



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 16, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik (arrived at 6:42 pm), Mike Feldmann, Deirdre Kvale, and Todd Newcomer

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

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner reported that the City's Holiday Tree Lighting Event took place on December 5 at Holbrook Park. He thanked the Long Lake Park Board, the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Gopher Ace Hardware, Otten Bros Garden Center and Landscaping, Orono Lions Club, Bjornstad Planning and Development, the Public Works Department, and DJ Chime for their help in making the night a success. He noted that Santa and Mrs. Claus had made an appearance, and event attendees had appreciated the addition of vendors at this year's event, including Kindred Bees Bakery and Hats by Abby. The following day, on December 6, the Long Lake Fire Department held the annual Holiday Food and Toy Drive event at Fire Station 1, sponsored by the Long Lake Fire Auxiliary.

Mayor Miner also mentioned that he had attended the Northwest League of Municipalities meeting last week, at which all five legislators representing the cities were present.

APPROVE AGENDA

City Clerk Moeller indicated that the Consent Agenda had been amended to add Item 5G at the recommendation of the City Attorney.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of Item 5G to the Consent Agenda. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of December 2, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-45 Approving the Issuance (Renewal) of 2026 Liquor Licenses
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-46 Approving the Issuance (Renewal) of 2026 Tobacco Licenses
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-47 Approving the Issuance (Renewal) of 2026 Residential and Commercial Refuse Hauler Licenses

- F. Approve Layoff of All City of Long Lake Fire Department Personnel Effective December 31, 2025 to Facilitate Their Transition to Service With the Shoreline Fire Department Beginning January 1, 2026
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-52 Adopting the Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave Policies

Council and staff discussed the Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave Law; how the City would be splitting the new tax obligation between the City and employees; and the possibility of considering a change next year when the City qualifies as a smaller employer due to the removal of firefighters from the City's payroll as a result of the transition to the Shoreline Fire Department.

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Resolution Nominating Janet Schaefer to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board of Managers

Moeller highlighted Ms. Schaefer's background, involvement, and experience as a former City Mayor, active member of the Long Lake Waters Association, and a participant in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee. She voiced staff's support of Ms. Schaefer's intent to apply for consideration as a candidate for the MCWD Board of Managers.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-44 nominating Janet Schaefer to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers. Ayes: all.

B. Adoption of 2026 City Fee Schedule

Moeller reviewed the proposed 2026 City Fee Schedule and pointed out proposed minor adjustments, including the removal of false alarm fees related to the Long Lake Fire Department, and an increase in the Tobacco License fee.

Council and staff briefly discussed whether the City needed to maintain a false alarm fee schedule for the Shoreline Fire Department; however, given that the false alarm fees haven't been utilized at the direction of the Fire Chiefs, it was determined that false alarm fees could be added back in if warranted in the future.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to approve Ordinance No. 2025-02 adopting the 2026 Fee Schedule for the City of Long Lake and to direct staff to publish a summary ordinance. Ayes: all.

Moeller reminded the Council that the City can continually review the fee schedule and make changes, as necessary throughout the year.

C. Adoption of Final Payable 2026 Levy, City Budget, Capital Improvement Plan, and Pay Plan Resolutions

City Administrator Nowezki provided a review of the proposed Final Payable 2026 Levy, City Budget, Capital Improvement Plan, and Pay Plan Resolutions for consideration of Council approval. She noted

that the 2026 Pay Plan had been updated from previous reviews to increase wages for Public Works Maintenance Worker positions.

Moeller mentioned that staff has interviewed two strong candidates for the open Maintenance Worker I and Maintenance Worker II positions. She shared her belief that unless the City adjusts its wage rates for the maintenance worker positions, it will struggle to be competitive with what area cities are able to offer. She emphasized the importance of obtaining more qualified and experienced staff to maintain the City's infrastructure and be able to work independently, which would necessitate higher wages. She noted that the proposed updates to the 2026 Pay Plan would result in the City being more competitive in the area market.

Nowezki recalled that the proposed budget and levy had been discussed at great length by Council during previous meetings, but indicated she would be happy to provide refreshers on anything the Council desired.

Councilmember Dyvik stated he was very pleased with the levy reduction that the City was able to reach from preliminary to the final levy, down to an increase of around 4%. He reflected that, if approved, it will be one of the lowest increases for all of the cities in the County. He expressed his appreciation to City Administrator Nowezki for her work in reducing the overall increase to about 4% from what it started at with the preliminary number representing over a 9% increase.

Councilmember Feldmann noted that it was able to happen in a year when they were starting a new Fire Department as well.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-48 establishing the final tax levy collectible in 2026. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-49 establishing the final 2026 total City budget. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-50 establishing the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-51 establishing the 2026 Pay Plan. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the General Fund transfers for 2026 as presented. Ayes: all.

The Council commended City Administrator Nowezki for her work on the City budget numbers and the way the information had been laid out in an organized and clear fashion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tree Lighting Event / Vendor Report - Councilmember Newcomer shared that he had attended the Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony and had purchased a loaf of bread from vendor Kindred Bees Bakery. He noted that he had ended up going back a few days later to purchase more bread for his household. The home bakery is located in Loretto, but it was well worth the drive. Moeller offered to forward contact information for Kindred Bees Bakery to members of the Council. Later during Other Business, Nowezki

thanked City Clerk Moeller for her work on the Holiday Tree Lighting event. She indicated that she personally had been unable to attend due to a planned vacation, but had heard good things about how well it went.

Shoreline Fire Department Board - Councilmembers Dyvik and Feldmann gave a brief overview of the recent discussions and activities of the Shoreline Fire Department Board along with an update on the hiring process for the Deputy Chief position.

Holiday Lighting in Downtown - Councilmember Dyvik commented that he missed seeing the holiday lights on the street light poles and asked if there was any information as to when they might be going up. Nowezki responded that she'd been notified by Public Works Director Diercks earlier in the day that there had been a miscommunication, and the vendor that normally hangs the lighted garland on the street poles was unable to do so for the City this year due to being out of town. Additionally, the vendor actually has the City's garland in storage. According to Diercks though, the holiday banners were planned to be hung the day after the meeting. Councilmember Dyvik observed that the holiday banners are getting a little worn and in addition to getting new summer banners, the City should also purchase new holiday banners.

Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Event - Mayor Miner added that the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual holiday open house in celebration of their 75th anniversary. He expressed his appreciation to Marty Schneider and the Chamber for the work they did to make the event a success.

Mound Firefighter of the Year – Mayor Miner congratulated former Long Lake firefighter Shane Gardner for being named Firefighter of the Year for the Mound Fire Department.

Emergency Gate Update - Mayor Miner reported that work was continuing on resolving the Highway 12/County Road 112 access gate issue, and a decision had been made to move forward as a City and order the gate. He noted that it looked like there would be some type of partnership between the City, MnDOT, the County, and the Wayzata Crime Prevention Coalition to fund the gate replacement.

Fire Department Transition – Mayor Miner reflected that the upcoming end of the Long Lake Fire Department was a little bittersweet as they transition to the Shoreline Fire Department. He thanked everyone who had served the City for the last 110 years of the Long Lake Fire Department's existence, and voiced his gratitude that a vast majority of the Long Lake firefighters were intending to continue serving the community as part of the Shoreline Fire Department. Councilmember Dyvik suggested that the City organize a celebratory event in honor of the Long Lake Fire Department and invite all former firefighters who have served over its 110 years. Mayor Miner noted that they may be able to do something in the spring that is tied to something in honor of the new Shoreline Fire Department as a sort of 'out with the old, in with the new' celebration. Nowezki mentioned that 2026 will also be the birthday of the Studebaker antique fire truck.

Administrator Updates – Nowezki stated that on December 15, the City had successfully completed the 2025 preliminary audit. She also affirmed that the transition from the Long Lake Fire Department to the Shoreline Fire Department was also moving ahead smoothly.

Holbrook Park - Mayor Miner indicated that Public Works planned to begin flooding the Holbrook Park ice rink on December 18. Councilmember Dyvik asked about the status of the warming house at Holbrook Park. Moeller reported that the day before the Tree Lighting Event, staff had discovered that

pipes had frozen and damages occurred due to Centerpoint Energy turning off gas service to the building without notification to the City. Apparently a park use or passer-by had reported a gas smell, and Centerpoint Energy had turned off gas to make repairs to an area underground. Moeller added that the water was currently turned off to the building but the heat had been restored. Once staff had learned of Centerpoint Energy's actions, staff pursued the quick restoration of gas service. Nowezki commented that staff was not planning to turn in an insurance claim until the extent of the damage has been determined, as well as what repairs can be completed in-house by Public Works. The Council discussed the possibility of pursuing a claim against Centerpoint for the damages, and questioned how the gas had been turned off by the utility without any notification to the City.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk