



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
October 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik (arrived at 5:41 pm), Mike Feldmann, Deirdre Kvale, and Todd Newcomer

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Newcomer, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Maintenance and Other Improvements to City Parks and Trails

City Administrator Nowezki outlined the work staff had done over the last few months on parks and trails related updates. She reviewed plans to replace regulatory signage; work that had been completed to regrade and landscape a connection trail at Holbrook Park; upcoming resurfacing of the tennis courts at Hardin Park; regrading of the existing ice rink area at Holbrook Park; and adding a new water connection within the ice rink area. She added that staff was looking for Council input on two other items. She shared background information and costs for replacing the City's outdoor refuse receptacles, and the possibility of purchasing a portable ice rink and maintenance package for Holbrook Park. She informed Council that staff had sent out a survey to residents welcoming their feedback on the ice rink area, and she'd asked City Clerk Moeller to share some of the results received thus far with the Council.

City Clerk Moeller reported that the survey link had been emailed to every address the City had for residential utility billing purposes, which was over 500 addresses. To date, the City has received 134 responses, and she pointed out that the Park Board has not had a chance to review the survey results yet. She had invited the Park Board to attend the Council's work session meeting. She gave a brief overview of some of the survey results and answers that were submitted about use of the rink space, skating hours, and the importance of warming house availability. She added that she wanted to review the survey results with the Park Board at their meeting next week.

Councilmember Dyvik asked why consideration for purchasing a portable ice rink was placed on the agenda before the information had been reviewed with the Park Board.

Nowezki responded that she had been working with Public Works and trying to find vendors that would offer a solution to help the City have ice this winter, and was advised that the opportunity to order a portable rink was on a limited timeframe if the City would want to have ice for 2026.

Moeller stated that the Park Board Chair had also emailed an objection to a rink proposal being placed on the Council's agenda before the Board had a chance to analyze the results of the survey, consider cost-benefit outcomes, and make their recommendation to the Council. She recalled that part of the reason staff chose to include it on the agenda was due to the opportunity to work with a vendor on a portable ice rink option before the timing window for the season was closed.

Nowezki informed Council that staff had been working to improve what can be controlled outside of climate conditions and gave the example of having the ice rink area graded, because that would help regardless of what decision is made about the hockey rink area, and also creating a water source in the area. She reviewed the proposals she'd received from Ice Time Minnesota for portable ice rink options.

The Council discussed proposals from Ice Time Minnesota, costs for portable ice rink scenarios, costs for ongoing maintenance of a portable rink for a skating season, the condition and potential costs for replacement of the existing hockey boards, and the anticipated cost of pouring a concrete pad.

Nowezki explained that she was seeking direction from Council on whether the City should look for a portable ice rink or a permanent ice rink.

Moeller reminded the Council that the Park Board would see the survey information and portable ice rink information at their meeting next week.

Park Board member Kelly Grady addressed the Council and explained that she would like to see the Board be able to take a look at the survey results so they could understand the ramifications of what this decision would mean and be able to provide City Council with a recommendation in advance. She asked that the Council follow the process in place for decisions that affect City parks by allowing the Park Board to look at this information and make a recommendation to the Council before a decision is made.

Moeller commented that the timing issue arose in relation to the opportunity with the portable ice rink vendor, and observed that the City did not need to move forward because they had the opportunity to and could rather just hold off until next year.

Grady asked if the City had considered the El Nino year weather projections for this winter, which would likely mean higher temperatures. She reiterated that she would like the City to follow the process and have the Park Board look at this information and make their recommendation before the Council moves forward.

Councilmember Dyvik asked if the Council could hold a special meeting after the Park Board meeting to try to make a decision about the opportunity for a portable ice rink.

Nowezki replied that could be possible and offered to ask the vendor to give them a few more days. She emphasized that Public Works staff would probably not be available to make ice this year, meaning that if the portable rink option doesn't move forward, the City will likely not have ice this winter.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller

City Clerk / Zoning Administrator