



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
November 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Deirdre Kvale, and Todd Newcomer

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

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Miner, 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. Review Draft of 2026 Budget and Levy

Interim City Administrator Nowezki explained that because she would be unable to attend the December 2 Truth in Taxation hearing due to a pre-approved vacation, she would be reviewing the presentation she'd prepared in advance for that meeting to offer an opportunity for the Council to ask questions and make changes to the 2026 budget and levy. She presented her Truth in Taxation Powerpoint that outlined and informed 2026 budget and levy development; and discussed budget factors including recommendations for City staff COLA increases; impacts of the new Minnesota Paid Leave policy (MPL); overall general budget details; proposed new draft funds for capital-related expenses and capital planning; proposed levy and tax rate increases; current City staffing levels and open job postings; grant applications that were being considered; the review of water and sewer rates; proposals for transfers to capital funds on an annual basis; budgetary changes due to the new Fire Department; the need to have a vision for City park improvements; pavement management project possibilities; and how a change in the City's engineering service provider may affect future budgets. Nowezki addressed Council member questions throughout her presentation and sought input on requests for changes.

Councilmember Feldmann noted that Grand Avenue and other future road projects are unnerving given the potential for high expenses associated with those projects. He emphasized that he wanted to make sure the City was looking at all possible funding mechanisms outside of bonding, such as grants.

City Clerk Moeller mentioned that she believes the goal for the City in 2026 will be to 'do better' and for 2027 and beyond is to 'plan better'.

Nowezki reiterated that she would not be present at the Truth in Taxation meeting and inquired whether the Council wanted to make any changes to the information she had presented on the 2026 budget and levy.

Councilmember Dyvik commended Interim Administrator Nowezki for her work and stated that he liked what she had done and did not want to make changes. He indicated that he was pleased with the changes she had made to establish the capital funds.

Mayor Miner and Councilmember Kvale agreed.

The Council briefly discussed expected changes due to the new JPA for fire services.

OTHER BUSINESS

Legislative Coalition Initiative - Mayor Miner reported that greater Lake Minnetonka area cities had proposed collaborating on legislative coalition efforts by cost-sharing to retain lobbying services, and sought the Council's feedback on Long Lake potentially participating in the initiative. Following discussion, the Council granted permission to Mayor Miner to pursue possible involvement.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk