



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
May 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Mike Feldmann, Deirdre Kvale, and Todd Newcomer

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; City Attorney: John Thames; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Jahn Dyvik (near the end of the work session, with prior notice)

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. City Administrator Six-Month Performance Evaluation

City Clerk Moeller indicated that City Administrator Nowezki had the choice to have her six-month evaluation take place in a closed session meeting, but had opted to have it during an open meeting. She explained that because of that, she would be removing herself from the room out of respect for Administrator Nowezki as her supervisor, and would return following the performance evaluation portion of the meeting. She submitted a one-sentence written statement to Mayor Miner on behalf of Councilmember Dyvik for Nowezki's review.

Nowezki gave a brief presentation that outlined her vision for the City as Administrator, highlighted her duties, responsibilities, and discussed the progress of her efforts to date.

Councilmember Kvale observed that City Administrator Nowezki had hit the ground running when she began as City Administrator.

Nowezki commented that she has had a very supportive team in City Clerk Moeller and Public Works Director Diercks, and added that most of what she has been able to accomplish in the first six months could not have been done without their support.

Mayor Miner gave examples of other things Nowezki had accomplished during her time as City Administrator, which had not been included in her presentation.

Councilmember Kvale complimented Nowezki on how she has handled things when they haven't gone perfectly. She recognized that in those instances, Nowezki had told the Council directly that there were issues.

Nowezki mentioned that one of the reasons she had chosen to have her first review conducted during an open meeting was to ensure transparency for the residents.

Councilmember Feldmann shared that he had appreciated the enthusiasm Nowezki had brought to her role. He noted that most people who come into a new City Administrator position only have to worry about the job, but she also had to step in and help create a new Fire Department, and he wanted to acknowledge that this had not gone unnoticed.

Mayor Miner read aloud the comments submitted by Councilmember Dyvik, who shared that he was happy the City had hired her. He asked City Attorney Thames if he wanted to give any feedback on Nowezki's first six months in her role.

City Attorney Thames hadn't prepared a statement, but anecdotally, he could inform Council that she was doing a great job and was on top of things. He stated that she has utilized his services when needed, but explained that there hadn't been the need for him to be seen much at the meetings because she had been handling things on her own. He agreed that the Fire Department had been a big situation and was a bit of a trial by fire way for her to begin her time as City Administrator.

Mayor Miner summarized that the theme among the Council was that they felt Administrator Nowezki was doing a terrific job and were glad that they had kept things in-house with someone who already knew Long Lake.

The Council discussed potential step increases, the timeline and process for a step increase to be considered, employment evaluation protocol, the makeup of the Human Resources Subcommittee, and asked for input from City Attorney Thames.

City Attorney Thames shared information on what was typical and how he would recommend the City handle Administrator position reviews in the future.

The Council discussed performance evaluations, step increases, and how they may affect the budget.

B. Continue Discussion of Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 2 - Administration

Moeller informed Council that the proposed changes they'd requested at their last meeting and review of the ordinance had been included in the updated version to be considered later during the regular meeting, but she had asked City Attorney Thames to spend some time in the work session clarifying the language related to Council seat special elections.

Thames briefly explained the ways staff had amended the language related to special elections. He shared a hypothetical example to help address how the language would apply in practice, and noted that a reference to the statute versus stating the specific statutory language had been incorporated for ease of reading and interpretation.

Moeller highlighted other language changes related to Council pay rates and pointed out sections referencing the Council's Code of Conduct Policy had also been added.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller

City Clerk