



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Gina Joyce (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. The majority of the work session was held in Closed Session in order to discuss the matter of the City of Long Lake v. the City of Orono related to fire services contract enforcement activities.

Generally things have been fairly quiet around the City, but he observed that it has been nice to get out and enjoy the fresh air as the weather is warming up.

Mayor Miner also expressed his appreciation to City Clerk Moeller and the Election Judges for their hard work last week for the Hennepin County Commissioner District 6 special primary election. He indicated that the next election was coming up in a few weeks and encouraged residents to get out and vote for their County Commissioner.

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 April 16, 2024 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-20 Approving Membership in the Hennepin County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.

Regarding Consent Agenda Item B, Council member Kvale inquired about the employee reimbursement for Paul Morse.

City Administrator Weske explained that Paul Morse was a firefighter who had attended some reimbursable training.

Council member Kvale mentioned that it appeared the City's electrical expenses were pretty high.

Weske replied that he believes that the expenses were along the lines of the going rate and added that he expects that they will fluctuate a bit based on usage.

Council member Kvale highlighted a street light expense in the amount of \$1,900 and questioned whether that had been an expected expense for replacement.

Weske responded that he would have to revisit that question because he believed that expense incurred was for a general repair versus a replacement.

Council member Kvale commented that she'd noticed the City had made the final payment for the windows at the Public Works building.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, 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

Updates Regarding Fire Department Matters

Mayor Miner reported that the Council had just finished Closed Session during their work session where they held discussions with their legal team regarding some enforcement action related to the fire services contract. There has been a fair amount of activity occurring in court over the last few weeks and on April 15, 2024, the City submitted the final billing amounts for recouping attorney fees related to the injunction that occurred in July 2023 and the subsequent first and second orders of contempt that occurred in November 2023 and March 2024. Per the court orders, the City will be reimbursed for these costs by the City of Orono. Orono has filed an appeal that will be reviewed by the Minnesota Court of Appeals sometime in the fall. Earlier today, he was advised about an amicus brief being filed by four former Orono Mayors who are contesting actions that have been taken by the City of Orono regarding the situation with the Fire Department. He advised that the City is continuing to have some discussions about possibilities with the City of Wayzata.

He recalled that an email was sent last week through the City ListServ regarding Fire Chief Heiland's annual report. The report is available via the City's website and includes the achievements of the Department in 2023 as well as details related to the budget.

The highlighted that the City Council is planning on hosting another fire services Open House at the end of May in order to bring residents up to speed on what has been occurring. He added that there will also be a big change coming on July 1, 2024 when the Orono Fire Department will apparently be taking over a portion of the service area, and more information on that should be coming soon.

Council member Feldmann commented that he felt the fact the Fire Department ended 2023 under budget was significant and impressive, especially given that they had experienced a higher number of calls over the previous year.

Mayor Miner agreed that it was impressive they'd come in under budget despite significantly higher call volume. He pointed out that there were also duty crews funded primarily by state public safety funds that had been made available to the City of Long Lake. He noted that Chief Heiland had just completed his first year of service to the Department.

Council member Dyvik recalled that Long Lake had also purchased a rescue truck and an engine for the Department, and questioned whether they would be arriving soon.

Weske stated that he believes both vehicles will arrive in the City in mid to late summer.

OTHER BUSINESS

Railing/Barrier Damage - Council member Dyvik had noticed a vehicle must've struck had hit the railing and concrete barrier along Wayzata Boulevard W near Primo Plates & Pours, and asked if that repair would be undertaken by the County. Weske replied that he would have to check to confirm, but believed that particular repair would be handled by the County.

Flag Raising Ceremony - Mayor Miner mentioned that on May 11, 2024 at 12:00 noon, the Pioneer Museum would be holding a flag ceremony to present the new Minnesota state flag.

Downtown Seasonal Displays - Weske reported that the hanging flower baskets for downtown are anticipated to arrive in about two weeks and should be able to go up right around Memorial Day. Council member Dyvik observed that the seasonal banners had been put up downtown. He recalled that the artist who had designed them had shared the idea of using local art from residents to update the banners, but after further discussion, that concept had turned out to be a bit more work than she had originally thought. The artist had suggested that the City hold some sort of contest for art submissions that could be considered for use on the banners. He indicated that he felt the banners were starting to look a bit faded and suggested that the City take time to start thinking about possible ideas to freshen them up for next year.

Letter to Orono - Mayor Miner advised that the Council had decided to send the City of Orono an updated offer letter related to fire services.

Election Review - City Clerk Moeller shared that there had been very low turnout for the recent special primary election, with just 5.6% of impacted voters of District 6 cities participating. Long Lake had only 50 voters appear at the primary. She reported that the next election to select a new County Commissioner will take place on May 14, 2024.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator