Actions of Duluth City Council
ORDINANCE NO. 03-028-O

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 50 OF THE DULUTH CITY CODE 1959, AS AMENDED, ZONING DISTRICT MAP NO. 38 AS CONTAINED IN THE APPENDIX TO CHAPTER 50, TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECLASSIFICATION FROM C-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL AND M-1 MANUFACTURING TO R-3 APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL, PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN I-35 AND THE LAKE SUPERIOR SHORELINE, BETWEEN 23RD AND 25TH AVENUES EAST (LAKEWALK TOWNHOMES LLC).

BY PRESIDENT STENBERG:

The city of Duluth does ordain:

Section 1. That Plate No. 38 of the zoning district map as contained in the Appendix to Chapter 50 of the Duluth City Code, 1959, is amended to read as follows:

(MAP)

Section 2. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days from and after its passage and publication.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This zoning ordinance amendment provides for a zoning change from M-1, Manufacturing, and C-2, Highway Commercial, to R-3, Apartment Residential, property located between I-35 and the Lake Superior Shoreline, between 23rd and 25th avenues East

The purpose of the rezoning is to make the property available for a 38-unit townhouse development.

This rezoning is one of five actions necessary to proceed with the redevelopment of the area. In addition to the rezoning of the site, the Planning commission must make recommendations to the council related to the release of tax forfeited lands currently held in conservation, as well as the sale of city-owned lands which are integral elements of the proposed townhouse project. Additionally, the council will receive future recommendations related to the vacation of streets, alleys and other easements within the projects as well as a special use permit for townhouse development in an R-zone.

The planning commission is also considering a Water Resources Management Ordinance variance to allow for redevelopment of the site with an impervious surface area in excess of the 30 percent coverage allowed by the shoreland ordinance but a reduction from the existing conditions of the property.

The Duluth city planning commission approved, by a 12-0-1 vote, of this zoning change following a public hearing held May 28, 2003. The commission also recommended approval of the release of tax forfeited lands and the sale of city owned land by a vote of 12-0-1.

The commission tabled action on the vacation of streets and alleys, the special use permit and the Water Resource Management Ordinance variance in order to conduct further site review and consider possible design change recommendations and the submittal of a draft development agreement between the applicants and the city.

In approving the zoning change, the commission made the following findings of fact in support of the change:

(a) This rezoning petition is consistent with the recommendations contained in the unadopted Endion Waterfront plan and development strategy, dated February 1995;

(b) This rezoning will facilitate redevelopment of the area and promote the objectives of the Endion plan.

(Passed Unanimously)
RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF LAKEWALK TOWNHOMES
PROJECT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

BY COUNCILOR GILBERT:

WHEREAS, the Duluth City Council has been provided with information regarding the development of the proposed Lakewalk Townhomes project to be located between 23rd and 26th Avenues East and between Interstate Highway 35 and Lake Superior; and

WHEREAS, the council is generally supportive of the proposed development at that location, but has significant concerns for the preservation of public open spaces and public uses in the project area.

RESOLVED, that the city council of the city of Duluth hereby expresses its conceptual support for the Lakewalk Townhomes project subject to the following actions and permits being analyzed in depth, discussed and acted upon by the city council after public hearings:

(a) Passage of a resolution approving the resolution of the Duluth economic development authority which approves the project development agreement;
(b) Approval of a special use permit for the project;
(c) Approval of a resolution vacating necessary public rights-of-way in the area of the development, such vacations to be in effect only after dedication by the project's developers of an easement for the extension of the Lakewalk along Lake Superior from the westerly to the easterly most extents of the project area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above actions and permits shall provide for public ownership of all property, except property currently publicly owned, lying easterly of the following described lines:

(a) The line between Lots 6 and 7, Block E, ENDION DIVISION, and as said line is extended northwesterly to the centerline of platted Water Street;
(b) The centerline of platted Water Street, ENDION DIVISION;
(c) The line between Lots 10 and 11, Block 2, ENDION DIVISION, and as said line is extended to the southeast to the centerline of platted Water Street and to the northwest to the scutheasterly right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 35.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said land shall be maintained as public open space upon which no development except the Lakewalk extension and improvement to access to Lakewalk and Endion Ledges can be constructed.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to evidence the city's conceptual support of the Lakewalk Townhomes project subject to various conditions.

In order for the project to be built, the approval of a number of resolutions and their related documents by the city council will be needed. The council will have to approve a special use permit for the development and the vacation of a number of presently undeveloped street easements in the project area. In addition, DEDA would be approving a development agreement for the project which will require council approval.

This resolution is intended to make it clear that the council's support of the project will be contingent on the developer's commitment that the easterly portion of the area, generally lying east of a line which is from 75' to 100' west of the west line of 25th Avenue East, extended, be maintained as public open space and publicly owned, and upon dedication of an easement for Lakewalk through the entire project area.

(Passed Unanimously)
RESOLUTION GRANTING TO LAKEWALK TOWNHOMES, LLC, A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A TOWNHOUSE OR GROUP DWELLINGS FOR PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 35 AND THE LAKE SUPERIOR SHORELINE AND BETWEEN 23RD AND 25TH AVENUES EAST (LAKEWALK TOWNHOMES, LLC).

BY COUNCILOR GILBERT:

WHEREAS, Lakewalk Townhomes, LLC, has submitted to the city council a request for a special use permit for up to 46 townhouse units or group dwellings on property described as Lots 11-16, Block 2; Lots 9-15, Block 3, and Lots 1-6, Block E, Endion Division of Duluth; Blocks 1 & 2, Langellier's Rearrangement of Block D, Endion Division of Duluth, and located between Interstate Highway 35 and the Lake Superior Shoreline and between 23rd and 25th avenues East; and said permit application was duly referred to the city planning commission for a study, report and public hearing and the city planning commission has subsequently reported its approval to the city council; and

WHEREAS, the approval was made because of the city planning commission's findings that appropriate safeguards will exist to protect the comprehensive plan and to conserve and to protect property values in the neighborhood if conditions are observed (Reference File No. 03055).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a special use permit is hereby granted to Lakewalk Townhomes, LLC, to allow for the construction of a townhouse or group dwellings development at 23rd Avenue East and Water Street, on the condition that development be limited to and constructed as identified on Public Document No. ________ and the terms and conditions of the development agreement as identified as Public Document No. ________.  

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution grants a special use permit to Lakewalk Townhomes, LLC, to construct 46 condominium and townhouse style dwelling units in nine structures on 8.1 acres (353,170 square feet.) (The plan previously approved by the planning commission in September 2003 provided 36 units in 11 structures on 11 acres.) These structures contain 2, 3, 4 or 21 units. The individual units will range in size from 1,000 square feet to 3,700 square feet of floor area with basement parking or attached garages. The project completion is anticipated within a 10-year period. This is so-called "high end" housing. Units will be pre-sold and the target is to build three to five units per year. The plan includes vacating all underlying street, alley and utility easements not necessary for the development or future public purposes (See companion vacation resolution and Ref. File No. 03054). The development will provide private roads and utilities constructed to all city standards.

On February 2, 2004, the city council unanimously adopted Resolution 03-0789, "EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF LAKEWALK TOWNHOMES PROJECT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS."

"RESOLVED, that the city council of the city of Duluth hereby expresses its conceptual support for the Lakewalk Townhomes project subject to the following actions and permits being analyzed in depth, discussed and acted upon by the city council after public hearings:

(a) Passage of a resolution approving the resolution of the Duluth economic development authority which approves the project development agreement;
(b) Approval of a special use permit for the project;
(c) Approval of a resolution vacating necessary public rights-of-way in the area of the development, such vacations to be in effect only after dedication by the project's developers of an easement for the extension of the Lakewalk along Lake Superior from the westerly to the easterly-most extents of the project area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above actions and permits shall provide for public ownership of all property, except property currently publicly owned, lying easterly of the following described lines:

(a) The line between Lots 6 and 7, Block E, ENDION DIVISION, and as said line is extended northwesterly to the centerline of platted Water Street;

(b) The centerline of platted Water Street, ENDION DIVISION;

(c) The line between Lots 10 and 11, Block 2, ENDION DIVISION, and as said line is extended to the southeast to the centerline of platted Water Street and to the northwest to the southeasterly right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 35.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said land shall be maintained as public open space upon which no development except the Lakewalk extension and improvement to access to Lakewalk and Endion Ledges can be constructed.”

The planning commission recommended approval of this resolution at its March 9, 2004, meeting.

The planning commission, following meetings held May 28 and June 10, September 9, 2003, finds that the ordinance governing the application is Chapter 50, Sec. 50-38 et. seq.; that compliance with that ordinance requires findings as stated in Sec. 50-32; that the following facts, features, or events show compliance:

(a) The submitted plans comply with Section 50-38 of the Code.

(b) The Site Plan has been amended to comply with Resolution 03-0789 (locating all structures West of the Centerline of 25th Avenue E).

(c) This resolution is consistent with the unadopted “Endion Waterfront Plan and Development Strategy” dated February 1995.

(d) This resolution is consistent with Resolution 03-0789.

(e) Will the proposed special use result in a random pattern of development with little contiguity to existing or programmed development? No. The proposal is consistent with unadopted but published plans for the neighborhood.

(f) Will the requested use cause anticipated negative fiscal or environmental impacts upon the community? No. The project will improve the environment over current conditions and enhance the fiscal impact on the community.

(g) Will conditions and safeguards protect the comprehensive plan and conserve and protect property and property values in the neighborhood? Yes, the granting of lakewalk easements and conveyance of private lands as open space/park increase the public lands presently accessible to the public. The public will gain access to over 700 feet of lakeshore which has been in private control. This project will have a significant impact on taxable value of the property.

(g) What appropriate conditions and safeguards, including performance bonds and a specified period of time for the permit, are necessary?

A development agreement with the City will provide appropriate safeguards.

There is a companion street vacation resolution to be considered with this special use permit.

For the tax impact of this project, see the “tax impact worksheet.”

Date Filed: May 7, 2003/February 19, 2004
Action Deadline: Waived by applicant

(Passed Unanimously)
RESOLUTION VACATING PORTIONS OF WATER STREET; 24TH AVENUE EAST; 25TH AVENUE EAST; 23RD ALLEY EAST AND 23-1/2 ALLEY EAST; ALL LOCATED EAST OF 23RD AVENUE EAST AND BELOW INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 35 (LAKEWALK TOWNHOMES, LLC).

BY COUNCILOR GILBERT:

WHEREAS, a sufficient petition was filed with the city clerk requesting the vacation of Water Street from 23rd Avenue East to Lake Superior; 24th Avenue East from Interstate Highway 35 to Lake Superior; 25th Avenue East from Interstate Highway 35 to Water Street; 23rd Alley East and 23-1/2 Alley East from Water Street to Lake Superior, and a utility easement in vacated 23-1/2 Avenue East, legally described as:

(a) Water Street adjoining Blocks 1, 2, 3 and E, Endion Division of Duluth, and Blocks 1 and 2, Langellier's Rearrangement of Block D, Endion Division of Duluth;

(b) 24th Avenue East adjoining Lot 16, Block 2, Lot 9, Block 3, and Lot 1, Block E, Endion Division of Duluth and Lots 1-15, Block 2, Langellier's Rearrangement of Block D, Endion Division of Duluth;

(c) 25th Avenue East adjoining Lot 15, Block 1, Lot 9, Block 2, Endion Division of Duluth;

(d) 23rd Alley East, in Block 1 and 23-1/2 Alley East, in Block 2, Langellier's Rearrangement of Block D, Endion Division of Duluth;

(e) A ten foot utility easement extending 100 feet southerly of the south line of Water Street and lying within and against the easterly line of vacated 23-1/2 Avenue East; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 100 of the City Charter and Article IV of Chapter 45 of the Duluth City Code, 1959, as amended, such petition was duly referred to the city planning commission and such commission gave due notice of public hearing and did consider same in public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the city planning commission approved, unanimously, this vacation petition at its meeting (Reference File No. 03054).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city council of the city of Duluth approves the vacation of the easement described above and as more particularly described on Public Document No. ________.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the southerly half of Water Street from the easterly right-of-way line of 23rd Avenue East to 13 feet west of the centerline of 24th Avenue East, then 20 feet, ten feet either side of the centerline, along the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District interceptor easement be retained as utility easement.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the city clerk is hereby directed to record, with the register of deeds and/or the
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH LAKEWALK TOWNHOMES L.L.C. AND DEDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TOWNHOME DEVELOPMENT AND LAKEWALK FACILITIES ADJACENT TO LAKE SUPERIOR AT 24TH AVENUE EAST.

BY COUNCILOR GILBERT:

RESOLVED, that the proper city officials are authorized to enter into an agreement substantially in the form of that on file in the office of the city clerk as Public Document No. __________ with Lakewalk Townhomes L.L.C. and the Duluth economic development authority authorizing the development of up to 46 townhomes units adjacent to Lake Superior between 23rd and 25th Avenues East and the purchase of property by the city for the extension of Lakewalk.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to authorize the city to enter into an agreement with Lakewalk Townhomes, L.L.C. for the development of up to 46 townhome residential units on property generally between 23rd and 25th Avenues East along Lake Superior. The agreement will include the acceptance of the donation of property from the developer to the city and will further allow the city to purchase property owned by the developer and needed for the extension of Lakewalk at substantially less than the appraised value.

The proposed development is expected to consist of approximately 21 units of condominium development and another 25 or so units of side-by-side units generally consisting of three units to a structure. The selling price of the units is expected to range from $300,000 to about $640,000.

The property in question is generally undeveloped or underdeveloped property situated between Interstate Highway 35 and Lake Superior lying between 23rd Avenue East and 25th Avenue East. The land is presently occupied by a few single family residences and the storage yard for a construction company with the rest of the land being undeveloped. The developer has acquired major portions of the property needed for the development, but substantial portions of the site have been forfeited to the state of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes. The developer has requested the city’s and DEDA’s help in completing the site assemblage necessary to make the development possible by the use of its ability to acquire the tax forfeited properties directly.

In exchange for this public assistance, the developer has committed to donate two privately-owned parcels of land adjacent to the development to the city at no cost. In addition they have agreed to sell the portion of the property it owns immediately adjacent to Lake Superior to the city at an amount less than one half of its appraised value for use in conjunction with the extension of Lakewalk. And they have committed to either construct sufficient value in the short term to generate enough tax revenue to the city to pay the principal and interest on bonds which could be sold to pay for the cost of acquiring the Lakewalk property or to post a letter of credit which could be drawn on for that purpose.

The net result of this project is new residential construction having a value in the neighborhood of $20 million, the redevelopment of an underutilized or poorly utilized site and the acquisition of property for the extension of Lakewalk at no out-of-pocket cost to the public.

(Passed Unanimously)
registrar of titles of St. Louis County, Minnesota, a certified copy of this resolution together with a plat showing the
portion of the streets and alleys to be vacated as well as the easements to be retained.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution should have no effect on the tax base; see the companion resolution
granting a special use permit.

This resolution vacates:
1) Water Street from 23rd Avenue East to Lake Superior;
2) 25th Avenue East from Interstate to Water Street;
3) 24th Avenue East from Interstate to Lake Superior; and
4) 23rd Alley East and 23½ Alley East from Water Street to Lake Superior.

In addition, 23-1/2 Avenue East from Water Street to Lake Superior was previously vacated by the council on October
24, 1955.

The purpose of the vacation is to facilitate unification of the property for redevelopment. As part of a pending
development agreement between the petitioner and the city, the public will benefit from the creation of an additional
section of "Lakewalk" along the top of the bank of the shoreline from 23rd Avenue East to merge with the existing
Lakewalk at about 26th Avenue East.

The city planning commission unanimously approved this easement vacation petition at its regular meeting on

(Passed Unanimously)
DISCLAIMER

06-0657R

RESOLUTION DEDICATING REVENUES.

BY COUNCILOR GILBERT:

RESOLVED, that property tax increment resulting from the property development project known as Beacon Point shall be first used to pay for construction of a continuation of Lakewalk from its end point near 20th Avenue East to a new end point near 26th Avenue East, and thereafter for general government purposes.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution dedicates tax increment revenue to a particular purpose.

(Passed Unanimously)
RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CONSTRUCTION OF ADMINISTRATION'S ALTERNATIVE #4 FOR LAKEWALK FROM 20TH AVENUE EAST TO 25TH AVENUE EAST.

BY COUNCILORS STAUBER, GILBERT AND JOHNSON:

The city council finds as follows:

(a) The council supports the administration's efforts to research design alternatives to construct Lakewalk from 20th Avenue East to 25th Avenue East; and

(b) The administration has conducted a public process to describe design alternatives and solicit public comment on those alternatives; and

(c) The result of the public review process is that Alternative #4 has received broad public support and is also favored by staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the council supports Alternative #4, as shown on Public Document No. __________ on file with the city clerk, which provides for the standard ten foot wide asphalt Lakewalk trail from 23rd Avenue East to 25th Avenue East along the shore, a shore footpath from 20th Avenue East to 23rd Avenue East and improvements along the upper side of Water Street from 20th Avenue East to 23rd Avenue East to provide continuity for Lakewalk users unable or not wishing to use the shore footpath in this section of Lakewalk.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution memorializes the council's plan for extension of the Lakewalk.

(Passed Unanimously)
RESOLUTION ENDORSING A PLAN FOR EXTENSION OF THE LAKEWALK.

BY COUNCILOR GILBERT:

The city council finds:

(a) The Lakewalk is one of the most used and beloved hallmarks of our city;

(b) The Lakewalk should remain open to as many people as possible so they can continue to enjoy the wonder of Lake Superior;

(c) The plan proposed by the administration and approved by the council on June 25, 2007, in Resolution 07-0446, known as Alternative #4, is workable, affordable and ready to implement, and is a sensible compromise between the interest of private homeowners and the public's right to use and enjoy the Lakewalk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the council reaffirms its support of the design approved by the council on June 25, 2007, in Resolution 07-0446, known as Alternative #4, and requests that the administration begin implementing the plan as soon as possible.

COUNCILOR REQ/ATTY BFB:nmj 2/22/2008

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution indicates that the council reaffirms its position on a plan for extension of the Lakewalk.

(Passed 6-3)
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

14-0016R  A3 AMENDED

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR WATER STREET FROM 21ST TO 23RD
AVENUES EAST.

CITY PROPOSAL:

THE CITY COUNCIL FINDS:

(a) That the city of Duluth is undertaking a project to construct the
    Lakewalk on Water Street between 21st Avenue East and 23rd Avenue East in 2017;
    
(b) The estimated cost for design and construction of this portion of the
    Lakewalk is $312,942. Federal transportation alternative funds are currently
    programmed for construction in 2017. The Minnesota department of transportation
    has grant monies available through its transportation alternative program that
    are intended for on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities and other
    alternative transportation projects;
    
(c) To receive this money, the city must submit the transportation
    alternative application to the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission.

RESOLVED, that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to submit
an application to the Minnesota department of transportation for funding of the
Lakewalk on Water Street as described in the application.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city of Duluth has the legal authority to apply
for the money, and the financial, technical and managerial capacity to ensure
proper construction, operation and maintenance of the project for no less than
20 years.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city of Duluth estimates the grant amount to be
$185,447, and is available on an 80 percent/20 percent local matching basis and
has matching funds available.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the city of Duluth is awarded a grant by the
Minnesota Department of Transportation, the city of Duluth agrees to accept the
grant award and may enter into an agreement with the state of Minnesota for the
above referenced project. The city of Duluth will comply with all applicable
laws, environmental requirements and regulations stated in the grant agreement.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city council of the city of Duluth names the fiscal agent for the city of Duluth for this project as: Wayne Parson, city auditor, city of Duluth, 411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city council reaffirm previously passed Resolutions 07-0446 and 08-0171 and further express a commitment to concurrently undertake efforts to seek public input and find solutions for completion of the Lakewalk between 20th and 25th avenues East.

ENG CJV:jh 1/2/2014

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution will authorize submission of an application to the Minnesota department of transportation for the construction of the Lakewalk on Water Street behind the existing curb. The city’s matching funds will be payable from Capital Improvement Fund 450, City Project No. 0925TR. These funds are eligible as a match for federal grants.

(Passed 7-1)
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LAKEWALK TASK FORCE.

BY COUNCILORS SUPREE AND LARSON:

RESOLVED, that the city council shall establish a lakewalk task force for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations regarding the lakewalk in the vicinity of 19th Avenue East and 25th Avenue East ("study area"). The task force shall examine and make recommendations regarding the following issues:

- Safety issues at the intersection of the lakewalk, 23rd Avenue East and Water Street;
- Pedestrian access to the lakefront in the study area;
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues in the study area; and
- The cost, benefits, and funding sources of potential options.

FURTHER RESOLVED, bicycle and other wheeled traffic should be directed along Water Street as specified in the city's application to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for transportation alternative funding for a lakewalk shared use plan along Water Street.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force shall consist of six members, with one of the members being a resident of the Ledges development, one member being a resident of the Point or Lighthouse properties (aka "Beacon Point" development), one member being a representative of the Friends of the Lakewalk, two members being citizens-at-large, and one non-voting member being a city councilor who shall act as liaison between the task force and the city administration. All six members shall be appointed by the Duluth city council president.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force shall produce a preliminary report summarizing its progress by December 1, 2014 and a final report containing its findings and recommendations to the Duluth city council no later than January 15, 2015. The council president has the discretion to modify all reporting deadlines. The reports shall be delivered to the council by way of the clerk. The members shall serve without compensation. Reasonable expenses, approved by the Duluth
city council president and finance director, within the existing budget, shall be paid.

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
Attorney

CC:REQ/ATTY JS:EL:s 08/20/2014

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution establishes a lakewalk task force to provide the city council with information and recommendations as to the best options available to connect the lakewalk between 19th Avenue East and 25th Avenue East.

(Passed 6-3)