



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 17, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Present: Mayor: Tim Hultmann; Council: Tom Skjaret, Donny Chillstrom, and Liz Olson

Staff Present: Planning Consultant: Addison Lewis; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Kurt Kaminski (with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LONG LAKE NEWS UPDATE

Mayor Hultmann shared the following updates:

- Mayor Hultmann extended well wishes to Council member Kaminski for a speedy recovery from his recent knee surgery.
- Following up on resident feedback received at the CSAH 112 Turnback Project open forum, Mayor Hultmann indicated he had spoken with Police Chief Risvold and officers will be upping enforcement activities along CSAH 112. The Police Chief also is supportive of the City pursuing a reduction in speed limits with Hennepin County and MnDOT. Mayor Hultmann will be contacting the City's County and legislative representatives to request their support of the City's position that speed limits warrant a reduction.
- Mayor Hultmann is requesting information from the Minnesota Board of Realtors and the Hennepin County Assessor's office regarding the impact of bike and walking trails on residential property values, and also questioned Planning Consultant Lewis regarding his experiences in development planning and the incorporation of trails. Lewis noted that the question of trail availability comes up often during the public engagement phase of development projects, whether urban or suburban.
- Mayor Hultmann expressed appreciation to Public Works for their recent snow plowing efforts.
- The Long Lake Firefighters Relief Association recently sent out their annual fundraising mailing. Funds donated help support community outreach events, the Firefighters Memorial project, and will be set aside for events that will be associated with the 100 year anniversary of the Long Lake Fire Department. Mayor Hultmann asked that residents consider donating to their cause.

Lastly, Mayor Hultmann encouraged continued support of local businesses, and extended happy holidays wishes to the viewing audience.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Chillstrom, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of December 3, 2013 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of December 3, 2013 City Council Meeting
- C. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of December 10, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting
- D. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- E. Approve the Addendum to Recording Secretary Service Agreement for 2014 Recording Secretary Services Between the City and TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.
- F. Approve Agreement for Use of the City of Plymouth Yard Waste Site by the City of Long Lake

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one appeared to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Planning Case #2013-05: Long Lake Chiro Center, 1865 W Wayzata Boulevard / Variance to Allow for a Wall Sign that Exceeds Maximum Area and Height Permitted

Planning consultant Lewis reported that the applicant, Long Lake Chiro Center, is requesting two variances from City Code relating to signs. The applicant wishes to install a wall sign on the south façade of the building that exceeds the permitted area and height allowed in the B-2 General Business zoning district. The Council previously reviewed the applicant's request at their November 19 meeting and had expressed concern that the sign size proposed was nearly double the maximum allowed. Illumination of the sign at the size requested and impact of illumination on neighboring properties was also of concern. Mayor and Council asked that the applicant scale back the size of their proposed sign and submit a revised sign plan for review by the Planning Commission and action by the Council. The applicant has made revisions to the sign plan, with the new sign proposed being composed of lettering only rather than lettering against a rectangular purple framed background. The letters would be illuminated. With the change to a lettering format, the sign proposed has been reduced from 72 square feet in size to 52 square feet. The Planning Commission reviewed the revised sign plan and unanimously recommended the Council approve the requested variances; however, the Commission stated they would be opposed to any restrictions on hours of illumination as they felt illumination of the lettering would not create any negative impacts on neighboring properties.

Council member Skjaret commented that it can be a challenge for the Planning Commission and City Council to rule consistently on zoning laws over time. He had asked the City Clerk to provide historical examples of Council action taken on sign variance requests over the past several years, and reviewed examples of requests that were both denied or approved. He pointed out that approval of this sign variance constitutes approval of any future 52 square foot sign located in place of the Chiro Center sign should a new tenant replace them in the space. He indicated he would desire a decision on the variance requests to be fact-based addressing how the situation is unique.

Council members and staff discussed the examples of sign variances previously approved in comparison to the current request by Chiro Center.

City Clerk Moeller noted that a variance was approved for roof mounted signage at the John and Lisa James building to assure that all businesses could have representative signage visible from the

roadway the building fronts on, as the unique configuration of the building does not allow adequate wall space for visible signage. Although configuration of the Town Center is not an issue, approval of Chiro Center's sign variance request would assure that their sign is visible from the roadway their business entrance fronts onto – in this case, the Highway 12 bypass.

