



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 7, 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 (attended remotely via Zoom)

Staff Present: Interim City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner reported that the Council had just finished a work session meeting at which they briefly discussed a mentoring proposal for the City Administrator position, and held a closed session related to litigation related to the fire services contract.

He shared that he had attended the annual Minnesota Mayors' Association meeting at the University of Minnesota Arboretum, and he outlined some of the topics of discussion.

He added that the Long Lake Fire Department's Fire Prevention Open House was held on October 6, 2025, which had a good turnout.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Miner noted that Senator Ann Johnson Stewart was running a bit late, and the Council would need to move the agenda items around until she arrived.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Kvale, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote - Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of September 16, 2025 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of September 16, 2025 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Accept the Resignation of Matt Fahrman from the position of Public Works Maintenance Worker I Effective October 17, 2025

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Jane Davidson, 1020 Old Long Lake Road – Ms. Davidson spoke as a representative of the Long Lake Waters Association. She reviewed the mission of the organization and its efforts to obtain funding for planning to address the waters within the watershed, which are severely degraded. She noted that Long Lake had moved from a 'C' grade to a 'D' grade lake and stated that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District had begun work on a long-range plan and feasibility studies for projects on Long Lake. She informed the Council that the Long Lake Waters Association had organized a community meeting on October 28 to be held at the Orono City Hall to provide an overview of water quality information, present data, and move on to expected projects. She encouraged the Council to attend this meeting.

Councilmember Feldmann asked City Clerk Moeller to put out a quorum notice for the event to enable Council members to attend.

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Legislative Updates by Senator Ann Johnson Stewart, District 45

This agenda item was postponed until later in the meeting pending Senator Johnson Stewart's arrival.

B. Reschedule November 4, 2025 City Council Meeting

City Clerk Moeller explained that November 4, 2025 is a General Election day in the State and statute requires that public meetings be rescheduled. She recommended the November 4 City Council meetings be rescheduled to either November 3 or November 5.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Miner, to reschedule the November 4, 2025 City Council meetings to be held on Monday, November 3, 2025. Ayes: all by roll call.

C. Approve Proposal from iWorQ Systems, Inc. for an E-permitting Software Application

Moeller reviewed the proposal from iWorQ Systems, Inc. for an e-permitting software application and highlighted details as well as responded to Council questions related to user training, pricing, data ownership, how the City would be able to customize its e-permitting portal, and the anticipated staff time that would be saved by implementing the software.

Interim City Administrator Nowezki observed that another advantage to the software would be that it is cloud-based. She reviewed the financing and budget impacts of approving the proposal.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to approve a pricing proposal from iWorQ Systems, Inc. for a Community Development e-permitting software solution, and to authorize the City Clerk to execute an agreement for iWorQ applications and services. Ayes: all by roll call.

D. Fire Department Transition/Future Fire Services News & Updates

Mayor Miner provided a status update relative to the continued work on a Joint Powers Agreement between Long Lake and Orono for future fire services.

Councilmember Kvale thanked the members of Council who have been involved in the negotiation efforts because she recognized it had been time consuming.

OTHER BUSINESS

Banners for Downtown - Councilmember Dyvik suggested that the City begin the process of looking into redesigning banners in order to have new banners ready by next summer. Nowezki mentioned that she had been approached by a local vendor who shared some samples of their banners. Councilmember Dyvik reminded the Council that they had discussed the possibility of soliciting art submissions from the community. Councilmember Kvale suggested considering contacting some of the local grade schools to encourage submissions by students.

Brine Treatment for City Streets - Councilmember Feldmann asked about how much brine usage could help reduce the quantity of salt the City uses on its roads. Moeller replied that staff and Council could ask Public Works Director Diercks to look into brine treatment further, but she recalled that the last time the topic of brine usage had arisen, Diercks' comments indicated based on initial information were that the process appeared to be cost-prohibitive.

Mayor Miner pointed out that Senator Johnson Stewart had arrived, and welcomed her to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7A

Legislative Updates by Senator Ann Johnson Stewart, District 45

Senator Ann Johnson Stewart provided an update discussing which communities make up District 45; providing bonding request information and strategies to best position Long Lake for funding consideration; the potential for future legislation addressing e-bike usage; rising property taxes, possible reform, and the property valuation/assessment process; water quality/invasive species issues; an update on legislation preempting local zoning regulations; and highlighting the upcoming bonding tours, state capital investment possibilities, and funding requests for street projects. She addressed Council concerns regarding a desire for LGA formula changes, why Long Lake has not received funds, and suggested possibly establishing a meeting with area cities to discuss the LGA formula and explore how best to work towards being able to receive funding. She also commented on the Small Cities Assistance Program; recognized Comprehensive Plan challenges/costs for a small city like Long Lake; and contemplated on the potential for legislation to reduce the Comprehensive Plan required criteria for small cities.

Mayor Miner thanked Senator Johnson Stewart for her willingness to come to the City and share updates with the Council.

Senator Johnson Stewart noted that she was glad she had been able to share a more informal update tonight and to answer Council questions, but also offered to return with specific presentations on topics that may be of interest to Long Lake. She commented that she would follow up on the LGA and Comprehensive Plan related concerns that had been voiced by Council and staff, and indicated that if she was able to achieve any answers, she would forward them to Mayor Miner and City Clerk Moeller for distribution to the entire Council. She encouraged the Council to reach out to her if they had additional questions or issues they wanted her to look into.

OTHER BUSINESS – CONTINUED

Ash Tree Removals - Nowezki reported that she had spoken with Public Works Director Diercks earlier in the day and had learned that about 50 trees have been removed, of which 17 were handled by Public

Works staff. She added that residents have stopped by City Hall to communicate to staff that the contractor used for the other removals, Twins G Tree Service, had been doing an amazing job.

Public Works Staffing - Moeller indicated that she would be including an item on the next meeting agenda requesting authorization to post for a Public Works Maintenance Worker II position, and explained the difference between a Maintenance Worker I versus a Maintenance Worker II. She stated that staff was hoping to fast-track posting for the position in order to obtain assistance for Public Works Director Diercks.

Remote Meeting Attendance - Councilmember Newcomer thanked staff and the Council for facilitating his participation in tonight's meeting virtually since he had been unable to attend in person.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller, City Clerk