



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 15, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

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

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

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner reported that the Council had just concluded a work session during which they had discussed the preliminary 2027 budget and levy.

He reminded residents that the Council had approved a Resolution a few weeks ago recognizing Constitution Week, which would be starting September 17, 2026.

Mayor Miner also took a moment to express his appreciation to Councilmember Dyvik for helping staff by putting together a new conference table on his day off.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Kelly Grady, 271 Greenhill Lane - Ms. Grady introduced herself as a candidate for City Council. She noted that she understood she was running unopposed, but still wanted to earn votes from City's residents. She shared that her campaign website could be found online at www.kellyincommunity.com, and offered ways people could get in touch with her. She thanked Mayor Miner and Councilmember Kvale for their service and added that she was sad to see them leave the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of September 1, 2026 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of September 1, 2026 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approve Master Professional Service Agreement and Supplementary Task Orders with WSB, LLC to Provide City Engineering Consulting Services, City Planning Services, and for Transfer of Municipal Engineering Data

City Administrator Nowezki recalled that back in July, the Council had approved transitioning the City's engineering services to Hakanson Anderson Associates, Inc. Staff will continue to work with WSB for the completion of closeout of the existing engineering projects, and desires to maintain the City's relationship for planning consultant services. She reviewed the proposed Professional Services Agreement and task orders related to continuing to utilize Hannah Rybak for planning services, and for the transfer of historical engineering data and records to the City. Once the City has obtained the data, it can be provided to the City's new engineering firm. She asked that any Council vote on the contracts include the addition of language allowing for the City Attorney's review and approval prior to execution of contracts.

Councilmember Kvale referenced language about ownership of the data and copying being allowed.

Nowezki responded that the provision mentioned was one of the things the City Attorney wanted to review, in addition to another portion of the document that states that WSB would not stand behind the data that is transferred and would not be held responsible for the accuracy of the information.

Councilmember Kvale asked if the City could add language that data would be automatically transferred at a reasonable rate.

Nowezki believed the data transfer should happen at one time, but confirmed she would look into including language related to billable rates.

Councilmember Kvale clarified that she was more concerned with future data transfers.

Nowezki referenced language in the proposed Task Order that identifies that this is for a data transfer now, and anything in the future that the City may find missing.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Kvale, to enter into a Master Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with WSB, LLC, for City Engineering consulting services; approve a Master PSA Task Order No. 1 for City planning services; approve a Master PSA Task Order No. 2 with WSB, LLC, for transfer of the City's engineering data; and to authorize the City Administrator to execute the Master PSA and accompanying task orders, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney. Ayes: all.

B. Adoption of Preliminary 2027 Payable Levy; Establish Truth in Taxation Public Meeting Date to Discuss Levy and Proposed Budget

Nowezki advised that City was required to adopt a preliminary 2027 budget and levy in order to meet the County's certification deadline at the end of September. She gave a presentation on the preliminary budget, potential impacts to the proposed operating budget, allocation by department, capital planning for 2027, a comparison of the 2026 final levy to the City's preliminary 2027 levy, the tax levy, and proposed tax rate. She concluded that she was asking the Council to approve an operating levy that would result in a preliminary tax rate of 36.47%.

Moeller reminded the Council that the action before Council was to adopt the preliminary levy which essentially functions as a 'do not exceed' amount. Changes may be made prior to final levy and budget adoption in December.

Councilmember Dyvik thanked Nowezki for her work to reduce the preliminary budget and levy increase to remain in the single digits. He observed that he would like to see a comparison between Long Lake and other area cities with regard to their budget pie charts and what percentage was being spent in different city departments. He noted that with health insurance premiums going up by about 15%, he wondered if there may be ways for cities to join other cities and collectively obtain better rates.

Nowezki commented that she had not expected the premium rates to increase as much as they did, and the City's broker had informed her this was likely just the beginning of the increases due to Affordable Care Act changes. She reflected that she has been happy with the City's current broker and hoped to be able to work together with them to try to find creative solutions for the City.

Nowezki added that if residents wanted to have more budget detail, the complete meeting packet is on the website, and she would also be available to speak with residents if they had questions about this information.

Councilmember Feldmann stated that he also would like to see a pie chart comparison between Long Lake and other area cities, if possible.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-41 establishing the preliminary property tax levy payable in 2027 for the City of Long Lake. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-42 establishing the Truth in Taxation public meeting date as December 1, 2026 to discuss the proposed levy and budget for taxes payable in 2027 for the City of Long Lake. Ayes: all.

C. Update on MnDNR Protect Community Forests for Community Resiliency Grant Application

Nowezki reported that with the assistance of the City's new engineering firm, the City recently applied for the Protect Community Forests for Community Resiliency Grant through the MnDNR with a focus on Holbrook Park. The grant could be used to remove and replace trees, and she discussed the area of focus within Holbrook Park that Public Works Director Diercks would like to have. She was also looking into another possible tree grant opportunity that may be beneficial for the City.

D. Award Contract for the 2026 Sanitary Lining Project

Nowezki reviewed the bid received for the proposed 2026 Sanitary Lining Project, and reviewed the combination of City funds that were planned to be used to pay for the project, including: grant funds, decertified TIF funds, sanitary sewer capital funds, and sanitary sewer enterprise funds.

Councilmember Dyvik asked if WSB had any explanation for why their project estimate costs were so far off from the bids the City had received.

Nowezki replied that WSB had not provided a good explanation, but recalled that staff had received feedback from a bidder for the previous bid cycle indicating that the scope was a little hard to understand, and they'd needed to bid higher to accommodate for uncertainties. Nowezki had shared this information with WSB and had requested some changes be made prior to the current bid cycle.

Councilmember Dyvik questioned whether the project costs from Visu-Sewer were negotiable.

Moeller asked if it could be possible for actual project costs to come in lower than expected.

Nowezki did not believe the contractor's bid was negotiable and was a set 'take it or leave it' figure. She clarified that one of the reasons she hadn't moved this project to the new engineering firm was because of the money the City had already spent with WSB to get to this point. She didn't want the City to end up paying twice for project work preparation, but she would be working with the new engineers on future sewer lining projects. She reminded the Council that when the City chose to rebid this project, the project timeline allowed flexibility for the contractors in when they completed the work, meaning the project may be completed this fall or next spring as the contractor's time allows.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Newcomer, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-43 awarding the construction contract for the 2026 Sanitary Lining Project to Visu-Sewer, LLC, and authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to enter into the contract for said services. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Newcomer's Comments - Councilmember Newcomer stated that he had attended the recent Park Board meeting. He also expressed his appreciation to City Administrator Nowezki and City Clerk Moeller for the time and energy they had put into the budget, levy, and upcoming elections.

Orono Football Update - Councilmember Dyvik congratulated the Orono High School football team for their big win last week against Byron. The team will play Big Lake on September 18 at home, and he encouraged residents to come out and cheer them on.

Midco Fiber Project - Mayor Miner reported that Midco has been very active laying out fiber lines in his area of the City.

Shoreline Fire Department Open House - Mayor Miner noted that the Shoreline Fire Department's Fire Prevention Open House had been scheduled for October 5, 2026.

City Clerk Updates - Moeller mentioned that new doors for City Hall were in the process of being installed, and although the project should be finished in a few days, there may be a pause between completion of door installation and when the doors are painted. She added that the recent Park Board meeting was productive. She invited the Council to mark their calendars for December 4 as the annual Holiday Tree Lighting event date. The Park Board had also spent time considering options for outdoor refuse container replacements and providing guidance on the city-wide survey for the ice rink area at Holbrook Park. Lastly, Moeller shared that residents would be seeing social media posts commemorating Constitution Week, which was recently recognized by City Council action.

Administrator Updates - Nowezki indicated that parking lot striping work at City Hall, Nelson Lakeside Park, and Holbrook Park had recently been completed. The contractor will also be completing some street and crosswalk striping in areas throughout the City. She thanked City Clerk Moeller for her efforts on creating new parks and trails regulatory signage. Moeller added that the City had received a favorable quote for producing the actual signs, and an order would be moving forward. Nowezki encouraged residents to take a look at the stair climb video posted for September 11 on the Shoreline Fire Department's website. She also recalled for Council's benefit that the Well #1 project had

necessarily been moved up earlier than planned and that work had been completed. She displayed a photo that had been taken of the main pipe which had been discovered to have substantially degraded and, in Public Works Director Dierks words, was 'hanging on by a thread'. She noted that an agreement had just been signed for the water tower to be inspected this fall.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk / Zoning Administrator