



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

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

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

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

The Long Lake Fire Department had been very busy over the last few weeks because there had been a series of fires that occurred in the surrounding fire service areas. He expressed his appreciation for the work that the firefighters had been doing despite the cold weather.

Mayor Miner also reported that he'd attended the Wayzata Area Chamber of Commerce meeting last week and heard a presentation by Sheriff Dawanna Witt.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of January 7, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-02 Approving Issuance of a Special Event Permit for the Orono Lions Club's 'Snowball Open' to be held February 1, 2025; and Authorize the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Unit to Permit the Event
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-03 Approving Issuance of a Special Event Permit for the 'Super Sunday Fat Tire Ride' to be held February 9, 2025; and Authorize the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Unit to Permit the Event

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.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Discuss Draft of Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 2 – Administration to Establish City Council Salaries and Include Council Guidelines

City Clerk Moeller gave an overview of a draft ordinance currently in progress that would amend City Code, Chapter 2 related to City Council salaries, for a start. She explained that due to a provision in state statute, any change in salary for the Council could not take effect until following a municipal election. She reported that while reviewing the chapter she had noticed that much of the usual content such as establishing the Council's meeting schedule and general operational guidelines had not been included, so her intent would be to add some of that language as well. She highlighted a particular section of the working draft to present differing options staff had considered related to Mayor and Council salaries and scenarios for ongoing salary adjustments. She noted that City Attorney Thames had reviewed drafts of the two options that staff had proposed and felt either approach would be approvable.

Council member Kvale commented that she felt the Mayor's position required a substantial amount more work and responsibility than the rest of the Council, so she wasn't sure that having the same escalator as the Council made sense. She suggested that an increase be considered as a percentage, but not tied to a specific COLA schedule.

Mayor Miner indicated that he had been the one who had initially brought up this topic after attending a Northwest Hennepin League of Municipalities meeting. The organization conducts various surveys for things related to salaries and he had found that Long Lake has frequently been at the bottom of the list. He added that he didn't like Long Lake being at the bottom of any list and would like to see them get to the middle of the pack.

Moeller noted that she had highlighted some of the Mayoral salaries for comparison with Long Lake.

Council member Newcomer suggested that they take the average salary of the cities that were highlighted by staff and set that as their base and then increase it by a percentage every year after.

Moeller explained that the draft ordinance would establish an initial salary increase effective in January 2027 that would bring the Mayor's wage up to \$4,800/year and Council wages up to \$4,200/year. She asked the Council what they would like to see from that point forward, with either an SSA/COLA approach or some sort of flat rate adjustment occurring after each municipal election. She clarified that the intent was to adopt an increase that recognized the workload of the Council, as well as a schedule for increases in the future given that the Council also should be receiving a regular cost of living adjustment.

Council member Kvale asked if they could combine a COLA with a not to exceed amount.

Moeller confirmed that would be an option and was something that staff had considered; for example, applying the two-year COLA percentage to the salaries, rounded to the nearest \$100 increment, but in an amount not to exceed \$200.

Mayor Miner noted that he felt that there were pros and cons to each option presented by staff and invited Council member Feldmann to share feedback, since he had a background in finance.

Council member Feldmann stated that he liked the COLA idea presented in the first option because it would scale over time, but expressed concern that it may add complexity to the process.

Moeller responded that staff would have no concern with following a COLA style approach and did not feel that the complexity would be an issue. She added that if moving forward with that scenario, she did like the idea of establishing a cap because that would help mitigate the number of times that the Council may want to consider adopting an extra ordinance to say that they were opting out of a particular cycle's salary increase.

The Council discussed the pros and cons of using the SSA COLA schedule or the CPI for the regional area, and the possibility of adopting a cap.

Council member Feldmann suggested that the regional CPI be used to establish COLA percentages.

Council member Newcomer stated that he would like to see use of the regional CPI COLA as well, with a not to exceed salary increase cap of 3%.

Moeller clarified that because the COLA would be reflective of a two-year period, in that circumstance, the not to exceed percentage would be 6%.

Mayor Miner indicated that based on the discussion, it sounded like the Council was in support of the first salary option presented and taking a look to see if the CPI would be the right fit for the COLA reference.

Moeller replied that she would work on the language for the salary option based on the Council's feedback. She also briefly reviewed some of the additional language she had added to the draft thus far.

Mayor Miner mentioned the idea of establishing a Code of Conduct for the Council.

Moeller admitted that she had already begun looking into examples of Code of Conduct language. She commented that her overall intent would be for Council related operational content to be general and positive in tone.

Council member Kvale asked about the status of the cannabis ordinance.

Moeller reminded the Council that they had approved cannabis ordinances at a recent meeting and that project was complete.

Council member Newcomer asked about the Code of Conduct mentioned by Mayor Miner and if it was designed to be suggestions or if there would actually be recourses if somebody violated it.

As an example, Moeller read aloud a portion of the City of Edina's Code of Conduct that she had found in a quick web search.

Mayor Miner reiterated that he would like to see the Council come up with a Code of Conduct within the next year or two. He asked about wages for the Planning Commission and if they would be automatically woven into what they were putting together for the Council.

Moeller stated that she would not include them under this section. She added that the Commission had just started receiving wages about two years ago and suggested that any wage discussion be a part of the review of the Planning Commission section of code.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wastewater Treatment Charges Meeting - Mayor Miner asked for an update about the meeting with Metropolitan Council that took place a few weeks ago and wondered if staff was going to send out an email with information. Council member Feldmann shared that the big message he had received from the meeting was that the City needed to do some intelligent reviews of its system and noted that it would be nice to get metering data from Orono flows. Council member Kvale suggested that Public Works Director Diercks come to a future meeting to discuss the issue with the Council. The Council discussed the massive flows Long Lake has experienced, some of the possible issues that could be happening in Long Lake's system could be causing the I/I issues, and the best way to allocate the City's resources in order to monitor the situation. Weske recalled that they talked about two possible grants at the meeting. Related to metering, at one time, the Metropolitan Council was going to meter data for a week. Weske stated he has been working with WSB to look into the possibility of piggybacking onto that and also to research the cost to just buy a meter. He added that the City should find a way to determine how much flow was coming in from Orono that is not being calculated correctly. Moeller added that the City Engineer had emailed her that he was working on putting together some information on point-of-sale ordinances as well as flow meter options for the City using WSB's metering. Weske stated that he would ideally like to use Metropolitan Council's meter for three weeks and then add on the rental of WSB's meter for three weeks in order to obtain six weeks of data, multiple times in a year. Council member Feldmann asked if there was CSV data that he could review from the past few years. Weske confirmed that he had that data and could share it with Council member Feldmann. Council member Feldmann observed that he felt the City just needed to establish where the flow was coming from and meters would be the answer. Moeller shared that conversations had begun regarding the point-of-sale ordinance issue, and staff's goal in following up on that would be to scale something back to more of a small city model version of a point-of-sale ordinance rather than a Golden Valley version. Council member Kvale asked whether a City point-of-sale ordinance that required an inspection of the system would also include some type of obligation for repair. Weske confirmed that the seller would have to make repairs. Moeller added that the intent would be for that to all be laid out in the ordinance, which would include language specifically spelling out what constitutes compliance. Weske mentioned that televising sewer lines would also provide the City important data and he will be working with Public Works Director Diercks on that further. Council member Feldmann questioned whether the Metropolitan Council had sent a PDF to the City that showed where all the sewer lines were located. Weske replied that he would ask them for the PDF information.

Submission of Bonding Request - Mayor Miner reported that Representative Andrew Myers had reached out to him over the weekend and encouraged the City to submit another street project bonding request for consideration.

Fire Services Grant - Council member Kvale inquired whether there had been any movement on future fire services and the possible grant. Weske responded that he had been working on the necessary submittals and has been in communication with the granting agency. He believed that Wayzata may be

planning to discuss the subject sometime in the next month or so, but they have new Councilmembers to on-board. He indicated that a rough draft of an RFP had gone out to City Attorney Thames and Wayzata City Manager Dahl, but he had asked them not to push it too hard if they weren't ready to talk about it yet.

LMCC Liaison Update - Council member Kvale advised that the LMCC was still looking for a buyer for their existing building and looking into strategies in order to ensure that they will be able to continue to operate. She stated that Midco was working through their formal process to possibly bring fiber to the whole City.

Next Meeting - Moeller reported that Hennepin County Commissioner Edelson will attend the next Council meeting.

Meeting Packet Distribution – Moeller asked if there were any Council members who were feeling ready to make a transition to email Council packets only, or if all members still wanted to receive a paper copy. *Following discussion, Mayor and Council members were in agreement that they did not need to have physical copies of the packet delivered to them but would like to have one available at the meeting, and anyone who wished to could also stop in prior to the meeting to pick their copy up.*

Rink Attendant Position - Council member Newcomer asked about the hours for the rink attendant position. Moeller stated that posted hours are 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm on weekdays, and 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm on weekends. She added that the hours can go a bit longer if there were skaters on the ice, and clarified that the position was open to anyone 16 years old or older.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator