



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 1, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; City Clerk/Zoning Administrator: Jeanette Moeller; and Public Works Director: Sean Diercks

Absent: Council: Todd Newcomer (with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner reported that the Council met in a work session prior to the regular meeting during which they had discussed the 2027 Preliminary Levy and Budget along with the 2027 Utility Rates.

He recalled that the Council had cancelled their second meeting in August because there wasn't anything pressing planned for the agenda.

He also expressed appreciation to the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for organizing the Corn Days Parade and to the Church of St. George for hosting their Corn Days festival.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Bryan Miller, 295 Lakeview Avenue – Mr. Miller thanked the Council for considering adoption of a resolution recognizing September 17 through 23, 2026 as Constitution Week and shared his perspective on the importance of the Constitution. He encouraged people of the United States to bring forth and revisit the Constitution and exercise their rights as 'the people', and asked that steps be taken to promote Constitution Week throughout the City.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of August 5, 2026 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of August 5, 2026 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission's (LMCC) 2027 Budget
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-38 Approving a Wage Step Increase for Public Works Maintenance Worker Michael Decker

- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-39 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2026-13 for the Gear Western Country Half Marathon and 5K Event on October 10, 2026; Approve the Issuance of a Noise Variance Permit
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-37 Recognizing September 17 to 23, 2026 as Constitution Week in the City of Long Lake

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Authorize Negotiation of a Temporary Access Agreement Allowing Use of Hardin Park Property by Xcel Energy for a Transmission Line Improvement Project

City Administrator Nowezki introduced Brian Mielke from WSB, who is working with Xcel Energy on their project to rebuild an existing transmission line between the City of Mound and Gleason Lake. Xcel Energy is requesting the City's permission to use Hardin Park as an access point for about a six-month period.

Brian Mielke of WSB reviewed the status of the transmission lines in the area and noted that Xcel Energy has been doing a lot of work to upgrade the lines because they were at their end of life. The transmission line to be replaced was built in 1960. He described some of the difficulties with regard to accessing the project area with the necessary equipment, which was why they were requesting to use Hardin Park. He responded to Council questions regarding the overall project, transmission lines versus distribution lines, replacement of the poles, and confirmed that the new poles will be taller than the current poles to bring them up to current standards. He noted that there are places where the service lines cross the transmission line and are on the same pole; and additionally, there will be places where the geometry will not work to move the service lines, so there may be instances where an existing pole will stay and just be cut off, with the new pole installed nearby.

Councilmember Dyvik asked if the transmission lines will make noise.

Mr. Mielke answered that when there is nothing wrong with the line, people should not be hearing noise. There are times when they can be heard, for example, if a clamp comes loose; however, in that event, repairs would be made so the line would no longer be heard.

City Clerk Moeller questioned if the proposal to use Hardin Park would be for traffic to drive through or if they were also requesting use of the property for project storage. She asked what kinds of equipment would be using the roads and pointed out that the streets leading to the park were in rough shape. If the plan would be to drive heavy equipment over them, that may be a bigger deal to the City.

Public Works Director Diercks commented that he and Mr. Mielke had talked about the condition of the streets when they'd met previously to discuss the request.

Moeller sought more detail on the actual proposed use of the streets and park property.

Mr. Mielke stated that the access would specifically be for the three-pole segment of the transmission lines between Wayzata Boulevard W and Highway 12 in the area of the Luce Line Trail. He anticipated that the contractor would need to use the access to bring in a drill rig, along with other project traffic.

Diercks asked when the work would potentially occur and added that he would like to see it done during the winter.

Mr. Mielke confirmed that the plans were to do this work during the winter.

Moeller requested more information on the average daily traffic impacts there may be and whether equipment would be parked in and stored at the park.

Mr. Mielke responded that the daily impacts would vary and the number of trips would be in the lower range, but he was unable to offer further information without first getting an estimate from the crew. The intent would not be to have any staging or storage of the equipment on the park property, other than the matting that they would put down to help protect the turf.

Diercks mentioned that there would be a watermain under their proposed route and asked about the difficulty of removing the matting if there happened to be a watermain break.

Mr. Mielke replied that the matting is pretty easy to get in and out, but it is heavy and requires equipment.

Diercks asked where Xcel vehicles would be parked and whether they'd be parking on street, and noted that his question was related to snow removal operations.

Mr. Mielke did not anticipate any parking being needed on the street or at the park. He voiced support for putting a condition into an agreement that there is to be no staging or overnight parking.

Diercks asked about the specific type of equipment that would be in this location and whether there would be vehicles like multi-ton excavators traveling through the park.

Mr. Mielke expected there would be a drill rig, bucket trucks, and a rubber-tired crane to set the poles. He added that there may be some trees that would have to come down in order to get the poles to the desired location.

Mayor Miner asked if the plan would be to replace any trees that are taken down.

Mr. Mielke confirmed that they can replace them or compensate the City for them.

Council, staff, and Mr. Mielke continued to discuss potential impacts to Hardin Park and the City trail related to the project's requested use of the property; whether the access might be requested again in the future for vegetation control around Xcel's lines; and the timing of the project work.

Nowezki concluded that the request before Council was to authorize City staff to continue working with Mr. Mielke for a temporary access agreement, finding the best route, and making sure the City is appropriately compensated.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Kvale, to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a temporary access agreement and compensation terms, subject to the City Attorney's review and approval, for the purpose of allowing Xcel Energy to utilize Hardin Park to access utility transmission lines located on/near the Luce Line State Trail. Ayes: all.

B. Adoption of 2027 City Utilities/Recycling Rates

Nowezki indicated that since the Council's last review of the proposed 2027 utilities and recycling rates, she had only made two adjustments to her proposal including reducing the recycling rate, and increasing the stormwater base fee rate. The stormwater rate increase was intended to begin planning for the City to work with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District on future stormwater improvements. She added that the Metropolitan Council sewer treatment fee would also be reduced for 2027, and reminded the Council that this was a pass-through fee.

Councilmember Dyvik asked if the Metropolitan Council sewer treatment fee was going down because it had been a dry year.

Nowezki believed that was one of the reasons and noted that Long Lake's utility rates continue to be lower than many of the neighboring communities.

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-40 establishing water, sewer, and stormwater utility rates; and establishing curbside residential recycling and residential organics recycling rates. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Orono High School Sports - Councilmember Dyvik stated that the Orono High School football team will be playing their first game of the season on Thursday.

Tobacco Product Regulation - Mayor Miner reported that on August 13, City Clerk Moeller and he had attended an Orono Regional Commercial Tobacco Prevention meeting. He gave a brief overview of the topics of discussion and some possible ordinance changes the City can make to existing ordinances relating to the sale of tobacco products to help align them more closely with other cities in the area.

City Clerk Updates - Moeller informed Council that the City Hall door replacement project is scheduled to take place in mid-September. She is also continuing to train for necessary upgrades to the City's meetings management and website software.

Public Works Updates - Diercks stated that striping of City Hall's parking lot should happen later in the week on Friday. He reported that since the same time last year, the City has cut down about 250 ash trees and hauled them off. He added that one of the larger trees in the City had also had to be cut down due to a limb falling on the picnic shelter at Nelson Lakeside Park, and now that the tree has been removed, Public Works staff will be working to piece things back together and make the necessary repairs to the shelter. Additionally, Public Works has been doing a lot of lead and copper sampling, which is required every three years. He informed Council that Well No. 1 would be put out of service starting on Thursday, explained that the well will be out of service for about four to eight weeks while repairs are underway, and indicated that the City would be relying on Well No. 2 until the work is complete. He voiced his hope that there will be some rain so that daily water usage can go down a bit. Lastly, Public Works is working on some trail modifications in Holbrook Park, using some surplus material from the Public Works yard.

Dates of Note - Mayor Miner reminded residents that City offices will be closed on September 7 in observance of Labor Day. He mentioned that a fall cleanup drop-off event is scheduled to take place at Orono Public Works on September 19, and more information is available on the City's website.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Nowezki
City Administrator