



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 1, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

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

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

Absent: Council: Gina Joyce (with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

Mayor Miner mentioned that fall is in the air, temperatures are changing a bit, and he always is appreciative of the season changes in Minnesota.

On September 19, Mayor Miner, Council Feldmann, and a few staff members had attended a Zvago Long Lake grand opening event. It offered a good time to spend with their 88 residents, and he was impressed with how ingrained and engaged the Zvago residents have already become in Long Lake.

Also on September 19, Mayor Miner had attended Wayzata's Mayoral candidate debate presented by the League of Women Voters. Wayzata has three candidates running for Mayor, and he reflected that it was great to have an opportunity hear the issues the candidates are running on. The League of Women Voters is also hosting another debate this evening for Orono Mayor and Council candidates, which he expected some Long Lake Council members would likely attend.

Last week, Mayor Miner had coffee with the future Mayor of Medina, Todd Albers, who is running unopposed. Mr. Albers is on Medina's City Council now, and Mayor Miner noted he will be a great partner and it had been good to spend some time with him.

The Orono Homecoming football game had taken place the previous weekend, and he shared that it had been nice to see folks out and about enjoying Homecoming events as well.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of September 17, 2024 City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of September 17, 2024 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-45 Approving Site Improvements for The Stax Development and Authorizing Commencement of the Warranty Period
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-46 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2024-08 for the Gear Western Half Marathon and 5K on October 19, 2024; Approve Issuance of a Noise Variance Permit Authorizing Use of Sound Amplification Equipment During the Event

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Kelly Grady, 271 Greenhill Lane – Ms. Grady noted that as part of her work with ‘Figure Out Fire’, she receives many emails related to the future of fire services. She read aloud an email she’d received that had been accompanied by a poem contributed by an anonymous author related to the fire services situation. She shared that she felt the poem deserved recognition, given that the person who authored it was so moved by what’s going on in the community that they had taken the time to write it.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approve Agreement with WSB for Professional Services for the 2025 Pavement Management Improvement Project

City Engineer Oliver gave an overview of WSB’s design and administration proposal for the 2025 Pavement Management Improvement Project. He explained that Lindawood Lane had been selected to be the project’s focus because of the roadway’s deteriorated pavement conditions as well as existing drainage issues near the City’s sanitary sewer lift station. He outlined details from the proposal and design considerations including expected outcomes, the existing drainage issues and proposed changes including catch basins, soil borings, proposed schedule of the project, and reviewed the estimated project cost.

Council member Dyvik questioned how much of the overall cost would be related to the installation of curb and gutter.

Council member Kvale asked how much the City currently had available within the Pavement Management Fund account and if it would cover the costs.

City Clerk Moeller stated that she would have to defer to City Administrator Weske for that answer. She added that there have been some comments from neighbors in the area about water and suggested they would likely be appreciative of a better drainage outcome.

Oliver estimated that the cost for the concrete curb and gutter portion of the project would be about \$14,000.

Council member Kvale asked if after the water goes into the catch basins, would it then go into the storm sewer.

Oliver confirmed that following the catch basins, the water would go into the storm sewer and described the overall route that the water would take.

Council member Dyvik inquired if the water would eventually go into Long Lake Creek.

Oliver replied that he believed that is where it would eventually go, but noted that he would confirm that information for the Council.

Mayor Miner asked if he had any predictions about costs based on asphalt projects that have taken place over the last few years.

Oliver responded that when oil prices spiked several years ago, project costs went up, but he noted that they were beginning to drop/stabilize and were fairly close to pre-pandemic levels. He explained that oil costs impact everything that is done on a street project.

Council member Dyvik sought confirmation that there were no utilities that would have to be dealt with under the roadway and asked how long it would take to complete the job.

Oliver indicated no utility replacements were involved, and stated that his guess is that the project would take anywhere from three to five weeks from start to finish.

Council member Dyvik mentioned that if possible, it would be nice to get it done before the summer.

City Administrator Weske commented that one thing they will be keeping an eye on is not allowing the contractor to leave for weeks at a time like what had happened on the last project. The road will need to be kept open for the residents to have access. The contractor may need to flip flop work areas in order to keep access open, which may make the project take a bit longer to complete than just doing it and getting out.

Council member Dyvik understood that but wanted to try to minimize the inconvenience for the residents as much as possible.

Council member Feldmann asked how long things typically sit between the time when the roadway is ground up and when they pour the asphalt.

Oliver answered that it can be a day or two between those steps, though that is also somewhat dependent on the weather. He added that if conditions are dry, work can be done more quickly than if it is more humid.

Council member Kvale wondered whether the project would result in a different price point if it is necessary to replace the corrugated drain pipe.

Oliver explained that it was a shallow pipe and the contractor will want to make sure that they 'bed' it properly. He indicated that there would be people on site monitoring it and conducting soil density testing.

Weske stated that they had discussed a bid alternative for sump pumps to be able to have a line directly out of the home and into a drain tile to facilitate correct drainage and not put drainage through the sewer system to impact I & I.

Council member Kvale reiterated her question about how much money was in the Pavement Management Fund account.

Weske indicated that by the time the project would move forward, there will have been two years' worth of franchise fees deposited in the fund. When spring comes around, he would anticipated there should be over \$300,000 available in the fund, and at project completion, the fund should 100% cover project costs.

Moeller clarified that the current action item before Council was the design services proposal only. Design specifications would be presented to the Council by WSB for approval at a later date.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Feldmann, to approve a Professional Services Agreement with WSB for the 2025 Pavement Management Improvement Project. Ayes: all.

Council member Dyvik asked when the City would begin talking about what project will follow this project.

Weske stated that they would need to re-evaluate the Pavement Management Plan, but they could begin those discussions soon.

Council member Dyvik indicated that he felt that there were some other big street project needs within the City.

Updates Regarding Fire Department Matters

Mayor Miner indicated that the Long Lake Fire Department's annual Fire Prevention Open House would be held on October 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

He shared that the legal case of the City of Long Lake v. the City of Orono was scheduled to go to trial in January 2025 and depositions have begun in preparation for that.

He commented that he had heard this morning from an area Fire Chief that discussions are going really well between the Mound Fire Department and the St. Bonifacius Fire Department about a potential merge.

Lastly, he noted that the next Fire Advisory Board meeting would be held on October 23, 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS

LMCC Update - Council member Kvale reported that there had been an LMCC Executive Committee meeting earlier today related to the sale of their property, and they had voted to lower the price in order to make it more attractive to buyers.

Quorum Notice for Fire Prevention Open House - Council member Feldmann asked if the Long Lake Fire Department Fire Prevention Open House had been noticed for a quorum of Council members to attend. Moeller replied that she had drafted a notice to post earlier in the day, but before posting, she wanted

to ask the Council if there were any other upcoming events that they were interested in attending that she should include on the notice. The Council came to the conclusion that they did not know of any other events or meetings coming up that would need to be noticed. Moeller confirmed that she would go ahead and post the notice for the upcoming Fire Prevention Open House in the morning.

Upcoming EDA Meeting - Council member Dyvik asked if the EDA was still scheduled to meet on October 15. Moeller indicated that the EDA would be meeting on October 15 and would be reviewing the two proposals received for the former BP site. Council member Dyvik questioned whether Moeller knew whether the full EDA would be able to be present. Moeller stated that she was anticipating that the full or a majority of EDA members would be present.

Downtown City Banners - Council member Dyvik noted that he felt the City's banners had reached their life expectancy and have gotten pretty faded. He suggested that the City start looking into alternatives for next year. He reminded the Council that one idea he'd shared previously was to have local art entries submissions for some type of contest. If they decided to do something like that, they would need to start it in the near future so there would be time to get the banners printed for installation next spring. Moeller outlined some possible ways that an art contest could be communicated and judged. She noted that if the expectation would be for her to drive this effort, she would respectfully request to delay moving forward until December, because she would still have a fair amount of election activity through mid-November. Council member Dyvik offered to help with the project as well.

Fact-Based City Budget Data Presentation - Mayor Miner commented that there had been a lot of questions swirling around the community over the last few weeks related to budgets, taxes, property taxes, and comparisons between cities. He'd observed quite a bit of misinformation on social media and had spent some time closely reviewing actual data. He highlighted social media claims that had been made by Orono Mayor Walsh about things like how Orono tax rates compared to surrounding cities, and reflected that he believed those statements have created some consternation and questions about taxes. Mayor Miner gave a detailed presentation he'd independently prepared entitled 'Fact-Based City Budget Data' to address statements and misinformation regarding local area tax levies; how budgets and levies are actually computed; explaining the relationship between tax capacity and property values; explaining and comparing 'Key Performance Indicators' between Long Lake and Orono, as identified by the two cities' 2023 annual audits completed by the same auditing firm; comparing tax per capita data from the cities' audits; responding to a social media post by Mayor Walsh that specifically mentioned Long Lake, Maple Plain and Mound and paying double or triple for 'less services'; discussing fund balance policies versus actual fund balance percentages between the cities as stated in their recent audits; and that provided a comparison of both Long Lake and Orono's water and sewer charges, pointing out that the rates Orono is charging are drastically higher than Long Lake's. He clarified that his presentation was not intended to serve as an 'us versus them' situation because Orono is a great City and Long Lake has a good relationship with its Orono neighbors; however, he wanted to recognize the fact that social media posts have been spreading misinformation and have caused angst among residents of the two communities. His intent with his presentation was simply to draw attention to more accurate information about how residents are taxed and how that relates to the annual property tax bill.

Meeting Reminders - Mayor Miner reminded residents that the next Park Board meeting would be held on October 14, and the next EDA and Council meetings would be on October 15, 2024.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller, City Clerk