City Council Item

May 18, 2026

Item	Ordinance XXX: Amending Chanhassen City Code, Chapter 6 Adjusting the Slow No-Wake Ordinance Elevation on Lake Minnewashta	
File No.	N/A	**Item No:** D.20
Agenda Section	**CONSENT AGENDA**	
Prepared By	Charlie Howley, Director of Public Works/City Engineer	
Reviewed By	Laurie Hokkanen	

SUGGESTED ACTION

The Chanhassen City Council adopts an ordinance amending Chanhassen City Code, Chapter 6 Adjusting the Slow No-Wake Ordinance Elevation on Lake Minnewashta.

Motion Type	Simple Majority Vote of members present
Strategic Priority	Operational Excellence

SUMMARY

A Citizen Action Request was submitted to the City on July 14, 2025, requesting a change to the existing Slow-No Wake (SNW) elevation for Lake Minnewashta. Specifically, the request proposed raising the SNW elevation from 945.0 to the FEMA 100-year flood elevation of 945.9.

This topic was first discussed at the City Council work session on October 13, 2025. At that meeting, the Council directed staff to evaluate a more moderate increase in the SNW elevation to 945.3 and to consider reducing the waiting period for lifting the no-wake restriction from three days to one day. Staff subsequently prepared a report summarizing the request and related considerations.

The matter was discussed again at a public hearing during the City Council meeting on November 10, 2025. At that meeting, the Council approved ordinance language to raise the SNW elevation to 945.5 and to reduce the waiting period from three days to one day. The Council also directed staff to submit

an ordinance modification application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Any change to the City Code regulating the SNW elevation requires review and approval by the DNR. Following Council direction, staff submitted the proposed changes for DNR review. On April 8, the DNR completed its review and provided comments. The DNR approved the proposed increase in the SNW elevation to 945.5 but did not approve the reduction in the three-day waiting period.

The City Council may now proceed with formally adopting the ordinance language as approved by the DNR. The approved ordinance language, DNR approval letter, original staff report, and overview map are attached to the agenda item. If adopted, the new regulation will take effect on May 18.

BACKGROUND

See Report

DISCUSSION

See Report

BUDGET

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Slow No Wake Ordinance
Slow-No-Wake Ordinance Update
Overview: Slow No Wake Minnewashta Ordinance Update
Minnewashta approval letter
Lake Minnewashta Overview Map