



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
February 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 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; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Review and Update of City Goals Summary

City Clerk Moeller reviewed highlights of the City's accomplishments during 2024, and presented staff's recommended updates to the City's goals list including: development of project plans for improvements to the Holbrook Park skating facilities; actively promoting the 1905 Wayzata Boulevard W property as a site for food truck reservations; installation of pedestrian crossing signals at Wurzer Trail; installation of speed monitoring signage on Orchard Lane; utilizing the results of sewer televising in order to establish the scope of improvements that may be necessary in order to reduce I/I flows; working with WSB to address remediation of private lead service lines in the City; undertaking a Well #1 reconditioning project; working with the City's engineer to implement and oversee a 2025 pavement improvement project; retaining WSB for a Pavement Management Plan update and continuing to utilize Pavement Management Funds in order to take on projects and improvements within the City's Pavement Management Plan; completing a water tower cleaning project; focusing on the development of the newest Public Works Maintenance Workers; establishing a Safety Data Sheet storage process for Public Works; replacing furnaces for the cold storage area of the Public Works building; establishing a Public Works-specific comprehensive Capital Improvement Program; conducting a Public Works surplus auction; continuing work on updating sections of the City's Code of Ordinances including establishing Mayor and Council salaries, adding general Council operational/governing language, addressing diseased and hazardous trees, and adding a point-of-sale I/I inspection and certification program; exploring options and costs for permitting software for an online portal; exploring Laserfiche and document scanning/online storage options; completing updates to City Hall's file server and related hardware; considering design and potential purchase of new street light pole banners for the downtown area; Fire Department goals to continue to actively participate in discussions of implementing a fire service

district, and to maintain an open line of communication with the City's firefighters to ensure they're aware of ongoing developments related to the LLFD and future fire service discussions; working on ideas for recognizing outgoing Council and advisory board members; brainstorming options for an employee years-of-service recognition program; scheduling an informal Council and all staff 'happy hour' get together in order to foster positive relationships; completing training and installation for new ExpressVote election equipment; revising the format of the CityScene City newsletter and considering implementing an electronic only delivery method; and updating Zoning Ordinance sections pertaining to Planning Commission and Park Board, revisiting the structure of the boards, updating the process for member appointments, and addressing the role and/or viability of the Park Board at a future Work Session meeting, prior to moving forward with Park Board related ordinance changes.

The Council asked questions, discussed details, and made suggestions for amendments to the proposed goals for the City in 2025, as outlined by City Clerk Moeller.

Mayor Miner stated that he'd like to add a goal about holding a joint volunteer appreciation dinner. Moeller pointed out where that goal that was already included in the goals summary document.

Councilmember Newcomer asked if Long Lake had ever attempted to have a cooperative work session meeting with the Orono City Council, since they were Long Lake's immediate neighbor. Mayor Miner recalled that there'd been an attempt to do so years ago, but it could be something that they consider looking into again. Moeller suggested that she add that goal under the 'Other' category.

Mayor Miner commented that he would also like to look into the possibility of seeking possible funding sources in order to add more trees along Orchard Lane. He reflected that he felt staff and Council had put together a great list of goals for 2025.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brine Application Question - Councilmember Feldmann stated that he and Public Works Director Diercks had been discussing brine application for the roadways and the possible cost differences between brine and salt. Public Works Director Diercks noted that after some preliminary research, he would have a hard time justifying spending the amount of money necessary to make the switch to brine instead of salt. He mentioned that staff were planning to have Orono conduct a test using brine on Watertown Road the next time temperatures fell within the appropriate parameters.

Additional Public Works Goal - Public Works Director Diercks indicated that one additional goal he would like to add would be trimming of the trees and scrub brush between Nelson Lakeside Park and Zvago, and commented that it may need to be done in partnership with the watershed district.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator