



**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 17, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sam Rettinger, Sharon Henderson, Brian Carpenter, and Liz Olson

**Staff Present:** Administrator: Terrance Post; Public Works Director: Marv Wurzer; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

**Absent:** None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Gilbert asked Fire Chief Van Eyll to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of March 3, 2009 City Council Work Session
- B. Approve Minutes of March 3, 2009 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Approve Issuance of a Residential Kennel Permit to Mark Risch, 242 Glenmoor Lane
- E. Accept Use of the Westling Residence at 2640 Fox Street for Live Burn Training in the Structure at an Equivalent Value of \$3,000

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

**OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**2009 Annual Performance Review, Fire Chief James Van Eyll**

Annually the City Administrator evaluates the performance of City employees, with the exception of Public Works maintenance employees who are evaluated by the Public Works Director. James Van Eyll was hired as the Fire Chief on March 24, 2008. Mr. Van Eyll was appointed as a regular employee and was awarded the customary six month completion of probationary period salary step increase. The summary performance review evaluation information Post received from search consultant Jim Brimeyer has been extremely positive and echoed the conclusions drawn by former City Administrator Stahmer at Mr. Van Eyll's six month probationary review. Goals for the next year will be established in conjunction with the City Council and Mr. Brimeyer during the next month.

Post recommended the City Council approve his satisfactory review of Mr. Van Eyll and award a 2% salary step increase to Step 8 for him per City policy and the proposed resolution. It was Post's opinion that Chief Van Eyll has exhibited the professionalism, drive, and positive attitude to manage the Fire Department in an exemplary manner.

Fire Chief Van Eyll James stated that the Fire Advisory Board would be meeting on March 25 at Long Lake Fire Station 2. Also, the annual Pancake Breakfast is scheduled to be held at Fire Station 1 on April 19. This year there will be a wellness informational booth at the breakfast, and maybe a table offering free back and neck massages.

*A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Rettinger, to adopt Resolution No. 2009-06 acknowledging the City Administrator's satisfactory evaluation of Fire Chief James Van Eyll and approving a salary step increase. Ayes: all.*

### **Resolution to Withdraw from the Suburban Rate Authority**

The City of Long Lake, along with about thirty-three other metropolitan cities, are members of the Suburban Rate Authority (SRA) joint powers organization. The organization exists to represent cities in various public and private utility company issues that arise including rate increases, franchise fees, rights-of-way rights and responsibilities, shut off notices, and relocations among others. The City of Long Lake is not now, nor has it been for many years, an active participant in this organization. The City of Long Lake is in the lowest membership assessment tier with an annual cost of \$400.00 and one vote while Bloomington is in the highest tier with an annual cost of \$7,200.00 and eighteen membership votes.

During the 2009 Budget process, a recommendation from former City Administrator Stahmer was to investigate withdrawing from this organization. It was subsequently learned from the Executive Director Jim Strommen that the organization's bylaws require notification by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year for membership withdrawal in the following year.

Although the membership assessment cost is low, I recommend withdrawal from this organization effective for the 2010 budget year in accordance with the organization's bylaws.

Mayor Gilbert had spoken with Desyl Peterson who advocated strongly for the City remaining in the SRA. He'd requested more information about the benefit to Long Lake of remaining a member but had received no response.

Asked if membership allows anything. TP allows you to access Mr. Strommen, attorney, acts as information clearing house with respect to some issue, advice is to pursue with city attorney. Doesn't think benefits would be quantifiable. Hard to say what are or are not other than global lobbying. Utility companies are pretty powerful. If we're not going to engage in it than probably wasting our money.

*A motion was made by Carpenter, seconded by Henderson, to adopt Resolution No. 2009-07 approving City of Long Lake withdrawal from the Suburban Rate Authority effective January 1, 2010. Ayes: all.*

**2009 Lawn Maintenance Service Contract – Concierge Enterprises Inc.**

Wurzer reported that the City of Long Lake has contracted out its lawn maintenance services for the past 16 years. This year was the first in many that the low bidder was not a local contractor. Staff had prepared and mailed bid packages to approximately 20 contractors, and nine bids were received. This year's low bidder, Concierge Enterprises Inc., submitted a quote that was even lower than last year's amount paid for lawn maintenance services. Concierge Enterprises Inc. had submitted four references, and when contacted by staff all gave glowing reports of the company's performance. It was noted that the company works on large estates and quite a few developments. With that, Wurzer recommended the contract for 2009 Lawn Maintenance Service with Concierge Enterprises Inc. be approved.

Council member Carpenter commented that he had positive personal experiences with Concierge's services, as they had installed his sprinkler service at a previous residence in Eden Prairie.

Post said that the contract originally sent by Concierge Enterprises Inc. had included an onerous liability clause, and upon a phone call, their administrative staff were willing to remove the clause immediately and sent a revised contract.

*A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Carpenter, to approve the contract with Concierge Enterprises Inc. for the 2009 Lawn Service to include the base bid (Sites A-H) plus Options 1 and 2 from the City Request for Proposals, and to authorize its execution by the City Administrator. Ayes: all.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Northwest League of Municipalities** – Council member Henderson had recently attended a meeting of the Northwest League of Minnesota Municipalities. The speaker at the meeting was James T. Swenson, Chief Judge of the Fourth Judicial District. Mr. Swenson was an eloquent speaker and had been attending speaking engagements recently because the budget deficit is placing a substantial hardship on the courts. He has been asked to reduce budgets by five percent, and is concerned that there will be lasting effects as minor crimes and misdemeanors may be unaddressed. He stated that if these issues in youth are not addressed when kids are younger, they will be seen in the judicial system when they are older. Mr. Swenson is seeking support from cities and asking that representatives call their legislators to indicate support for the courts. They currently have a lot of good programs going that benefit, for example, the mentally ill; but unfortunately, when there are budget cuts programs benefiting those with little money or the mentally ill who are unable to work are the first to be affected. Mr. Swenson would like representatives to call their legislators and express their support.

**Meeting with Mn/DOT Regarding MOU** – Council member Henderson reported that a meeting she had scheduled with Mn/DOT to discuss the MOU executed in 1996 had to be cancelled but would be rescheduled in the next week.

**Planning Commission Liaison Update** – Council member Olson had attended the March Planning Commission meeting and indicated the Commission would soon be reviewing a land use application. The Commission also discussed the downtown area, conformance with zoning requirements, and whether there was anything that could be asked of property owners of vacant sites to improve their properties. Discussion resulted in the comment that it would not be productive to ask owners to put funds into improving their properties in the immediate future when they are ultimately trying to sell them.

**Chamber of Commerce Task Force** – Council member Olson asked whether there was any news from the Chamber of Commerce Task Force. Mayor Gilbert reported that the group was beginning to focus their efforts, with emphasis on an upcoming calendar of community events. Mayor Gilbert complimented Jim Gulbranson on chairing the committee. Council member Olson expressed appreciation for the monthly newsletter being generated by the Country Cake Cupboard allowing businesses to advertise sales and information. Mayor Gilbert highlighted an upcoming wine tasting event being sponsored by Lakeside Wine & Spirits on May 2 and May 4, to benefit Locks of Love and ALS organizations. Council discussed the issue of special event signage briefly as well.

**Stormwater Project in Nelson Lakeside Park** – Mayor Gilbert asked whether any borings had been done in preparation for the stormwater improvement project, as he had been told a portion of the project area used to be a dump site. Post replied that no borings had been taken yet; however, an issue that may arise with borings is that there's a petrol environmental pool from the Kenny's Market site that has plumed into Lake Street and it may also have reached the park. When digging for the project begins, if contaminated soils are determined to be an issue, it may result in a halt to the stormwater project and a required soil remediation effort. Council members Rettinger and Olson provided a history of the area and explained that there was no dump site there, but debris as a result of a resort that used to be located where parkland is now. Council and staff also discussed whether there was any burn planned for the shoreline restoration plantings, and ongoing maintenance of plantings in both the shoreline restoration and stormwater improvement project areas.

**Highway 12 Turnback Meeting** – Mayor Gilbert stated that the Highway 12 Turnback Committee would be meeting on Friday to run through the turnback plan developed by the committee two years ago. Council and staff discussed whether electronic copy of the plan could be made available to all Council members; and the logistics of renaming old Highway 12 through Long Lake to Long Lake Parkway or a similar name.

**Watermain Break Under Highway 12** – Post reported that he had previously alerted the Council to a watermain leak under the new Highway 12 bypass. Wurzer described how the leak had been detected and its location more closely pinpointed. Wurzer was currently working with the City Engineer to determine the cause of the leak and possible solutions. He indicated he would update the Council once more information was available. The section of watermain affected was able to be isolated and closed off to prevent further water loss.

**Update on Ken Hammerschmidt** – Mayor Gilbert provided an update on former Council member Ken Hammerschmidt's health.

## **ADJOURN**

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller  
City Clerk