Planning consultant Lewis added that the applicant has provided a letter with signatures from the three other tenants on the back side of the Town Center building stating they are aware of Chiro Center's sign variance application and that they are not interested in putting up their own tenant wall signage.

Council members continued debate on the sign variances requested, and ultimately, the majority of Council members present viewed the sign request favorably.

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Chillstrom, to adopt Resolution No. 2013-46 approving variances for a commercial wall sign in the B-2 General Business zoning district that exceeds the maximum area and height permitted for property located at 1865 West Wayzata Boulevard with the findings of fact noted in the Staff Report dated November 19, 2013 and expressed at the November 12 and December 10, 2013 Planning Commission meetings with the following conditions:

- a. The sign shall not exceed 17 feet in height*
- b. The sign shall not exceed 52 square feet in area*
- c. The sign shall be located on the building as shown on the sign plan presented to the Planning Commission on December 10, 2013*
- d. The wall sign shall not extend more than 18 inches from the wall it is attached to.*
- e. Only the letters and symbols may be illuminated within an opaque background.*
- f. Internal lighting must comply with the lighting requirements outlined within the City Ordinances.*

Ayes: all.

2014 City Appointments

Moeller reported that in a work session prior to the regular meeting, Council had discussed the annual list of appointments to be made to the City's various subcommittee and liaison positions and agreed upon appointments as follows:

- Council member Tom Skjaret to the position of Mayor Pro-Tempore;
- Council members Tom Skjaret and Donny Chillstrom to the Fire Advisory Committee, and Council member Liz Olson as alternate;
- Council member Donny Chillstrom as the Park Board Liaison;
- Mayor Tim Hultmann as the Planning Commission Liaison, and Council members Kurt Kaminski and Donny Chillstrom as alternates; and
- Council members Liz Olson and Tom Skjaret to the Orono / Long Lake Utility Agreements Committee.

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Skjaret, to adopt the City of Long Lake 2014 Appointments Worksheet, including the appointments as stated. Ayes: all.

Adoption of Final Payable 2014 Levy, Budget, CIP and Pay Plan Resolutions

Mayor and Council agreed that there had been adequate discussion of the proposed budget and there were no further questions to be addressed.

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Chillstrom, to adopt Resolution No. 2013-50 establishing the final 2013 tax levy collectible in 2014. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Skjaret, to adopt Resolution No. 2013-51 establishing the final 2014 total city budget. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Chillstrom, to adopt Resolution No. 2013-52 establishing the 2014 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Chillstrom, to adopt Resolution No. 2012-53 establishing the 2014 Pay Plan. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Solar Lighting Update – Council member Skjaret had noticed that the solar lighting fixtures in the landscaping along the east end of W Wayzata Boulevard are working great this year. Mayor Hultmann commented on battery replacements, repositioning of solar panels and other ongoing maintenance items that keep the solar lighting in good working order.

Snowball Open – Council member Chillstrom noted that the annual Orono Lions Club Snowball Open has been scheduled for January 25, 2014 and holes are still available for sponsorship. Tee times for the event are available for purchase online at www.oronolions.org.

Ice Development for Carp Harvest – Council member Olson questioned whether recent snows had negatively impacted ice formation on Long Lake, and wondered whether the ice will be thick enough for the carp harvesters to return this season. Council member Chillstrom stated he has been in contact with local fisherman who've indicated the snow had not hindered ice formation and colder than average temperatures were resulting in thick ice. Mayor Hultmann will be contacting the carp harvesters to inquire whether Long Lake will be on their schedule this winter.

Happy Birthday Wishes – Council member Skjaret wished Council member Chillstrom a happy birthday.

Recycling Date Change – City Clerk Moeller reported that Waste Management is moving forward with changing the City's recycling dates to Tuesdays in 2014, and will be direct mailing Long Lake residents with a letter and schedule to inform them of the change.

Financial Consultant – Council member Skjaret asked how things were going with the financial consultant from AEM. Moeller responded that overall the arrangement has been a positive and of great help.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Skjaret, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk