



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; City Attorney: John Thames; City Planner: Hannah Rybak; 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:

He gave thanks to the Long Lake Garden Club on behalf of the City for the planting and cleanup work they did last week in the City's monument sign areas and for the planters along the former BP lot.

Last week, Mayor Miner attended a Regional Council of Mayors meeting during which they'd visited the Federal Reserve. He had also attended a Northwest League of Municipalities meeting, where they received presentations from the candidates running for Hennepin County Attorney.

Mayor Miner reminded residents that Memorial Day weekend was coming up, and although there would not be a ceremony at Nelson Lakeside Park this year, there would be commemorative events held at Union Cemetery and at St. George's Cemetery.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Bryan Miller, 295 Lakeview Avenue – Mr. Miller shared that he had lived in the City for 27 years and supported the recent decision to raise the pay for the City Council. He expressed his appreciation to City Administrator Nowezki and City Clerk Moeller for their help when he had needed it. He stated that the proposed bonfire event at Nelson Lakeside Park was a great idea, and the last time one occurred, it had been a great event that allowed community members to sit around and chat. He commented that he walks along the east Long Lake trail every morning and he personally felt the lake was a mess due to the wake boats. He has found wake boats to be detrimental to the lake and noted that there was an organization in northern Minnesota that was able to successfully ban them from their lakes.

Roger Adams, 1130 Underhill Circle – Mr. Adams was in agreement with the sentiments voiced by Mr. Miller, though he was not in favor of banning wake boats in the state. He did suggest that it would make sense to put reasonable restrictions and regulations on wake boat activity. He recalled that last year, during the surf tour, there was a ‘no-wake’ declaration on the lake and the event participants had adhered to those restrictions, but there were two other spectator boats that had decided to wake surf and had knocked his dock over. He referenced the many studies that have become available related to the effect that wake boats have on a lake.

Cindy Adams, 1130 Underhill Circle – Ms. Adams stated that the wakeboarders are causing a water quality issue and are eroding the shoreline. She referenced the problems that the blue algae caused her last year and explained that if the wakeboarders continue to cause these problems, the lake will die.

Brennan Greene, Owner of Birch’s on the Lake – Mr. Greene indicated that he appreciated the City considering their Special Event Permit request to hold the surf tour. He also recalled that their event had adhered to the ‘no-wake’ restriction that was in effect last year, but problems had arisen with others who had hauled in to wake boat on the lake. He mentioned that wakeboarding is very different from wake surfing, but recognized that Long Lake is a very small lake that definitely has water quality issues. He encouraged the Council to consider designating Long Lake as a ‘no-wake’ lake entirely because of its size. He stated that their planned surf tour event is very small and Birch’s will be happy to adhere to any conditions that the City wanted to put in place. He noted that Birch’s has asked Water Patrol to have somebody there to ensure that everyone follows the rules. He reiterated that he would love to see Long Lake become a ‘no-wake’ lake and referenced how nice it was in the Boundary Waters when they don’t have to hear the motors.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of May 5, 2026 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of May 5, 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. Amendment to Section 16 of the Zoning Ordinance to Allow Commercial Kennels as a Permitted Use in the I-1 Industrial District

City Planner Rybak introduced the application requesting a text amendment related to allowing commercial kennels as a permitted use in the I-1 Industrial zoning district. She reviewed the definition of a commercial kennel and provided information about the applicant who would like to open a Dog Wellness Club in the City. She pointed out that the City’s I-1 and the I-2 zoning districts were virtually the same, so staff felt it would be reasonable to allow kennels in I-1 as well as I-2. The Planning Commission held the required public hearing on this item at their meeting last week and subsequently voted in favor of recommending approval of the request. She suggested that in the future, the City may want to give consideration to whether two Industrial districts still make sense or if they should be combined into one.

City Clerk Moeller added that the property owner was very enthusiastic about the business being able to locate at her property.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Miner, to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-02 amending Section 16 of the City's Zoning Ordinance to allow commercial kennels as a permitted use in the I-1 Industrial zoning district. Ayes: all.

B. Special Event Permit Request for the Minnesota Inboard Summer Surf Tour Stop at Birch's on the Lake

Moeller gave an overview of the Special Event Permit request by Birch's on the Lake to host the Minnesota Inboard Summer Surf Tour Stop on June 20, 2026 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. She outlined changes to the proposed conditions that had been made since the previous year's event, and noted that Birch's had checked a box on their application to indicate that they were requesting a Water Patrol deputy be present at their event. She had also spoken with Water Patrol and confirmed the City's support for having a deputy present during the event. She reiterated that the issues that arose last year were not a direct result of the surf tour but were due to others who'd trailered to the lake. She had encouraged the Water Patrol to check the reports from last year so they would be informed of what had occurred in 2025.

Council and staff discussed what triggers the need for a Special Event Permit; how no-wake advisories are communicated to the public; and what aspects of the permit can be controlled by the City.

Councilmember Dyvik remembered that regardless of posted signage and advisories, when the City was under a no-wake restriction last year, there were violations happening every day. He encouraged people who witness violations to call law enforcement.

Councilmember Feldmann shared an example last year where a pontoon was creating a wake, and he had been able to let them know there was a no-wake restriction. He stated that they'd informed him they didn't know and asked if the City had considered creating better signage so it was easier for people to notice; however, it was noted that the signage was posted obviously by the launch.

Councilmember Dyvik voiced that he too shared the concerns about the conditions of the lake that were commented upon during Open Correspondence. The lake's water quality is worsening and conditions are deteriorating earlier every year. He noted that he did not have wake boats at the top of his list for the cause of the lake issues, and while he agreed they need to operate in deeper water, he felt the real problem was that there was too much phosphorus in the lake. He highlighted information about recent studies related to alum treatments and stated that he would like to see an alum treatment happen for the lake. He was not in favor of having Long Lake become a no-wake lake because it was here for recreational use, but stressed that people need to act responsibly.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Newcomer, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-24 approving issuance of Special Event Permit #S2026-06 for the Minnesota Inboard Summer Surf Tour Stop to be held on June 20, 2026; to approve issuance of a Noise Variance Permit; and to authorize the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Unit to permit the event.

Mayor Miner added that he hadn't realized until tonight that wakeboarding and wake surfing were different and observed that he hoped the issue of wake boat usage would be addressed at a legislative level because Minnesota is the Land of 10,000 Lakes, and he would like to see consistency throughout the state.

Councilmember Newcomer thanked Mr. Greene for being proactive and asking the Water Patrol to be on duty during the event.

Ayes: all.

C. Special Event Permit Request for the Park Board's Long Lake Beach Bonfire at Nelson Lakeside Park

Moeller indicated that the Park Board has submitted a request for a Special Event Permit to hold a Long Lake Beach Bonfire event on May 30, 2026 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Nelson Lakeside Park, with the fire to be supervised by the Shoreline Fire Department. She briefly reviewed what was planned for the event, conditions included in the permit, and commented that the Park Board's intent was to be able to offer a summer kick-off event for residents.

City Administrator Nowezki added that the wood used for the fires would be from ash trees that were taken down by the City.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the issuance of Special Event Permit #S2026-08 for the Long Lake Beach Bonfire event to be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Nelson Lakeside Park, subject to the conditions of approval outlined in the permit; and to approve the issuance of a Noise Variance Permit for the event. Ayes: all.

D. 2026 Sanitary Lining Project – Accept Plans and Specifications and Authorize Advertising for Bids

Nowezki reminded the Council that they had discussed this project in detail at their April 7 meeting. She reviewed the proposal for sewer lining projects in Districts 3 and 5, north of Highway 12 and west of Long Lake; and also including a spot repair of an area of sanitary sewer pipe in District 1 located east of Wolf Pointe Trail and under the wetland.

Councilmember Feldmann asked if there was a way to get a before-and-after of the spot repair being proposed for District 1.

Nowezki pointed out that the proposal was only to repair a very small section within District 1 because the costs were higher than expected, and the grant the City received was much lower than expected.

Councilmember Feldmann stated that he would still like to see some before-and-after information if it could be made available.

Nowezki responded that she would check with Public Works Director Diercks to see what may be possible. She indicated that she had a sewer lining project plan for the City over the next five years and noted that it may be easy to tell what the flows are when they get the bill from the Metropolitan Council. In an effort to be cost-conscious, she had told WSB that they did not have to attend tonight's meeting. She outlined the funding sources by which the City would pay for the project.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-26 accepting the Plans and Specifications for the 2026 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project and to authorize advertising for bids. Ayes: all.

E. Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 2 – Administration, Article II. City Council to Establish City Council Salaries and Include Council Guidelines; and Article III. Officers and Employees to Address the Administrative Organization of the City

Moeller highlighted areas of the ordinance that the Council had given staff direction to amend during their last review at the May 5 meeting.

Mayor Miner commented that the Council had discussed the changes at their work session prior to the regular meeting, and pointed out that the new Mayor and Council wages would not take effect until after the election. At the Council's last meeting, he noted that City Clerk Moeller mentioned she was unable to remember a raise for the Council being approved in her time with the City. The idea of a wage increase at this point was to bring the Council's pay schedule to a rate on par with other cities in the area.

Moeller added that following the last Council meeting, she'd been able to confirm that a pay raise for the Council had not occurred since at least 2007, which is when their electronic records were available back to. She thanked City Attorney Thames for reviewing the proposed amendments to the ordinance and for rewording the special elections language section in particular so it was easier for a reader to understand.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Miner, to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-01 amending the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 – Administration, Article II, City Council to establish Council salaries and include general Council operating guidelines; and amending Article III, Officers and Employees, to provide for background check authority and address the administrative organization of the City. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Miner, to direct staff to publish a summary of Ordinance 2026-01. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Comments From Councilmember Newcomer - Councilmember Newcomer commended the Park Board for the work they have put into the upcoming beach bonfire event. He also reminded residents that prom is coming up this weekend and urged everyone to be safe and to watch out for the kids.

Condition of Long Lake - Councilmember Dyvik reiterated that the comments he shared during the earlier discussion about the condition of the lake were a big concern for him, and he was hoping that the City would be able to find a solution that would improve the quality of the water. He noted that the Long Lake Waters Association was a broader group that covered the lakes in the watershed and wasn't solely focused on Long Lake. He gave examples of possible cost-sharing options between Orono, Long Lake, and other potential fundraising efforts to help pay for ongoing treatment for the lake.

Administrator Nowezki's Review - Mayor Miner reported that at the work session prior to the regular meeting, the Council had conducted a six-month performance review for Administrator Nowezki. The Council was very appreciative of the work she has done over the last six months and of the things she has accomplished.

Buckhorn Days - Councilmember Kvale shared that the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce is intending to hold the Buckhorn Days festival on July 25, 2026.

Selection of Early Voting Option - Moeller explained that she had attended election administration training last week, and the day before the training, legislation had been passed to allow cities that have been delegated to administer absentee voting by their counties to opt to either fully participate for the full 46 days before the election or to only participate in the 18-day early voting period. She gave an overview of the differences between the two options and indicated that she was asking for support from the Council for the City to select the 18-day early voting period option. She expressed some of her frustrations and the feelings of failure she has experienced as it relates to being able to manage regular City business in a timely fashion in addition to her early voting duties. She mentioned that she would also like to continue to voice her opinion that she would like the County to consider establishing a west Hennepin early voting center in 2028 to relieve some of the burden small cities are experiencing. She added that she has also considered putting the County on notice that the City had a 'soft declaration of intent' to petition to become a non-delegated jurisdiction, which means that the City would not administer absentee or early voting, like Medicine Lake.

It was the consensus of the full Council to support City Clerk Moeller in her suggestions related to early voting and communication with the County.

Administrator Updates - Nowezki reported that the Highway 12 emergency access gate has been completely restored and is fully operational. She also thanked Anita Secord and Laureen Carlson for their work on the plantings at the monument signs and at the vacant City lot. She displayed a few photos of their efforts and noted that they had worked hard and were dedicated to serving the community because they were the only current members of the Garden Club.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk