



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 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 Weske; City Clerk Moeller; City Attorney Thames; Public Works Director Diercks

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

He thanked the Public Works Department staff for coming out on Friday and Saturday to clear the snowfall.

Mayor Miner reported that last Saturday, he had attended the Northwest Hennepin League of Municipalities monthly meeting at which they discussed Codes of Conduct for City Councils, which was something that Long Lake was beginning to look into as well. He shared that he'd been selected to serve as the Chair of the Northwest Hennepin League of Municipalities for 2025, and that the City of Orono had also been approved for membership.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of February 4, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of February 4, 2025, City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Miner noted that many individuals had submitted emails to City staff prior to the submission deadline regarding the application and request by the Long Lake Rowing Crew (LLRC), and those emails

had been provided to the Council. He believed that there may be others who that had arrived after the deadline and suggested that City staff read those into the record following any in person comments.

Bryan Miller, 295 Lakeview Avenue – Mr. Miller voiced that he felt it was important to recognize that everyone has a right to the lake because they are part of the public trust. Water Patrol oversees the lakes in Hennepin County and not the City, which meant that the City isn't in a position to permit or oversee LLRC operations. He explained that only the land use by the LLRC was subject to a CUP and shared some past comments on that topic by a Lieutenant with HCSO Water Patrol. He suggested that when reviewing the request to amend the CUP, the Council should prohibit themselves from talking about waterskiing, whether or not anyone felt that LLRC was in their way or preventing them from using the lake, were too hard to see, or anything else related to being on the lake. He shared some recent construction projects that have increased the population in the City and observed that the City should expect that use of the lake will increase. He stated that if the City was concerned about safety of lake users, he would suggest they pass out boat guides at the launch which are available at no charge from the MnDNR. He commented that he also wanted to take this time to recognize Mayor Miner, the Council, and City staff because he felt they would end up going down as legends in the community for the abuse they have taken for the last three years related to the Long Lake Fire Department issues. He indicated that each of those individuals had gone above and beyond the call of duty and spent countless hours of their personal time defending the City and the Fire Department, and he believed the City and its residents owed them a debt of gratitude.

Charles Buffington, 6401 Landings Court, Excelsior (LLRC Board) – Mr. Buffington stated that he was a Board member for the LLRC and was here to serve as a character witness for the organization. He recalled that his family had moved to the area four years ago from Memphis, Tennessee and they were immediately able to find a community here. He noted that since they'd joined the LLRC, he had observed a sense of community among the juniors as well as the masters and has had numerous people pull him aside and share how life-changing the club has been in their lives. He added that his daughter is also part of the LLRC and had found an organized sport that gave her a place within the community, motivated her, helped her become an athlete, and also aided her in becoming accepted into MIT. Mr. Buffington encouraged the Council to consider the LLRC's request because he felt it was important for the community.

Josey Buffington, 6401 Landings Court, Excelsior – Ms. Buffington shared that on her first day in Minnesota, she was on Long Lake learning to row. The LLRC was the first community she became part of after they'd moved, had been a consistent community throughout her time here, and noted that it was a community full of people that she would not have met otherwise.

Jen Wiseman, LLRC Member, Plymouth – Ms. Wiseman, a member of LLRC, asked the Council to allow them to add some practice times to their schedule. She commented that this was the beginning of her fourth season with LLRC, she had always wanted to try rowing, and after losing 205 pounds she was finally able to start. She'd begun rowing at the age of 51 in 2022 with an Orono Community Education class, followed with some private lessons, and by the fall of that year she was good enough to start rowing with the LLRC masters team. By October, she was able to participate in her first regatta in Minneapolis. She developed a passion for rowing and shared some of what she experienced through being part of the LLRC. She reflected that the best part of the sport was the community it builds and shared examples of how her rowing mates had stepped in and helped her and other teammates in various life situations. She shared examples of how the LLRC has helped build community with the cities in the area, and of the charitable works they have done alongside the Long Lake Fire Department and

the Orono Lions Club. She asked the Council to consider granting the LLRC's request for more time on the water in order to grow their special community and become the best rowing club they can be.

Quinten Dornish, LLRC Member – Mr. Dornish indicated he felt that the Long Lake community had a very special organization in their backyard with the LLRC. Despite being a relatively new and small club that doesn't have its own boathouse, the LLRC has managed to gain quite a pedigree since it began about 10 years ago. He explained that the club competes in events all over the state as well as the continent and shared examples of where they have competed. He added that the LLRC has gained a reputation from competitors and coaches and had name recognition which other cities like Wayzata or Stillwater did not have, and noted that the LLRC was the only rowing club within the west metro area. He stated that the existence of the LLRC was essentially a tool for the City to be able to promote visitors coming to the City. He commented that a rower's experience is most accurately measured in hours, so added practice time would add additional hours which, in turn, would provide the opportunity to send additional skilled boats to competitions. The LLRC's hope with the additional hours was also to be able to offer the sport to more community members as well as improve the skills of their current rowers. He added that he felt that when LLRC does well, the City will also do well, and asked the Council to consider allowing the LLRC to hold additional practice hours on the lake.

Jen Osle, LLRC Board – Ms. Osle stated that she had joined the LLRC Board last summer and her son, Sebastian, had joined the LLRC two summers ago after they moved from Spain. Her son had rowed on the east coast in Connecticut, in Spain, and in Long Lake. Since their arrival, they had spent thousands of dollars in the City as have many of the other juniors parents and gave examples of spending money at the hardware store, the floral shop, market, and sometimes going out to eat in Long Lake. She stated that she felt the LLRC was not taking up a huge amount of space for what they were providing to the community. She added that she wanted to make the point that the parking was set, they have a good working relationship with Birch's, and their request for additional hours was just to be able to give the people who want to compete the chance to be everything that they can be, including on an international level, and encouraged the Council to come out and learn how to row.

Debra Fletcher, LLRC Member, Minneapolis – Ms. Fletcher shared that the LLRC had been a lifeline for her and that she had practiced medicine for over 30 years prior to being diagnosed with Parkinson's. Exercise is the only thing that has been shown to slow the progression of that disease, so, in essence, exercising became her new job. She'd had to give up other types of activities such as biking or walking, because of her Parkinson's, but rowing feels like heaven for her because she did not have to worry about falling. She was certain that if she hadn't had rowing, she would have been chair-bound by this point. She stated that she had been part of this club since almost the beginning and had watched the junior rowers be mentored by rowers who were a few years ahead of them. She indicated that belonging to a group and having to function as a group had fostered some amazing kids, had also given her the opportunity to be around 'oldsters' and 'youngsters,' and there are not many other places where you can interact with both groups. She agreed that the LLRC had an incredible reputation and shared examples of where she had been involved in regattas where she heard that despite not focusing on competitiveness, but focusing on ways to bring out the best in each other and mastery, they have been incredibly competitive. She mentioned that Long Lake was the only lake in the area that was ideal for rowing and noted that from her perspective, fostering it over wakeboard boats that are stirring up the weeds and wrecking docks would be a positive for the City.

Sandra McCarthy, LLRC Coach/Member – Ms. McCarthy introduced herself as one of the rowers as well as a coach for the LLRC. She stated that she was here to ask the City to support their request for an increase in their hours. She commented that the LLRC was a non-profit organization that deeply valued

their time on the water, their club has a diverse range of athletes, and the additional access to the lake would enable the provision of more individualized instruction tailored to each skill level. She indicated that the LLRC athletes, their families, and coaches frequent the local businesses; and listed some of the attributes, skills, and experiences that come from being part of the LLRC. She added that she felt the LLRC was a vibrant, tight-knit community that contributed to the spirit and the economy of Long Lake.

Angie Lipson, LLRC Board, Orono – Ms. Lipson mentioned that she owns an acupuncture med spa at 1611 W Wayzata Boulevard, is a member of the LLRC, and also serves on their Board. Her kids have all rowed with the LLRC and her mother had even taken courses through Community Education. She commented that she felt the LLRC added high value to the community. The additional hours they were requesting would allow for more Community Education classes, additional private lesson opportunities, and make it so it was not just something for the elite. She noted that her business office faces the lake, they can see the rowers going back and forth, and many clients have shared that they enjoyed that and it had become part of their experience when coming to the City.

Kelly Grady, 271 Greenhill Lane – Ms. Grady stated that she was present to discuss fire, the opposite of water. She commented that she liked to refer to herself as a common-sense fire safety advocate and she has been working to try to get Orono and Long Lake into negotiations for the future of fire service in the area. She had attended the most recent Orono City Council meeting and had also received an email from a neighboring firefighter that she did not know, who was not part of the Long Lake, Orono, or Mound Fire Departments. She read aloud the email she'd received, shared that she and this firefighter had corresponded a bit following the initial email message, and read aloud some additional communication this individual had sent regarding the bits and pieces he'd heard about the hopeful future for fire services in the area. She mentioned that she's had many other conversations with people who were all in support of keeping the Orono Fire Department and the Long Lake Department together with some sort of shared services agreement. She enjoyed the article that was published in *The Laker* newspaper recently and was pleased to hear about promising movement towards a shared services solution. She found it interesting to note that other cities and Fire Departments were watching what was happening in Long Lake and Orono, and had heard nothing but positive things regarding what Long Lake had done. Regarding the LLRC's application, she stated that she was not a rower, but was a watcher of water as a citizen of Long Lake and had enjoyed watching the LLRC on the water. She recalled that she had not been in support of their proposed storage and training facility at Summit Park a few years ago, because she felt it would restrict public access to the lake. She reiterated that she enjoyed watching the LLRC and would like to be able to continue watching them out on the lake. She stated that maintaining access to the water was important to her so it was accessible for all, but she would support their request for additional time on the lake.

Hosain Lipson, 2385 Glendale Cove Lane (LLRC Member) – Mr. Lipson thanked the Council for allowing the LLRC to use the lake and he wanted to ask the Council to approve the LLRC's request for additional incremental hours of usage so they can create more of the junior stories such as what they heard earlier tonight. Having the extra time would really help out and make a huge difference to them. He added that he also wanted to share a bit about his story and indicated that he never thought he could row, but the LLRC group had taken him in and while he had been humbled at times, there was not one word of discouragement from the team. He noted that they have all encouraged him, patted him on the back and told him that he could do it.

Liz Lipmer, 2930 Parkview Drive, Medina (LLRC Member) – Ms. Lipmer read aloud the letter that she had already submitted to the Council requesting that the Council support the request from the LLRC for additional hours.

Pete Jaenchen, 2515 Bobolink Road (LLRC President) – Mr. Jaenchen introduced himself as the President of the LLRC and expressed his appreciation to the Council for giving them the opportunity to share their thoughts about the LLRC. He indicated that he had three children who rowed in the LLRC and his daughter is now helping to coach the juniors. He had succumbed to family peer pressure and also started rowing. He commented that there were only about nine organized rowing clubs in the state and shared some details about when various clubs were founded. He stated that a rowing club was a very unique entity for a municipality to claim and noted that LLRC has become one of the most respected clubs in the state, region, and nationally. He explained that although their resources had been somewhat limited in comparison with other clubs, having the great coaches and rowers within LLRC had resulted in creating something that was a terrific part of Long Lake. He concluded that if their request was approved, he did not believe that the Council would end up having any regrets about promoting a local treasure like the LLRC.

Mayor Miner reiterated that there were some comments submitted via email prior to the meeting and asked City Clerk Moeller to read them aloud into the record.

Moeller read aloud a letter from Anthony Quill, 305 Glenmoor Lane, asking the Council to deny the request from the LLRC. She commented on one of the issues mentioned in Mr. Quill's letter related to parking on Wayzata Boulevard W. She stated that staff was unaware that people were still parking along Wayzata Boulevard W in the area to visit the restaurant property for any purpose, and she emphasized that doing so was not legal for any reason. In addition to being illegal, it was also quite unsafe, and if people observe parking on Wayzata Boulevard W, she strongly encouraged them to call 911.

Bryan Miller asked to be able to provide one more comment from Gretchen Cashmore, the President of the Union Cemetery Board, who had sent a message saying that she was they were in support of the LLRC using the parking areas at the cemetery.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Planning Case #2025-01/Long Lake Rowing Crew Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Amendment Request
Planning Consultant Rybak presented the request from the LLRC to amend their CUP to expand their hours of operation. She reviewed the location of the site, the LLRC operations, hours of operation from the original CUP in 2017, the amended hours approved in 2019, and the proposed CUP hours from their current request. She gave a brief overview of the recent public hearing held at the Planning Commission meeting, their discussion, and the recommendation from the Planning Commission to deny the LLRC's request. Since the Planning Commission meeting, the LLRC had updated their application to remove the additional Friday afternoon hours, and were now requesting 5:30 to 8:00 pm on Thursdays and 6:00 to 7:00 am on Fridays and Saturdays. She highlighted some of the existing CUP conditions and reminded the Council that they cannot regulate the use of the lake and were just regulating the use of the Birch's property related to the LLRC. She stated that staff had prepared and distributed an Option C version of an approving Resolution to the Council today which included some updates to conditions #12 and #13. She explained that if the Council chose to move forward with the Option B Resolution denying the application, there would be no amendment updating the conditions of approval, which meant that they would remain the same as they appear within the 2019 CUP. She reminded the Council of the questions that they should consider surrounding the application; and clarified that the removal of the Friday hours from their request would not require another public hearing since the applicant was now asking for less than their original request.

Councilmember Dyvik recalled that the current approved hours were shown as Monday through Wednesday, 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, but he thought the actual CUP stated that there were three weeknights/week that could be 5:30 to 8:00 pm. He asked if the LLRC had just chosen for those three days to be Monday through Wednesday.

Rybak replied that was correct, and confirmed that under the existing CUP, the LLRC could opt to shift their three weeknights to include Thursdays.

Mayor Miner pointed out that Planning Commission Chair Adams was present at the meeting should the Council have any questions for him related to the Commission's discussion and recommendation. He reminded the audience members that there would be no public comment during this portion of the meeting, but they may call the applicants up to address the Council.

Amy Johnson, Director of the LLRC, stated that the LLRC had been part of the community for almost 11 years and felt the comments shared earlier show that they have worked very hard to be an integral part of the community. She noted safety had been mentioned earlier and shared that all of their coaches were MnDNR boating license certified. To clarify something related to peak hours that was mentioned in the letter from Anthony Quill, she explained that the LLRC was not out on the lake during the prime summer hours or holidays and noted that the LLRC had voluntarily not held practices on Memorial Day weekends, or the Fourth of July, even though those hours may be included in their permit. She believed they had also covered the parking concerns that had been mentioned and reiterated that the Union Cemetery had given them approval to utilize their parking. She felt that the LLRC had strived to be respectful neighbors to the other lake users; were always open to conversations and trying to find ways to work better with others; and that the LLRC provided an open access point to allow members of the public to get out on the lake because not everyone has access to a canoe, kayak, or a paddleboard. She clarified that although the LLRC has hours available on their permit, that does not mean that they are out there for all of them. She indicated that they were currently on the lake only about 25 to 28 hours per week, and the reason that they had originally included the request for Friday afternoons was that they'd been receiving requests from people who wanted to be able to take lessons after they leave work on Fridays. Their intent was to try to respond to people in the community who wanted to have time on the lake, but they also recognized that time period was generally busier on the lake, so they had removed that portion of their request. She asked about condition #13 that was presented by City Planner Rybak.

Rybak explained that the updated language in condition #13 was to more clearly identify that the use of the property for any activities by the LLRC was subject to the hours of operation. She stated that this had always been the intent of that condition, whether or not it was a class or was being utilized in another fashion, because it was still the LLRC facilities usage.

Ms. Johnson stated that her understanding from prior conversations was that similar to if she were to go to Gear West and rent a paddleboard, she could go out on the lake as a public user, because it was open access water. She shared that in the past, the LLRC had been allowing their members to take a shell out during some of the hours that were not part of their permit. When the permit was granted, her understanding was that it was for the purpose of organized group activities, and recalled it was clarified in 2019 that lessons also fell under that umbrella.

Councilmember Feldmann referenced Ms. Johnson's Gear West scenario and pointed out that if somebody rented a paddleboard from them, they went to the public launch at Nelson Lakeside Park. He asked whether a public launch was allowed under the CUP in the B-3 zoning district.

Rybak stated that it would not be allowed to be a public launch.

Councilmember Feldmann stated that he felt that was the distinction here.

Rybak commented that she was not with the City in 2017, but in reading the CUP, it was clear that the hours of operation in the CUP were intended to govern rowing crew operations at the property in any form.

Moeller added that there have been a lot of communications with Water Patrol and with the City Attorney over the years and believed that the intent of the CUP had always been that any kind of LLRC member activity was intended to occur within the CUP hours, which would include using the equipment. She recalled that Water Patrol had confirmed that anyone launching from the public launches or a private residence would be considered a public use. She noted that any time any rowing activity was happening based out of the Birch's site, that activity would use Birch's parking or the cemetery parking which was under Birch's agreement with the cemetery. She indicated that staff was advised by a Cemetery Board member that the agreement with Birch's for parking covered the LLRC using the spaces allotted to Birch's under their umbrella.

Ms. Johnson noted that she was unaware the agreement was actually through Birch's because she had always worked directly with the cemetery.

Moeller responded that the email she received earlier today from the Union Cemetery Board member stated that, according to the agreement between them and Birch's, the two parking spaces at the east end of the parking lot shall be reserved for cemetery use, 12 parking spaces are designated for valet parking, and three valet parking spaces are allowed, parallel parked, on the south side of the lot. The west end of the parking lot is reserved for cemetery visitors. The email also advised that the rowers' use of the parking lot is under the umbrella of the cemetery's agreement with Birch's.

Mayor Miner stated that the way he understood this was that the same pool of overall parking spaces were being used for a combination of valet parking and rowers, and asked how it would work if the valet spots were full on a busy night at Birch's.

Moeller replied that in that scenario, that would mean that there were no more spaces available and those spaces were essentially a first come, first served situation shared between the uses.

Ms. Johnson explained that her understanding from Mr. Greene was that they do not use the valet parking Monday through Thursday and only use it on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays.

Councilmember Kvale pointed out that condition #13 in the draft Option C Resolution had a confusing additional 'or' included. Staff and Council concluded that may have been a typo error.

Ms. Johnson asked when condition #13 had been updated, because what was reviewed previously did not include the same language.

Moeller indicated that it had been updated earlier today following conversations that had occurred with the City Attorney about clarifying intent and ensuring that the language would be clear for all the parties involved in the CUP.

Mr. Jaenchen asked if that change in language had been sent to the LLRC.

Moeller confirmed that it had not been sent to them given that it was not ready for printing until the end of the business day, and explained that this was just an option for the Council to consider.

Mr. Jaenchen stated there did not appear to be clear language regarding independent rowing and explained that it had been their understanding that if an individual wanted to go out, it would not actually be unlike leaving from a public launch, even though it was from Birch's, because it would just be one boat going out. He raised the issue of the language related to 'any' activities related to the LLRC and pointed out that there were times when everybody would be loading or unloading up the trailer when they are going to or coming from a regatta during which they would be on Birch's property outside the hours. He stated that he was hopeful that would be a moot point, because they would not be on the lake itself.

Councilmember Kvale commented that she felt that the language needed to be clarified.

Councilmember Feldmann noted that the CUP was not for the water and was for the land use.

Ms. Johnson added that there are people in the LLRC that own their own shells and equipment, so, in general, they should be able to use their own equipment and go row. She asked if the City was saying that if they own their own boat but happened to keep it at Birch's, if that meant that they could not go out and use it on the Lake.

Councilmember Feldmann stated that the use described would be creating a public launch at that point.

Moeller asked if the CUP allowed for storage of private boats.

Councilmember Feldmann pointed out that the Birch's property was not a public launch, and that was the distinction he was trying to figure out. He noted that this would be a person from the public taking their shell and placing it on the water at the Birch's location, and asked if that was within Birch's primary use as a restaurant or the LLRC's CUP use. He reflected that if it was within the CUP's use, he felt that would be governed by the hours of the CUP.

Rybak emphasized that there was no other use that the CUP permitted other than a rowing club facility. She noted that she had not been aware that storage of private boats was taking place, which she felt was an entirely separate use.

Councilmember Feldmann stated that the updated condition #13 language he saw was something that he assumed the existing CUP condition #13 language already covered.

Mayor Miner explained that the original language in #13 was 'the use of the property and Long Lake for rowing purposes shall be limited to...'. The question that he had heard from individuals was what a 'rowing club purpose' actually was, and many of the comments he had received were that the LLRC was on the lake all the time already, including Friday afternoons or weekends. He noted that he hadn't known about the situation where members of the LLRC could take the equipment out individually. He

observed that he was not sure how the City could define rowing club purposes compared to which ones were private and noted that, to him, it was all kind of the same, because they were using the land in order to launch their shells.

Mr. Jaenchen voiced that he felt that there were two distinctions because there is equipment that is owned by the LLRC, and boats that were owned privately but were stored there.

Ms. Johnson added that many of the private boats were also loaned to the LLRC. She referenced a comment made by former Councilmember Joyce that when the LLRC was out there with a safety launch, that was what the City was referring to, which has been how were operating. She noted that they had not realized that the lessons were part of the CUP and thought it was only for the larger groups.

Moeller reflected that the current conversation was clarifying why there had been confusion about what 'rowing club purposes' actually meant. She reiterated that it had always been the Council's intent that any form of instruction, practice, coaching, lesson, or private group would be considered applicable to the CUP. She suggested that the Council may want to consider tabling this item until the next meeting in order to allow the opportunity to hold a meeting between the applicants and a few Councilmembers to dial in some of this kind of language a bit more. She stated that she felt it was important that everyone have a clear understanding and expectation of what the conditions of approval meant, particularly condition #13.

Councilmember Kvale asked about the use of the property and what 'rowing club equipment' would be considered because there was LLRC equipment and also privately owned equipment on the site. She asked if rowing club equipment would actually include the privately owned boats and agreed that the language was unclear. She asked whether people taking their boats outside of the CUP hours and loading them on a trail would be considered use of the property.

Councilmember Feldmann stated that, for a regatta, he felt it would be a reasonable expectation that they could come and load/unload the boats on a Saturday morning or a Sunday evening.

Councilmember Kvale felt the proposed language would restrict the LLRC from being able to load up their equipment during those time periods and reiterated that she felt different language was needed including removal of the word 'or' as referenced earlier in the discussion.

Mayor Miner asked how many shells were currently located on the Birch's property.

Ms. Johnson replied that they have whatever will fit on their seven racks, which was probably around 30 shells in various sizes.

Mr. Jaenchen added that it may make sense to table this item in order to clarify some of the questions that were being asked. He suggested that if it was a practice that was organized with the LLRC coaches and a LLRC launch, that should fall within the requested hours; but felt it was reasonable that if somebody owned their shell which was stored at Birch's, that they not be restricted to the CUP hours.

City Administrator Weske questioned why those individuals would not just use the public launch like everyone else does.

Mr. Jaenchen acknowledged that was a fair question, but noted that a rowing shell was not just eight feet long and was actually 18 or 28 feet long, which meant that there were some practical difficulties

with that approach. He reiterated that he felt it would be fair and reasonable that someone who owns their own shell not be restricted by the CUP hours for the LLRC.

Moeller believed the City needed to consult with the City Attorney on this issue, because the City had been unaware that there were privately owned shells being stored on the Birch's property, and that point would need clarification.

Councilmember Newcomer mentioned that a question he had planned to ask was similar because he was looking at the rules for independent rowing and there was nothing that addressed times of usage.

Ms. Johnson stated that their understanding had been that if they were following MnDNR boating rules, they were entitled to be out using the lake.

Councilmember Newcomer stated that he would just like to make sure that the CUP rules match the LLRC rules so that everyone was on the same page.

Mayor Miner agreed that it would be a good idea to study the matter a bit further and not just rush to action. He added that he would love to see the details hammered out a bit more thoroughly in order to have more clarity before action on the application moves forward.

Mr. Jaenchen indicated that if someone had their own rowing shell, they may have invested \$8,000 to \$12,000 on it, and he asked the Council to consider that it was very difficult to leave them in a public storage location because of security. He noted that it has been a pretty nice thing for some of the rowers that own their own shell to be able to put it with the club's other rowing equipment.

Councilmember Kvale asked if those rowers would move their shells, would they then not donate the usage to the LLRC.

Ms. Johnson replied that it was a common practice in rowing clubs to be able to go to clubs and check out a boat in order to row during independent rowing hours, and listed examples such as the Minneapolis Rowing Club, St Paul Rowing Club, or the Duluth Rowing Club.

Moeller reiterated that she felt it would be valuable for there to be a dialogue between the applicants and members of the Council before this comes back before the Council in order to ensure that there were not any misunderstandings, and to make sure that City staff also had a more clear direction.

Mr. Jaenchen confirmed that the LLRC would be happy to do that.

Councilmember Kvale volunteered to be a part of the meeting.

Planning Commissioner Chair Adams stated that his only comment would be from his training as an economist. He explained that the first rule of economics was scarcity, and it would be rare for there to be sufficient resources to meet the perceived needs in any situation. He noted that the first rule of politics was to ignore the first rule of economics because everybody can have everything. He shared that he had lived for most of his life on the lake and agreed that the lake can get busy at certain times, but the lake was not busy at 6:00 am. He noted that Long Lake was uniquely situated for a lot of recreational activities because it was long east to west and the prevailing wind was primarily out of the north. This also meant that the lake does not have enough width to create large waves, like can be done on larger lakes. On most days, at least a portion of the lake was relatively calm, but that also meant that

all the various activities, such as kayaking, canoeing, rowing, or waterskiing may want to operate on the same parts of the lake at the same times. If the LLRC owned property on the lake, the City would not be having this discussion because the City would have no control over their hours of operation or how they were able to operate. He saw nothing within the CUP that gave the City the right to control things like a point that was raised at the Planning Commission that the LLRC had agreed to operate on the north side of the lake and go east to west, and west to east on the south side of the lake, and explained that he did not see where the City had the ability to control that. He noted that people had also complained that sometimes the LLRC cuts across the middle of the lake, which to him, suggested that those people felt that they had 'dibs' on the middle of the lake, which was not a fact, because the lake was controlled by the state under MnDNR regulations. He personally felt that the most dangerous things that have developed on the lake were ballast boats and wake boats.

Moeller reflected that there were a lot of LLRC members in attendance and she did not believe that anyone was debating what a wonderful thing it was to have the LLRC in the City as a sport and what it brings to the community, as a whole. She noted that what was before the Council was the land use under the CUP. She voiced appreciation to the LLRC for recognizing that Birch's parking was full on Friday nights and for removing that portion of the request from their application.

Mayor Miner added that the Council had appreciated all the letters, emails, and hearing from members of the crew tonight and noted that overall, he felt the Council had been supportive of the LLRC and agreed that they have done great things for the community.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to table Planning Case #2025-01 considering a Long Lake Rowing Crew Conditional Use Permit (CUP) amendment request, and directing City staff to schedule a meeting for further conversations with the LLRC. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Newly Elected Official Conference - Councilmember Newcomer reported that he would be attending the League of Minnesota Cities Newly Elected Officials training later in the week.

Brine Application Versus Salt Use - Councilmember Feldmann stated that they had discussed brine application on streets a bit during their work session meeting, and Public Works Director Diercks would be looking into the potential costs. Weske explained that staff had plans, contingent upon weather conditions, to work with the City of Orono and do a test strip in order to see what brine does.

Fire Service Updates - Mayor Miner advised that he and Councilmember Dyvik had met with their Orono counterparts last week and would also meet again this week regarding fire services. He shared that he felt they had been able to have some really good discussions with them and were hopeful that they may be able to come to a good agreement in the not-too-distant future.

LMCC Liaison Update - Councilmember Kvale indicated that she had attended the LMCC meeting last week and found out that they had received franchise applications from both Midco and Comcast. The Board had voted to proceed with negotiations for a franchise agreement with both entities.

LLRC Meeting - Moeller asked if anyone else on the Council would be interested in participating in the meeting with the LLRC on the matters discussed tonight. Councilmember Feldmann offered to join Councilmember Kvale for the LLRC meeting.

Comprehensive Planning - Planning Commission Chair Adams noted that the City had exceeded established density goals from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The Council discussed the possibility of lobbying state representatives regarding a statute change in order for small cities such as Long Lake, that really have no room to expand, to not be required to go through the expense of submitting a Comprehensive Plan every 10 years.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator