



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 5, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner (telephonic); Council: Deirdre Kvale (telephonic), Michelle Jerde (telephonic), Jahn Dyvik (telephonic), and Tom Skjaret (telephonic)

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske (in person); Fire Chief: James Van Eyll (telephonic); Public Works Director: Sean Diercks (telephonic); and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller (in person)

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

Mayor Miner wished everyone a happy 'Cinco de Mayo'.

In a work session prior to the regular meeting, the City Council discussed a potential sewer charge policy change.

Some parents of Orono High School students have gotten together to fund some banners for Long Lake and Orono staff to install on streetlights celebrating the graduating Class of 2020. The banners are being created now, following a little bit of an issue with banner size; and Public Works staff had offered to help install the Long Lake banners once available. Mayor Miner thanked City staff for assisting the volunteers involved in the banners. He added that it was nice to see parents putting up yard signs for their seniors as well.

An American Red Cross (ARC) blood drive will be held on May 12 at Calvin Presbyterian Church, who graciously indicated they would be willing to host. Mayor Miner recognized firefighter Pat Cotton for working to find a new location, as the May 12 drive could not be held at the fire station. Mayor Miner stated that there should be appointments open for donors to register, with more information available on the ARC website.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of April 21, 2020 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll

- C. Approve Fund Transfers Identified Per the Recommendations of AEM Financial Solutions, LLC

A motion was made by Jerde, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Responding to questioning by Council member Kvale regarding approval of vendor claims, Administrator Weske confirmed that the City will be reimbursed for expenses associated with the replacement of the light pole damaged in a vehicular accident, and clarified that fees paid to City building inspection firm Metro West Inspection Services represent a pass-through of their portion of fees collected at time of permit issuance.

Council member Dyvik asked that language be added to page 4 of the April 21 meeting minutes to reflect Council's consensus that a hybrid solution for goose management this year agreed that oiling of eggs would be attempted first, with removal undertaken if necessary. Weske stated that City Clerk Moeller was in attendance at the meeting and would make the requested change.

Ayes: all by roll call.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments received during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Diamond Lake Regional Trail – Update and Review of Alignment Alternatives Presentation by Stephen Shurson, Three Rivers Park District

Three Rivers Park District Commissioner Marge Beard recalled that she had appeared before Council back in January to announce that Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) was kicking off a master planning process for a new Diamond Lake Regional Trail. Since that time, planning staff have been busy with with six different cities to come up with potential trail routes. Commissioner Beard stated that this is the time they are seeking Council feedback or concerns, and at a later time, TRPD will be coming back before Council seeking a resolution of support for the project to move forward.

Danny McCullough, Regional Trail System Manager for Three Rivers Park District, displayed slides depicting the District's regional trail system including search corridors for potential future trail additions, highlighting the search corridor for the Diamond Lake Regional Trail which would travel approximately 21 miles through seven communities. He provided examples of existing regional paved trails, showing examples of features and settings in both natural and rural areas; discussed safety measures employed in trail design; displayed examples of trail crossings over roadways and low lying or wetland areas; and offered examples of wayfinding and kiosk signage.

Stephen Shurson, Three Rivers Park District, indicated that discussions had been held with City Councils and Park Commissions from cities the route touches, and TRPD staff were now looking to review potential routes with City Councils to obtain comments and preliminary support. No formal action is requested at this point, as the District's goal is to make sure Councils are okay with the trail concept they are about to present to the public. The COVID-19 situation will likely impact the District's public engagement process, but they will work towards offering robust online input opportunities and will hope to appear at various special events in the region to the extent possible in the summer. Next steps will involve working to refine routes into one preferred route, returning to communities to ask for their approval, drafting the master plan for the trail, and then hopefully early next year seeking resolutions of support from communities in preparation for submitting the trail plan to Metropolitan Council for review and final approval.

Mr. Shurson showed maps of and described potential Diamond Lake Regional Trail routes through Orono and Wayzata. He highlighted natural areas, scenic areas, and local park and trail resources they hoped to include as connection points for the new trail. He noted it would make sense to include a connection to the existing City trail along Wayzata Boulevard W, commenting that connecting to that trail would also provide a means to connect to the Luce Line Trail. He also discussed potential connections to the Dakota Rail Regional Trail in Wayzata. He added that the District has other search corridors for future trail additional to the Dakota Rail and Gray's Bay trails.

Mr. Shurson responded to Council questions regarding the project, expanding further on potential future trail connections and loops within the region; including directional and wayfinding signage to point to downtown Long Lake; addressing how snow removal of trails is managed by contracting with cities; explaining further that the MnDNR would not allow paved trails to travel through an SNA (Scientific Natural Area) such as Wood Rill; acknowledging the potential of working with Orono to incorporate their plans for a trail on East Long Lake Road within the DLRT project; the timeline for design and funding for the project; the potential to incorporate other improvements such as a shoreline fishing location should the trail travel the East Long Lake Road trail path; and described idea trail widths and working with local jurisdictions and private property owners to allow for trail construction through negotiations, easements and property acquisitions.

District Commissioner Beard stated that she was pleased to hear the City Council as a group sounded pleased with the project scope, and that it was good that the District's ideas seem to be acceptable. Their next challenge as an organization will be the community engagement process, and she encouraged the City to reach out with suggestions on events or opportunities to engage the public as they arise.

Mayor Miner noted that currently the Corn Days festival in August remains on schedule, but the Buckhorn Days festival had already postponed. He confirmed the City would provide updates on events.

Discuss and Review Sewer Charge Policy – Consider Direction to Staff

Mayor Miner explained that this item had been discussed in a work session prior to the regular meeting with a fair amount of background, and welcomed Council members to comment as far as any direction to staff or potential next steps.

Council member Kvale stated that in light of the current situation making it difficult for public to participate in the process, she would recommend the matter be tabled a bit longer and following a "wait and see" approach before considering a public hearing. Council member Jerde agreed.

Council member Dyvik pointed out that the question was only to authorize a public hearing for consideration of an ordinance amending the sewer charge policy, rather than asking for a decision at this time. Weske clarified that if a hearing were to be noticed, it could be held at the first Council meeting in June, and a public hearing is required for a City Code amendment. Council member Dyvik would favor authorizing moving forward with scheduling a hearing, and emphasized that the matter at issue was not a rate change, but would be a modification to City Code. Any resident would have control over their sewer charges because they would be usage based, and if someone didn't want to have a higher bill, they would be able to change their habits. He added that if the public hearing were to be held electronically, if noticed, people would be able to participate in the meeting just as the Council does.

Mayor Miner was interested in considering the potential code amendment, but would like to wait to do so until the hearing could be made as accessible as possible to the public. He suggested perhaps

considering scheduling the hearing for the first meeting the Council is able to meet back in person at City Hall.

Council member Skjaret suggested that as an in between option, if the hearing were noticed, individuals who wish to speak could be permitted to appear in person one at a time and those uncomfortable with coming in could join the Zoom meeting.

Council member Kvale reflected that the appearance of making such a change would make a better public impression in an open meeting.

Council member Skjaret noted that he would likely not be available to attend in person meetings until the fall.

Mayor Miner commented that perhaps this may be revisited meeting by meeting. After further Council and staff discussion, he recommended waiting on further conversation until after the Governor's next announcement.

Egg/Nest Removal Quote from Canada Goose Management Inc.

Public Works Director Diercks recalled that at the last Council meeting, he had been directed to obtain permits for both harvesting of geese and doing a nest/egg mitigation also. Permits have been acquired and emailed to company Canada Goose Management Inc. Mr. Keefe had provided a quote for the 2020 spring season egg search. The initial search could take place anytime, once Council approval is received, and would cost \$800 whether eggs are found or not. The proposal also includes pricing for a second egg search effort that could take place later in May at a cost of \$600. Diercks advised that he had been informed the search would take place in the public-owned area of the park, and then anything below the ordinary high water mark. Council member Dyvik added that he had spoken with Mr. Keefe as well, who had indicated that if he did observe anything on private property, he would contact that owner to request permission to treat the eggs. Diercks noted that the City would need to be very careful about spending public money to address geese on private property.

Council and staff discussed potential locations of nests, the timing and effectiveness of a first versus second egg search, a recent vegetation burn in Nelson Lakeside Park which may make areas less favorable for nesting, an article in a recent edition of 'The Laker Pioneer' newspaper documenting the City's goose management plan discussions, knowledge of the habits of the park's migrating/returning goose population, and whether a second search may be necessary.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Jerde, to approve the quote from Canada Goose Management Inc. for oiling goose eggs for the 2020 season at a cost of \$800 for an initial search, with an option to complete a second search at a cost of \$600 at the discretion of the Public Works Director.

Diercks asked Council whether they would be authorizing a goose harvest at this time.

Council discussed and agreed they would prefer to revisit a harvest at a meeting in June.

Ayes: all by roll call.

Council member Dyvik thanked Diercks for putting in a lot of effort on this issue and into keeping Nelson Lakeside Park clean.

Updates From Public Works Director

Diercks offered the following Public Works operational updates:

The water tower cleaning project will likely begin sometime in July. Diercks is working to coordinate the project timing with the vendor.

Diercks has received the sewer jetting and televising project results report and is in the middle of processing the data. He noted that District 4 has a lot of issues the City will need to carefully look at.

As grass is starting to grow in parks, Public Works staff will begin seasonal mowing late this week or early next week.

The MCWD will be doing some sediment measuring in the ponds at Nelson Lakeside Park. The ponds are only permitted to accumulate so much sediment before they have to be dredged, and the City would contract out with MCWD to complete that service.

Diercks and City Engineer Miller have been corresponding about working with Hoffman & McNamara to schedule a spring tour of their landscaping project.

Public Works staff will be working to address a culvert issue that is participating in causing drainage issues in the area of Meadow Lane and Orchard Circle. They will also be doing some crosswalk painting this week, and restoring blacktop in areas where watermain breaks took place.

Diercks noted he will be out of the office from May 16 through May 25 as he will be moving, but he will be available by phone if needed.

Mayor Miner referenced an email exchange regarding the Orono High School graduating class banners size issue, and asked Diercks if he knew whether Orono's Public Works Director or someone had gotten back to the contact. Diercks said that he had received a voicemail from someone while in the work session, and he would be contacting her in the morning to verify the banners should be 75" in length with 2" pockets. Mayor Miner noted that Diercks had known the accurate size of the banners, Orono's Public Works Director had not agreed and had provided an incorrect size, and it turned out that Diercks was correct – the result being that the banners went to production at the wrong size. Diercks confirmed he had been telling people for five days that the banners would be too short at the size given by Orono.

Council member Dyvik referred back to Hoffman & McNamara's project review, mentioning that there will need to be tree replacements. He also expressed concern about the seeding that took place along the berm and offered to reach out to Kristy Morter at Hennepin County to work towards scheduling an inspection of the grasses to assure the City received the mix they'd requested.

Confirming that Diercks had not yet heard from the hanging flower basket vendor, Council member Dyvik offered to contact them to confirm when baskets may be ready for pickup.

Verbal Updates From Fire Chief / Emergency Manager

Fire Chief Van Eyll provided updates and responded to Council questions, discussing the following:

Emergency managers are preparing for the return of activities at City Halls and the future of group gatherings, to include developing best practices for City Halls when interacting with the public.

The staff team approach recently implemented at the Fire Department has been going well so far. Chief Van Eyll noted that for major events, all firefighters would be responding as usual.

The Fire Department has acquired some N95 masks as well as donations of masks from Trinity Lutheran, and thus far, PPE supplies are holding. The Fire Department has received authorization to begin some small troupe training sessions again.

Regarding reportable COVID-19 cases, Chief Van Eyll indicated that he was aware Long Lake Assisted Living had one resident and one employee case. Trails of Orono has had a few cases for awhile. While there are a lot of rumors about cases in the area, he had not been informed of many by dispatch yet. Firefighters are operating under the assumption that everyone they come in contact with may have it and are wearing PPE accordingly. He noted one firefighter family had been tested, with results back as negative.

FEMA disaster funding has been approved, and the City has been approved as an applicant. The City can now move into submitting applications for expenses incurred. He confirmed items are on the list to be submitted as expenses for reimbursement, and he will work to obtain reimbursement funding sooner rather than later.

Council member Skjaret sought background on the cancellation of the Birch's movie night they'd advertised. Chief Van Eyll stated that last Thursday, Birch's had been reported for a gathering they'd had around a fire pit. During conversations about that issue, the movie night had come to the attention of staff. Mayor Miner provided further background, stating that Chief Risvold had reached out to MnDPS to ask whether the movie night was within the scope of the Governor's orders, and their response was that it would not be. Mayor Miner had spoken with Birch's and they were understanding of the situation. He noted that the order of their planning of the event was not quite in the order it should have been, as they had already had the wheels in motion quite a bit and were advertising before reaching out to the City. Actually, City staff had observed Facebook posts for the event before Birch's had contacted the City.

Chief Van Eyll concluded with one last update, indicating that the Department will be working with Identysis of Plymouth to obtain ID cards for firefighters, as the ID card system at the City of Orono is no longer available.

OTHER BUSINESS

LMCC Publishing Zoom Government Meetings – Council member Kvale had received correspondence from the LMCC confirming their offices are closed to the public at this time, and indicating that they are able to post Zoom files for City government meetings. Weske confirmed that staff has already been sending Zoom files to the LMCC after each Council meeting for posting online.

Goose Management Article – Council member Jerde held up a copy of The Laker Pioneer newspaper article regarding the City's goose management program, and said she had been overwhelmed by messages she'd received from the community. She thanked her fellow Council members for supporting trying something different.

Emails Sent to Gregor Farms and Kristy Morter – Council member Dyvik stated that while the meeting had been underway, he had already sent emails to Gregor Farms regarding the hanging flower baskets, and to Kristy Morter to inquire about the inspection of the grass mix.

Liquor License Rebate – Council member Skjaret commented that he had observed some local communities had been offering a partial liquor license rebate to their restaurants as a show of support for their businesses, and suggested the City Council consider the same. Fellow Council members were supportive of doing so. Weske confirmed a one month rebate would be approximately \$516 for each of the five on sale licensees.

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to rebate one month's prorated portion of the annual liquor license fee paid by the City's restaurants with on sale liquor licenses. Ayes: all by roll call.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk