



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 3, 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; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner reported that the Council had met in a work session prior to the regular meeting during which they discussed a request from Xcel Energy to install underground powerlines near the Luce Line Trail near Hardin Park. He clarified that nothing had been confirmed yet, and staff would still be having additional conversations with Xcel. Council and staff had also reviewed the results of televising of the City's sewer lines and discussed potential street improvement projects.

Additionally, on February 18, Mayor Miner had gone to a meeting at which Representative Morrison presented updates on activities in Washington, DC, and area mayors also shared their news on local happenings.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Kvale, to approve the agenda as amended, with the tabling of Agenda Item 7B. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of February 17, 2026 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-14 Appointing Resident Kelly Grady to the Park Board for a Term Effective Through December 31, 2028
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-15 Appointing Resident Travis Michels to the Planning Commission for a Term Effective Through December 31, 2029
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-16 Reappointing Resident Lori Goodsell to the Planning Commission for a Term Effective through December 31, 2029
- F. Approve the Purchase of a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 From Davis Chevrolet of Delano, MN

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Hennepin County Updates from Commissioner Heather Edelson

Hennepin County Commissioner Edelson gave a presentation updating the Council on events and activities taking place within the County, the 2026 budget, Federal cuts, anticipated cuts in 2027, the State and Federal Platforms along with their challenges, updates related to Hennepin health care and the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), highlights from projects around the County, and how the County was assisting projects in the Long Lake area. She briefly reviewed the Board appointments she holds and encouraged people to contact her if they had any input or concerns related to any of her committees.

Councilmember Dyvik asked about the County Road 6 drainage project and if it was tied in with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's work on holding ponds in the area.

Commissioner Edelson was uncertain of the answer but indicated she would find out and follow up with the City.

Councilmember Dyvik commented that there is a big issue with water quality on Long Lake and how it can be improved. He also inquired about the County Aid to Municipalities (CAM) program and asked if the City had received any of that.

Public Works Director Diercks replied that the City had gotten about \$7,000 to help offset sealcoating costs.

Councilmember Dyvik questioned whether the City could use the CAM funds to install pedestrian crossing signage at Wurzer Trail.

Diercks responded that would be a County decision.

Commissioner Edelson asked for a deeper explanation of the issue they were discussing.

Councilmember Dyvik gave a brief overview of the history of the crossing at Wurzer Trail and noted that the City has been talking about putting in some type of signaled pedestrian crossing with flashing lights located there. He reflected that Long Lake has been shut out of Local Government Aid from the State, so he was glad to see that they were able to get a bit of help from the CAM program. He asked about the total tax revenue that went to the County in 2025 and pointed out that it was an increase of 5.7%, which equates to around \$150,000,000. He wondered why there were so many cuts planned when the tax revenue increased by \$150,000,000.

Commissioner Edelson indicated that \$13,000,000 is earmarked for the Sheriff's department, HCMC received a little over \$10,000,000, and there were also a lot of human services included. She observed that many costs are going up, for example, capital improvements, and explained that the County had also seen some budget changes that they weren't prepared for.

Councilmember Feldman recalled that her information had not included expected State and Federal cuts, and asked if she had any idea of the aggregate cuts.

Commissioner Edelson responded that the County would be looking at a 12% levy increase if they were not able to get a budget in place. She briefly reviewed all the things the County was involved with as represented on the pie chart in her presentation and noted that the County also employs about 9,000 people, so there were also salaries and healthcare costs that increased.

City Administrator Nowezki asked what fell into the Operations and Disparity bucket.

Commissioner Edelson explained that it is comprised of a lot of operations and disparity elimination and stated that in certain communities, they were seeing higher levels of homelessness and police calls. The County is looking at how they may be able to reduce those numbers, and she recognized that it is a very broad category. She added that it was very different than human services though and briefly described what she saw as key differences.

Nowezki commented that she had received a number of calls from residents and business owners regarding fiscal disparities. Many of them just received their property tax statements and are very upset about the increases in both their property taxes and the fiscal disparity tax.

Commissioner Edelson clarified that the County did not have a separate fiscal disparity tax because it was built into the framework. She offered to pass along the line items of what fell under disparity elimination because she felt it would be helpful for them to understand it better.

Nowezki asked about the total cost for the facility that the County built last year.

Commissioner Edelson stated that the total cost was \$20 million.

Councilmember Feldmann noted that the shortfalls for HCMC currently fall on the County and asked if they knew what fraction of the people served are from outside of the County.

Commissioner Edelson explained that 20% of the people served by HCMC are from outside of the County.

Councilmember Feldmann added that HCMC is essentially a regional service and asked if there may be a way to invoice other entities, such as Ramsey County.

Commissioner Edelson indicated that they have actually cut services to people who live outside of Hennepin County, so unless someone lives in the County, they will not receive services at HCMC. She noted that the County is talking to the legislature about this issue because they are having to make budget cuts of around \$100 million, and Hennepin County taxpayers can no longer continue to pay for this alone.

Mayor Miner observed that City Clerk Moeller was not able to be at tonight's meeting but if she were here, she would ask about elections and if there was any forward movement on the County assisting smaller cities like Long Lake with administration of absentee voting or early voting.

Commissioner Edelson noted that the City of Greenwood had also asked about this and stated that what they have done is look to take over some of the training, but would not take it over. She believed that

Greenwood was looking for ways to make early voting more reasonable within their community. She indicated that she would have Dan from the County connect with the City to have a conversation around elections and explained that she felt they should continue to have this type of conversation because it can get expensive.

Nowezki added that early voting also requires a lot of hours for a small city to be open for elections, with not a lot of participation. She noted that being available during regular business hours was not the issue, but late nights and Saturdays.

Commissioner Edelson stated that she would think there should be some kind of exceptions for small cities and reiterated that they should connect on the elections issue after the meeting. She stated that the discussion tonight has given her some things to check on and assured the Council that she would circle back to them when she had some answers.

Mayor Miner asked if there were any updates on playground grants or if they had been cut.

Commissioner Edelson replied that they have been very successful and were great ways for the community to see some of the things that the County does for residents. She shared that she was trying to figure out ways to get as many playground grants as possible for the communities she represents.

Mayor Miner expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Edelson for her advocacy for the emergency gate project and believes that they were just waiting for the spring thaw for the project to commence.

Nowezki confirmed that she had spoken with a contact at the County, and they have committed to pay \$5,000 towards the gate. She added that the total cost had gone up a bit, with the total bill being just a little over \$21,000.

Commissioner Edelson asked for that information to be emailed to her so she can document it. She encouraged the Council to reach out to her throughout the year when they needed assistance.

Mayor Miner thanked Commissioner Edelson for taking the time to come give the Council an update.

~~B. Approve Agreement with WSB for Professional Services for the 2026 Pavement Management Improvement Project (Grand Avenue)~~ (TABLED)

C. Invitation for City Council Representative on the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) Policy Advisory Committee

Nowezki reported that the MCWD had recently met with Mayor Miner to discuss launching their 2027 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) update initiative. Following the meeting, the MCWD extended an invitation for a member of the Council to join their Policy Advisory Committee.

Mayor Miner stated that the time commitment would be during daytime business hours and five or six meetings would be held between now and December 2027.

Nowezki indicated that the MCWD was looking at three focus areas within Long Lake, including Holbrook Park by enhancing the walking paths and the wooded areas, the downtown area due to runoff coming from the industrial district, Nelson Lakeside Park, and they had also discussed possibilities for the former BP station lot.

Mayor Miner asked if resident Janet Schaefer would be part of this committee.

Nowezki replied that she had not been to any of the meetings she had attended, but she wouldn't be opposed to inviting her to join them at future meetings.

Councilmember Dyvik mentioned that Ms. Schaefer was also a member of the Long Lake Waters Association and would be a good addition to this committee.

Councilmember Kvale suggested that the Council come up with a primary member to attend advisory committee meetings, but also appoint an alternate.

Councilmember Dyvik noted that daytime hours can be difficult for him, but he was willing to try to make it work in his schedule.

Councilmember Newcomer volunteered to serve on the committee and mentioned that he thought his schedule may be more flexible than Councilmember Dyvik's.

Councilmember Dyvik offered to serve as the alternate.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, to appoint Councilmember Newcomer as the primary member of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) Policy Advisory Committee, with Councilmember Dyvik appointed as the alternate. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lake Water Quality – Councilmember Dyvik recalled attending the Long Lake Waters Association meeting, along with Councilmember Newcomer as liaison, at which Lake Restoration had presented. Lake Restoration does alum treatments for impaired waters. He and members of the Long Lake Waters Association were planning to take a look and see what grants and fundraising they could do to support alum treatments to benefit Long Lake. Councilmembers discussed alum treatments, past treatments in the lake, which government body or organization would have permitting authority for this action, what areas of the lake would have the alum applied, and possible questions to be asked when a presentation is made to the Council about potential alum treatments. Later under other business, Nowezki added that Jane Davidson from the Long Lake Waters Association had agreed to present information to the Council at a future meeting sometime in the next few months.

League of Minnesota Cities Event - Mayor Miner stated that next week he would be attending the League of Minnesota Cities City Day on the Hill event to learn more about what is happening at the capital.

Planning Commission Meeting - Councilmember Kvale indicated that there was going to be a Planning Commission meeting in March.

Administrative Assistant Applications - Nowezki reported that staff has been pleasantly surprised by the number of qualified applicants for the new Administrative Assistant position.

Public Works Update - Diercks stated that he had been very busy trying to keep the ship afloat and reviewed some of the activities the Public Works Department had undertaken recently.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Nowezki

City Administrator