



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 19, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Finance Director: Amanda Nowezki; and Public Works Director: Sean Diercks

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

The Economic Development Authority had met immediately prior to the City Council meeting and had recommended the reappointment of Sahand Elmtalab to the EDA.

On December 11, Mayor Miner had attended a roundtable discussion sponsored by Representative Andrew Myers, at which most of the discussion centered around traffic safety issues along the Highway 7 corridor. Representative Myers had also held an event in Long Lake at the Caribou Coffee last Saturday, and Mayor Miner commented that there was good dialogue that happened at that get together.

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 December 5, 2023 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-49 Approving the Issuance (Renewal) of 2024 Tobacco License
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-50 Approving the Issuance (Renewal) of 2024 Liquor Licenses
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-51 Approving the Issuance (Renewal) of 2024 Residential and Commercial Refuse Hauler Licenses
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-56 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2023-14 for the Orono Lions Club Snowball Open on February 3, 2024; and Authorize the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol to Permit the Event
- G. Confirm Appointment of Michael Decker to the Position of Seasonal Public Works Maintenance Worker for the City of Long Lake

- H. Authorize Payment of Partial Pay Request No. 2 to Valley Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$38,735.16
- ~~I. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-57 Approving Site Improvements for the Aava Vetta Development (Postponed to a Future Meeting)~~
- ~~J. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-58 Conditionally Appointing Alex. L. McCaherty to the position of Paid On-Call Firefighter for the City of Long Lake~~
- K. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-59 Conditionally Appointing John K. Brown to the position of Paid On-Call Firefighter for the City of long Lake
- L. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-60 Reappointing Donny Chillstrom to the Park Board for a new term effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026
- M. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-61 Reappointing Sahand Elmtalab to the Economic Development Authority for a new term effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

Mayor Miner explained that because he knows firefighter candidate Alex L. McCaherty personally, he planned to abstain from the vote on Consent Agenda Item J.

Council member Joyce asked if there was a back up plan for the Snowball Open if the lake was not frozen enough.

Mayor Miner confirmed that he'd spoken with Mr. Adams recently who assured him that he has some ideas as back up possibilities if the weather does not cooperate.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Miner, to approve Consent Agenda Items A through H, and K through M, as presented. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Joyce, to approve Consent Agenda Item J as presented. Ayes: Feldmann, Joyce, Kvale, and Dyvik. Abstained: Miner. Motion carried.

City Administrator Weske clarified that Consent Agenda Item I needed to be postponed for action until the next Council meeting as it had come to his attention that some rewording of the Resolution is necessary prior to approval.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to table Consent Agenda Item I. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

Announcement of Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winners

Mayor Miner recalled that former Mayor Marty Schneider had begun the Holiday Home Decorating Contest, which has become a tradition that the City has continued. He stated that this year's contest judges had gone out last week to look at the homes who'd entered the contest under the two categories of either 'Clark Griswold' or 'Nostalgic'. Mayor Miner shared a presentation displaying the winning entries of this year's contest, which were:

Clark Griswold Category

3rd Place – Todd Dulin, 1984 Kennedy Lane

2nd Place – Bret Ostvolden, 266 Dupont Street

1st Place – Cindy Adams, 1130 Underhill Circle

Nostalgic Category

2nd Place – Lori Goodsell, 2206 Watertown Road

1st Place – Jim Benson, 55 Harrington Drive

Mayor Miner recognized the local businesses who helped provide prizes for the winners.

Approve Purchase of a Used Snowplow for the Hyundai Wheel Loader

Public Works Director Diercks outlined the proposal for the purchase of a used snowplow. He provided a comparison of the pricing and attributes of buying new versus used equipment, and indicated that he was recommending moving forward with the used plow proposed.

Council member Dyvik pointed out the photo that showed the sides that extend on the used plow, and asked if the Hyundai wheel loader was strong enough to equip a plow of that size.

Diercks clarified that the used plow can extend out to 16 feet, whereas the new one that was reviewed only extends 12 feet. He added that if necessary, the side extensions on the used plow could be removed.

The Council discussed features of the plow, how it could be used in the City, the recent sale of surplus Public Works equipment, and funding the purchase through the General Fund.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Joyce, to approve the purchase of a used snowplow for the Hyundai wheel loader from Monte Motor Sales of Montevideo. Ayes: all.

Adoption of Final Payable 2024 Levy, City Budget, Capital Improvement Program, and Pay Plan Resolutions

Weske and Finance Director Nowezki reviewed details of the budget process, preliminary levy, and the truth in taxation hearing. They highlighted details within the budget including the increase in the General Fund between 2023 and 2024, changes to the Fire Department operations budget, employee salaries, overall revenues and expenses, status of the enterprise funds, worker's compensation insurance premiums, and answered Council questions regarding the budget and various fund balances.

Council member Dyvik asked if they would be able to separate out the Fire Department budget and vote on it separately.

Weske responded that Council approval of the final City budget constitutes approval of the Fire Department budget.

Council member Dyvik suggested that the Council make that point clear within their motion.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Dyvik, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-52 establishing the Final Tax Levy Collectible in 2024. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Miner, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-53 establishing the Final 2024 Total City Budget, which includes the 2024 budget for the Long Lake Fire Department that was recommended by the Fire Advisory Board. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Dyvik, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-54 establishing the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-55 establishing the 2024 Pay Plan. Ayes: all.

Mayor Miner voiced his appreciation to City Administrator Weske and Finance Director Nowezki for their work on the City's finances.

Adoption of 2024 City Fee Schedule

Weske gave a brief overview of the proposed fee schedule for the City and answered Council questions.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to approve Ordinance No. 2023-05 adopting the 2024 Fee Schedule for the City of Long Lake and direct staff to publish a summary ordinance. Ayes: all.

Updates and Discussion Regarding Fire Department Matters

Mayor Miner reported that Orono had approved the Fire Department operating budget last week at their Council meeting and Medina had already approved the budget earlier in the month. He advised that the next future fire services meeting will be held in early January. He indicated that there had been a large fire call last night in Medina for a house fire and the Long Lake Fire Department had been able to assist the West Suburban Fire District in their efforts.

Mayor Miner advised that the City's next court mediation date with Orono is scheduled for January 30, 2024, and the next hearing date is set for February 1, 2024.

He also announced that as noted on the evening's Consent Agenda, the City had hired two new firefighters earlier in the meeting. Chief Heiland was not at tonight's Council meeting because he was meeting with the Wayzata Fire Department and filling them in on Long Lake's duty crew pilot program.

Council member Dyvik commented that he was very pleased that Orono had approved the budget for the Fire Department. He mentioned that he and Mayor Miner had drafted a letter to the firefighters that they were hoping could be from the entire Fire Advisory Board. They will be sending a draft of the letter to the Board members from the other cities expressing their pleasure with the 2024 budget being adopted by all three cities.

Weske stated that he had become aware that there is an opportunity for a fire services grant through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the State Fire Marshal's office; however, the application needs to be filed by December 31. Staff has been scrambling to get the application completed to meet the deadline. One of the items needed to accompany the application is a letter of support, and he suggested that the Council make a motion that authorizes Mayor Miner and staff to draft a letter of support for exploring a partnership with the City of Wayzata for fire services.

Mayor Miner explained that the deadline had come up so fast with this grant opportunity because they had only just learned about it about a month ago.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to authorize Mayor Miner and City staff to draft a letter of support signed by the Mayor for submission with the grant application through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the State Fire Marshal's office prior to the December 31, 2023 deadline. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chamber Holiday Party – Council member Kvale reported that the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Open House celebration at the Red Rooster on December 13 experienced a really good turnout.

'The Stax' Open House – Council member Dyvik noted that he had attended the Open House at 'The Stax' project and was very impressed with the quality and design of the apartments. Later under Other Business, Mayor Miner added that he had also attended 'The Stax' Open House and mentioned that he had received compliments on their dealings with City staff.

Orono Youth Hockey – Council member Dyvik indicated that he and Weske had met with members of the Orono Youth Hockey Association at Holbrook Park to discuss ice needs and to brainstorm ways they can work together to benefit the community.

Reappointment of Board and Commission Members - Council member Dyvik asked if the reappointment of a current Board or Commission member meant there was not the opportunity for somebody else in the community to apply. Weske responded that would be a question for City Clerk Moeller to address because she would know how it was written in the bylaws. Council member Dyvik stated that he would like to know what the official policy is on this. He felt that when a current member was up for reappointment, they should be able to express interest in reappointment; however, the process should allow others that may be interested in an opportunity to apply as well. Mayor Miner suggested that this discussion be added to a future agenda.

Staff Compliments - Mayor Miner noted that he had also attended the Stax Open House and explained that he received compliments on their dealings with City staff.

Year Wrap Up - Council member Joyce expressed her appreciation to everyone for a great year. She reflected that even though it had been a difficult one, she is proud of what the City had been able to accomplish. She particularly had enjoyed working on the new logo design, and meeting more residents because of the issues that arose this past year. She gave thanks to residents for their support.

Holiday Hours - Mayor Miner reminded residents that City offices would be closed on December 22 and December 25, as well as on January 1, 2024.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator