



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 21, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik and Mike Feldmann

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske

Absent: Council: Gina Joyce and Deirdre Kvale (both with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

The Council had met in a work session prior to the regular meeting during which they had worked on preparation for a Follow-Up Forum related to fire services updates. He advised that the forum would be an Open House type event that would provide updates to residents about fire services, and has been scheduled for May 29, 2024 beginning at 6:30 pm at Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Mayor Miner also shared that he'd attended a flag raising ceremony for the new State flag at the Pioneer Museum on May 11, 2024.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of May 7, 2024 City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of May 7, 2024 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve the 2023 Pay Equity Report

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

Accept Resignation of Public Works Lead Maintenance Worker Don “Luke” Laakkonen

City Administrator Weske gave an overview of the employment history that Don “Luke” Laakkonen has had with the City which began in May of 1985. He commented that Mr. Laakkonen has provided the City with 39 years of outstanding service. His last day of work with the City will be July 31, 2024, and he will be greatly missed at the City.

Mayor Miner asked if there were any plans to have a celebratory going away event for Mr. Laakkonen.

Weske replied that he would ask Mr. Laakkonen again, but noted that he had indicated that he did not really want to have a party in his honor, and was more the type of person that would just quietly ‘shut the lights off’ as he left.

Mayor Miner questioned whether there were any hiring plans for the replacement of Mr. Laakkonen.

Weske indicated that Public Works Director Diercks was working on updating the job description and would then get it posted as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, to accept the resignation of Public Works Lead Maintenance Worker Don “Luke” Laakkonen.

Mayor Miner reiterated that Mr. Laakkonen would be missed because he has been a great partner and also a great mentor, especially for the new Public Works employees.

Ayes: all.

Review Ordinance Regarding Definitions, Parking Regulations and the Storage of Boats, Trailers and Recreational Vehicles

Weske reviewed the details of Ordinance No. 2024-01 and explained that Sections 1, 2, and 3 were unchanged from what had been presented to the Council back in February. He noted that Sections 4, 5, and 6 had been amended based on discussion at the April 16, 2024 City Council meeting. He explained that he had placed two additional handouts at the Council dais that had some notes from City Attorney Thames which had been included in the final copy of the ordinance language. The Planning Commission had held a public hearing on the amendments proposed for Sections 4, 5, and 6 and were recommending adoption of the revised ordinance.

Council member Feldmann observed that he felt that the changes made the City more consistent with neighboring cities with regard to enforcement.

Council member Dyvik pointed out that it also would ease up some of the parking requirements for businesses, which he felt was necessary as he’d always felt the City was a bit too restrictive in areas.

Mayor Miner highlighted that the change recommended for restaurant and café uses would be to require one parking space for every three seats, rather than one space for every two seats.

Council member Dyvik noted that, in his opinion, River Valley Marine does not appear to be in compliance and asked if the boat storage section of the ordinance was also loosened up.

Weske responded that he did not believe so and explained that River Valley Marine was different, because they were grandfathered in to a certain degree. He added that the City has had some conversations with them in the past, which is why the fence was installed and the lot had been paved. He explained that he believed that River Valley Marine was compliant based on the rules that were set for their business about 18 months ago. He mentioned that he had not recently received any complaints about them blocking traffic or parking on the road.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Dyvik, to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-01 amending Sections 2, 19, and 21 of the Long Lake Zoning Ordinance to update definitions, correct code references, provide standards for storage of boats, trailers and recreational vehicles, limit the number of passenger vehicles stored on residential properties and adjust parking space requirements for several land uses. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Relief Association Purchases - Council member Feldmann indicated that he had heard there may have been some confusion around some of the purchases made by the Long Lake Firefighters' Relief Association over the last year, versus the previous calendar year. He clarified that in calendar year 2023, there were six things purchased: sun protection for the Zodiac boat; two ice water rescue inflatables; a slide searching depth finder for underwater search and rescue; SCBA mask bags; four automatic blood pressure monitors; and 8-in-1 tools for the firefighters.

Memorial Day Preparations - Mayor Miner had noticed that Public Works staff were putting up the hanging baskets yesterday in the downtown area. He commented that Memorial Day was coming up the following week and encouraged residents to attend the usual observance ceremonies that would be held. He anticipated that City Clerk Moeller would be communicating various details about the Memorial Day services in the near future.

Upcoming Events/Meetings – Mayor Miner reminded everyone of the Follow-Up Open House/Forum regarding Fire Services to be held on May 29, 2024 at 6:30 pm. He also added that on June 4, 2024, there would be both a Fire Advisory Board meeting and the next City Council meeting.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator