



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 21, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm.

Present: Mayor: Tim Hultmann; Council: Kurt Kaminski, Tom Skjaret, and Liz Olson

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Fire Chief: James Van Eyll; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Donny Chillstrom (with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LONG LAKE NEWS UPDATE

Mayor Hultmann shared the following updates:

- The City Council will be holding another Public Open Forum to receive comments from residents and business representatives regarding CSAH 112 Turnback Project plans. Hennepin County is seeking City Council approval of the final layout, and the Council is anticipating making their decision at the February 18 regular City Council meeting. Once approved, project work is slated to begin in 2017, though City officials and staff continue to hope work will begin earlier than expected.
- Mayor Hultmann thanked Public Works for continuing to do a marvelous job of snow removal this winter season, and for coming in at all hours and on weekends to keep streets clear of snow.

Lastly, Mayor Hultmann encouraged continued support of local businesses as often as possible.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of January 7, 2014 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of January 7, 2014 City Council Meeting
- C. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of January 14, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting
- D. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2014-03 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2014-01 for the Orono Lions Snowball Open 2014 to be Held Saturday, January 25, 2014

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

Appointment of LLFD Officers and Coordinators

Fire Chief Van Eyll reported that after an application and interview process, it is the recommendation of Fire Department staff that Shane Gardner be appointed District Captain, Kelly Shaughnessy be appointed Fire Captain, Michael Helm be appointed Fire Lieutenant, Erik Palmer be appointed Fire Lieutenant, Tom Aldrich be re-appointed Secretary and Pat Cotton be re-appointed SCBA Coordinator. The interview panel consisted of the Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, District Captain, and Fire Lieutenants. Fire Chief Van Eyll reviewed the certifications and departmental experience of each of the officer candidates proposed for appointment.

Fire Chief Van Eyll also responded to Council member questions regarding fire station staffing and hiring; the results of the Long Lake Fire Relief Relief Association Second Call fundraiser mailing; and noted that funds are already being set aside in anticipation of events celebrating the Long Lake Fire Department's centennial anniversary in 2015.

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Olson, to promote Fire Lieutenant Shane Gardner to District Captain, Fire Lieutenant Kelly Shaughnessy to Fire Captain, Firefighter Michael Helm to Fire Lieutenant, Firefighter Erik Palmer to Fire Lieutenant, Firefighter Tom Aldrich to Secretary, and Firefighter Pat Cotton to SCBA Coordinator. Ayes: all.

Fire Chief Van Eyll noted that the time of the January 29 Fire Advisory subcommittee meeting has been changed to start at 3:00 pm in order to resolve a scheduling conflict.

OTHER BUSINESS

Snowball Open – Council member Kaminski stated that the annual Orono Lions Club Snowball Open will be held on January 25, and funds raised at the event benefit local charities and programs. Council member Skjaret added that the fee to participate is \$20 for pre-registration, and \$25 if registering the day of the event.

Holbrook Park Warming House Weather Closures – Mayor Hultmann asked at what point the Holbrook Park warming house facility is closed due to severe cold. Moeller responded that the warming house remains closed when the air temperature is -10 degrees or colder, or when severe windchills are -20 or colder.

Strategic Planning Topics – Council member Olson noted that at the Council's upcoming strategic planning work session, it would be good to revisit the City's EDA and opportunities for a revised EDA to become more active.

AmericInn Sign Removed – Mayor Hultmann advised Council and staff that the AmericInn sign at the hotel has been removed, and the hotel is operating under a new name advertised in the hotel lobby. The hotel changed ownership within the past few years and people continue to report negative experiences at the facility.

Redevelopment Opportunities – Mayor Hultmann indicated he had been in contact with a pizza restaurant interested in possibility locating in Long Lake. He also discussed the former Burger King and Billy's Lighthouse sites, along with the Virginia Avenue vacant land, and commented it would be a positive if the EDA could serve as a tool for inspiring redevelopment activity at these sites.

Carp Harvest – Mayor Hultmann reported that after continued discussions with the carp harvester who had harvested Long Lake last year, it appears they will not be able to conduct a carp removal on Long Lake again in 2014 due to scheduling reasons. The harvester indicated they may contact the City if an opportunity becomes available, and essentially Long Lake is on a “wait list”.

Vacancy Ordinance – Weske reflected that regarding vacant commercial properties, perhaps the City may want to research vacancy ordinances similar to that adopted by the City of Minneapolis. These types of ordinances charge a fine for commercial properties to lie vacant, thereby encouraging property owners to move them along rather than having them sit unused.

Utility Bill Mailing – Moeller stated that City utility bills will be mailed before the end of the week, and the utility billing mailing will include copies of both the 2014 residential curbside recycling schedule and a January 2014 newsletter.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Kaminski, seconded by Skjaret, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk