Holbrook Park; other areas and projects that may be considered as part of the feasibility study in progress alluded to by Mr. Wisker; and whether the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District had strong opinions related to the inclusion of curb and gutter in street improvement projects.

Nowezki reported that the reason she had brought WSB's draft professional services proposal for the street project forward for Council discussion was that she wanted to make sure that whatever the City decides is fiscally responsible, is right for staff, and respects the residents. She and Public Works Director Diercks had closely reviewed the proposal and Diercks had a lot of concerns, some of which related to the proposal recommending redoing work that had already been done in the past. She highlighted the example of a 2025 project that was currently needing attention due to various resident concerns, with staff feeling like they're not receiving clear answers from the City's engineers. Both she and Diercks have begun to express some doubts about how things are playing out with engineering services. A few weeks ago, City Clerk Moeller had been approached by someone from Bollig Engineering, which is a firm that specializes in working with small cities. What intrigued her about their firm was that they have an entire department dedicated to grant writing and funding research. She indicated that the City may need to make a decision about whether they remain confident in the services they're receiving from WSB or if it might be time to look for another engineering firm. She provided examples of some issues that have arisen with WSB, such as asking staff to handle things that should have been included in their own scope of work. The City has been extremely happy with the planner that they have been working with at WSB, but Nowezki and Diercks are continuing to have doubts about the services the City's receiving related to engineering. She reflected that this may not be the best time to make this kind of decision, but she wanted to share staff's concerns as she doesn't feel the City is getting the service level they should expect for what they are paying. She'd called some of the references for Bollig Engineering, including the City of Tracy, and they'd communicated that they could not be happier with their services and discussed some of the grants they'd been able to receive with their help. She assured the Council that whatever they decide, staff would work very hard to make sure the street project comes to fruition; but ultimately she was seeking input from the Council on whether they wanted to take a chance on continuing to work with WSB or if they felt it may be the right time to explore other opportunities.

The Council discussed exploring other options; whether Bollig Engineering may have comparable cities closer to the metro area; whether the City owns the files associated with the work WSB has done; if the City could utilize WSB to continue with the sewer lining project but have other firms for other projects, such as the street project; and other engineering firm options that could be considered.

Nowezki stated that even though she was nervous about taking this kind of leap, she felt the best move would be for the City to explore other engineering options.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Nowezki
City Administrator