



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
October 30, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.

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

Staff Present: Interim City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; City Attorney: John Thames; Fire Chief: Mike Heiland; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Closed Session Pursuant to MN Stat. 13D.05, Subd.3(b)/Attorney-Client Privilege: Discussion of Open Litigation Related to the Fire Services Contract

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to go into a Closed Session pursuant to MN Stat. 13D.05, subd.3(b)/attorney-client privilege to discuss open litigation related to the fire services contract. Ayes: all.

Mayor Miner advised that the Council would move to a separate room for the Closed Session and then would return to the Chambers to resume the open Special City Council meeting when they were done.

The Council returned to the Council Chambers at 6:45 pm.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Newcomer, to close the Closed Session City Council meeting and return to the Special City Council meeting. Ayes: all.

City Attorney Thames stated that the Council had just adjourned a Closed Session pursuant to MN Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) and discussed the open litigation related to the Fire Services Contract.

B. Consider Approval of Shoreline Fire Department Joint Powers Agreement

Mayor Miner reported that the City had been working on a proposed new Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Orono for the last 10 months or so. The negotiated JPA between the two cities will create a jointly operated Fire Department called the Shoreline Fire Department along with a four-person Board that would include two representatives from each city. Under the new JPA, Station 1 would be called the Long Lake Station and Station 2 would be called the Orono/Navarre Station as a way to represent both communities, and to set them up for having a great fire department for the next 20 years and beyond. He added that they were hoping to invite other cities to become members in the future, including Minnetonka Beach.

Councilmember Feldmann reflected on the amount of time Mayor Miner and Councilmember Dyvik had spent working on development of the JPA with the City of Orono and expressed the community's appreciation for their dedicated service.

City Attorney Thames noted that staff had prepared some alternative resolutions that would cover items B, C, D, and E on the meeting agenda and suggested that the Council take time to discuss those as well.

C. Consider Approval of Commercial Lease Terms for Station 1 and Station 2; Consider Authorization of Execution of Station 1 Lease

D. Consider Approval of Fire Service Contract Extension for the LLFD (Optional Agenda Item)

E. Consider Approval of Stipulation for Dismissal of Open Litigation Related to the Fire Services Contract

Mayor Miner indicated that the City of Long Lake would be a signer on the lease agreement for Station 1, and the Board of the Shoreline Fire Department would be the signer for the lease agreement for Station 2.

A motion was made by Dyvik, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-37 (Option A), a resolution approving the Shoreline Fire Department Joint Powers Agreement; approving lease terms for the 340 Willow Drive and 3770 Shoreline Drive properties; and authorizing execution of the 340 Willow Drive lease; and authorizing the execution of a stipulation for dismissal of open litigation related to the Fire Services Contract.

Councilmember Kvale pointed out that an Option B version of the Resolution would have allowed for the City to extend the current contract, and one of the reasons the Council had given consideration to that option was that in case the Shoreline Fire Department wasn't operational, service would default to Long Lake Fire responding to fires. She added that she was comfortable with the approval of Option A because the Council feels like they have a good working relationship with Orono, and if the new Department isn't operational, the parties will be able to work together and find a solution.

Thames mentioned that the Council had discussed providing concurrent direction to City staff related to that issue, and suggested that be included that as part of the motion as well.

The motion was amended by Dyvik, seconded by Miner, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-37 (Option A), a resolution approving the Shoreline Fire Department Joint Powers Agreement; approving lease terms for the 340 Willow Drive and 3770 Shoreline Drive properties; authorizing execution of the 340 Willow Drive lease; authorizing the execution of a stipulation for dismissal of open litigation related to the Fire Services Contract; and directing staff to ensure that insurance coverage remains in place in the event the Long Lake Fire Department needs to continue beyond January 1, 2026, and to cover necessary payroll to ensure adequate staffing. Ayes: all.

Mayor Miner indicated that he had intended to open this item up for public comment and invited members of the public to address the Council.

Bryan Miller, 290 Lakeview Avenue – Mr. Miller gave a brief history of the fire services situation and discussions that began in the summer of 2022. He stated that he believed the actions taken by the Long Lake City Council have been incredible. He commended the individual Councilmembers and staff for what they brought to the discussions, and noted that he felt they had all gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Kelly Grady, 271 Greenhill Lane – Ms. Grady shared that she is the wife of a firefighter on the Long Lake Fire Department, a proud resident of the City, and would echo the sentiments shared by Mr. Miller. She commented that she was happy to see the fire services issue resolved in a happy way for all involved cities. She voiced her appreciation to everyone involved in making this happen and noted that she truly believes that the cities' fire departments will always be stronger together.

F. Appoint Directors to Shoreline Fire Department Board

G. Appoint Ex-Officio Directors to Shoreline Fire Department

Mayor Miner explained that the Shoreline Fire Department Board would consist of two voting director members and one alternate for the City of Long Lake, who need to be elected officials. He added that he was open to stepping back and allowing someone else to serve on the SFD Board.

Councilmember Dyvik observed that in the transition period, he felt it would make sense to have one of the people involved in the negotiations process also serve on the SFD Board, which he was willing to do. He suggested that Councilmember Feldmann would be helpful to have on the Board because he foresees that there will be a lot of number crunching, and suggested that Councilmember Newcomer could be the alternate.

Councilmember Feldmann confirmed that he was open to serving on the SFD Board.

Councilmember Newcomer stated that he supported Councilmember Dyvik's suggestion.

Mayor Miner indicated that the appointments for the Ex-Officio Director positions can be City staff members or non-elected officials. Interim Administrator Nowezki would serve in this capacity, and staff has proposed that Planning Commission member Judd Axelson be appointed as an Ex-Officio Director. Mayor Miner noted that staff had spoken with Mr. Axelson, who'd indicated a willingness to participate. Lastly, the alternate Ex-Officio Director would be City Clerk Moeller.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Kvale, to appoint Councilmembers Dyvik and Feldmann to serve as Directors on the Shoreline Fire Department Board, with Councilmember Newcomer as Alternate; and to appoint Interim City Administrator Nowezki and Planning Commissioner Axelson as Ex-Officio Directors, with City Clerk Moeller serving as the Alternate. Ayes: all.

Mayor Miner added that Long Lake Fire Chief Heiland will be the Interim Fire Chief for the Shoreline Fire Department, which will provide continued stability.

Fire Chief Heiland thanked the Council for their continued support.

Mayor Miner mentioned that he had been impressed with the turnout this morning for the send-off for Weston Paszkiewicz, as he left the City to become an Honorary Minnesota Wild player. A great show of citizens, Fire Departments, and Police Departments had lined up along Wayzata Boulevard W in his honor. Mayor Miner shared that Weston and his family have been fighting hard as Weston battles leukemia, and the community is standing with him.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk