



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 18, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

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

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LONG LAKE NEWS UPDATE

Mayor Hultmann thanked Public Works for their continued efforts in keeping streets clear of snow during winter weather.

The Mayor also expressed his appreciation to the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for honoring him as their Person of the Year and for the dinner celebration recognizing his award.

He further noted that he had recently misspoken regarding the Council holding a public hearing to review a "no wake ordinance" at their April 1 meeting. The City Council will be considering a draft "no wake ordinance" at their April 15 regular meeting. Representatives of area agencies will be present at the meeting to discuss erosion protection programs for shoreline property owners as well.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of March 4, 2014 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of March 4, 2014 City Council Meeting
- C. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of March 11, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting
- D. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2014-06 Accepting the Donation of Fitness Equipment to the Long Lake Fire Department from Michael Francis
- F. Accept the Resignation of Firefighter Andrew Conroy from the Long Lake Fire Department
- G. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Three Rivers Park District and City of Orono to Evaluate Feasibility of New Regional Trail Along County Road 112

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Dan MacDonald, 335 Russell Lane – Mr. MacDonald thanked the Council for their time and efforts in their roles as Council members. He indicated he was in attendance to express continued opposition to the trail proposal for the east end of town as part of the CSAH 112 turnback project, due to safety issues with the high speed of traffic turning in and out of the side streets on that end of town. He noted that safety concerns could be avoided by keeping people on the trail that exists now and does not cross roadways. He added that when discussing pedestrian crossings, he would be in favor of a crossing at Mill Street instead of where crossings are proposed by the County.

Todd Wilson, Long Lake Rowing Club – Mr. Wilson introduced himself as a founder of the original Long Lake Rowing Club that formed about three years ago. He asked to make the Council aware of actions by the Long Lake Rowing Crew; and stated that as there are two Long Lake rowing entities still active, he does not believe the new entity can enter into contracts until they've filed for dissolution of the previous entity.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Planning Case #2014-01 – Interim Use Permit for Rowing Club Facilities for the Long Lake Rowing Crew on Property Located at 1310 West Wayzata Boulevard

Planning Consultant Lewis reported that the Long Lake Rowing Crew (LLRC) is seeking an Interim Use Permit for the remainder of 2014 to use the property located at 1310 West Wayzata Boulevard. The property is the former Billy's Lighthouse site and is currently vacant. LLRC leases the property from the property owner. LLRC hopes to use the property as its staging and launching area for rowing shells to access and use Long Lake. Use of the site would involve storage of boats, parking of rowers' and parents' vehicles, assembly of rowing class participants, and accessing the lake from the walkway next to the existing building. The existing building and its adjoining deck will not be used by LLRC and will remain unchanged. The Long Lake Rowing Crew's practice hours would be Monday through Thursday 8:00-10:30 a.m., 3:30-5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:00-11:00 a.m. Practice hours are governed by their Seasonal Use Permit from Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol, and any deviation from approved hours would require they apply for revision for their Seasonal Use Permit.

For the storage and partial screening of boats and equipment, the applicant is proposing a fence enclosure. The proposal is for a five foot tall chain link fence with a privacy mesh for screening. The enclosure would contain four (4) wooden boat racks and one (1) oar rack. A fifty (50) foot boat trailer is proposed to be stored onsite, along with one portable restroom. The staging area is designated for use of collapsible boat stands and slings and would only be in use during practices times. This area would be cleared of equipment following each practice. The launching area would include a boat lift for the coaching skiff and L-shaped dock for rowing shells. The boat lift and dock will be required to meet all DNR requirements and the applicant will be responsible for obtaining any necessary permits.

Traffic to the site will utilize existing access points and there are no proposed changes to the parking areas on the property. LLRC estimates approximately 35-50 rowers, however, rowers will generally be split between morning and afternoon sessions and would not all be at the site at the same time. In addition, many younger rowers would be dropped off by parents. There are over 70 parking spaces on the site and staff does not anticipate parking to be an issue with the request.

The applicant will provide refuse containers for storing all garbage, and all garbage would be regularly removed from the site. As a condition of approval, staff is proposing that any garbage containers be required to be stored within the proposed fence enclosure on non-scheduled pickup days.

The use is planned to be terminated no later than January 1, 2015. By this date, all rowing equipment shall be removed from the site along with the portable restroom and trash containers. The proposed fence enclosure would likely remain at the site.

Lewis detailed the Planning Commission's comments regarding the applicant's request, and noted that the Planning Commission had unanimously voted to recommend the City Council approve the Interim Use Permit, adding a stipulation that the enclosure fence be limited to six feet in height consistent with zoning requirements.

Council member Kaminski expressed satisfaction with the conditions proposed in the IUP agreement and stated he does not have any issues with the application.

Council member Skjaret reflected that the former Billy's Lighthouse property is one of the most derelict properties in town, and it has been a disappointment that while other business and property owners strive to keep their properties maintained and up to date, the owner of the former Billy's Lighthouse property has chosen not to do so. Regarding the IUP application, Council member Skjaret stated that it is his understanding the intent of an IUP is to serve as a measure towards accomplishing a final goal. As this application represents multiple years of operating under an IUP, he questioned what the permanent goal would be and whether the LLRC would continue to request operating under an IUP each year. He does not see a stated purpose for the organization's future – the LLRC desires to use the property for a rowing club, but indicates no end goal to the interim use. He believes the application represents an IUP without an achievable goal in the end.

Council member Chillstrom stated that he thinks the Council overall is disappointed with how last year's IUP worked out at the site, but he personally has confidence this new rowing organization will do what they say. He emphasized that this is a land use issue only under consideration - the LLRC will be abiding by the requirements of their Water Patrol Seasonal Use Permit in their operations on the lake.

Council member Olson agreed with many of Council member Skjaret's statements and she felt that continual issuance of IUP agreements allowing rowing on the property is detrimental to the property and allows a bad property to linger as is. She indicated she is really disappointed with the property owner for the condition of the property.

Mayor Hultmann stated that the new LLRC rowing organization has been adamant they will operate differently than the previous club, and commented that the IUP conditions are significant and must be enforced. He observed that it was interesting to note that the property owner included a stipulation in his lease with the LLRC that the group may be required to vacate upon 60 day notice of an offer coming in for the property.

Council member Olson emphasized that the property owner does have a responsibility regardless of contracting with a potential tenant to maintain the property in a good manner. Regarding the proposed IUP agreement, she stated that if the IUP were to expire January 31, 2015, equipment at the site could be snowed or iced in before the LLRC is required to remove it. She recommended the Council consider an earlier expiration date to assure all items will be removed.

It was the consensus of the Council that an earlier expiration date would be desired, and Council members agreed to amend the proposed IUP agreement to expire November 30, 2014.

Mayor Hultmann briefly discussed the history of the former rowing club's promises for future use of the former Billy's Lighthouse site, and noted that he hopes the new LLRC will be successful.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-05 approving an Interim Use Permit (IUP) with findings and conditions for the Long Lake Rowing Crew to operate a rowing club facility on property located at 1310 West Wayzata Boulevard, with the Interim Use Permit to expire November 30, 2014. Ayes: Kaminski, Chillstrom, Hultmann. Nays: Skjaret, Olson. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Person of the Year Award – Council member Kaminski congratulated Mayor Hultmann on receiving the Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year Award.

Speed Limit Enforcement – Council member Skjaret reflected that the Council has heard and participated in significant discussion of speed limits and the excessive speed of traffic along CSAH 112. He questioned what options may be available to step up enforcement of speed limits from the Luce Line trail area to downtown Long Lake. Council members discussed various speed enforcement measures, and Mayor Hultmann directed staff to ask Police Chief Risvold to attend a future Council work session for further discussion.

Interim Use Ordinance – Council member Skjaret noted that in reviewing the Interim Use Ordinance, he believes it may be a really good tool for existing businesses not in compliance with zoning regulations to utilize while working towards compliance, and encouraged awareness of the opportunity.

No Wake Ordinance Public Hearing – City Clerk Moeller stated that a public hearing notice had been sent to the newspaper advertising the April 15 hearing to review a proposed no wake ordinance for Long Lake.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Skjaret, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk