



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM

7701 County Road 110 West Minnetrista, MN 55364

*Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.02, one or more council members may participate remotely.*

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### 1) CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Vickery called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

- a) Pledge of Allegiance
- b) Introductions: City Council: Peter Vickery, Claudia Lacy, Brian Govern Staff: City Administrator Jasper Kruggel, Community Development Director David Abel, Director of Public Safety Craig Squires, Assistant City Administrator Paula Bauman, Director of Public Works Gary Peters and City Clerk Ann Meyerhoff Consultants: City Attorney Sarah Sonsalla, Kennedy & Graven. Absent: Mayor Lisa Whalen, Councilmember Cathleen Reffkin.

- c) Approval of Agenda

Administrator Kruggel informed the Council that two business items were being proposed for removal from the agenda. One item requires a four-fifths supermajority vote for approval or denial, and the second item is related to it. Due to scheduling constraints, staff recommended continuing both items to the February 18 City Council meeting, at which time a full Council is expected to be present.

Motion made by Councilmember Lacy, Seconded by Councilmember Govern to approve the agenda with changes.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern

### 2) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Council Member Vickery presented Michael Kirkwood a certificate and thanked him for his service with the LMCD

### 3) PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Bob Christians addressed the Council regarding an unusually high water bill. He stated that a plumber determined the issue was caused by a problem in the City water line and requested a reasonable resolution, proposing that the cost be split 50/50. Staff noted that utility bill adjustments require City Council action and recommended addressing the matter through a formal policy rather than a one-time exception. Council discussed the issue, including differing views on the cause, and reached consensus to bring the matter to a work session on February 18 to consider a policy for similar situations. Staff agreed to place a temporary hold on the utility bill pending Council review.

### 4) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approve City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2026
- b) Res. No. 8-26 Approve Claims
- c) Res. No. 9-26 Approve Extension for Preliminary Plat of Highlands at Whaletail Lake

- d) Res. No. 10-26 Approve Simple Subdivision between 3265 & 3320 Williams Lane
- e) Res. No. 11-26 Authorize Execution of Accessory Structure Agreement with MCWD at 6300 Painter Road
- f) Res. No. 12-26 Approve Purchase for Replacement of Ditch Flail Mower
- g) Res. No. 13-26 Accept Improvements and Authorize Final Payment for Minneapolis Ave Drainage Work

Motion made by Councilmember Govern, Seconded by Councilmember Lacy to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern

## 5) PUBLIC HEARINGS

## 6) BUSINESS ITEMS

- a) ~~Res. No. 14-26 Comprehensive Plan Amendment 7635, 7501, 7385 Highway~~
- b) ~~Res. No. 15-26 Approve Simple Subdivision between 4520 Grimm Road & 7635 Highway 7~~

## 7) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- a) Staff Reports

Administrator Kruggel noted that the strategic planning session is scheduled for February 26 from 3:00 p.m. to approximately 6:00 p.m., followed by a joint City Council meeting with the City of St. Bonifacius at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Due to scheduling challenges, members who are unable to attend were asked to notify staff. The joint meeting agenda is expected to include discussion of the fire partnership, an annexation request from Minnetrista involving a small parcel of land, and the water interconnect agreement that has been under consideration for several years, with the goal of finalizing the agreement.

- b) Council Reports

- i) Mayor Lisa Whalen

- ii) Cathleen Reffkin

- iii) Claudia Lacy

Councilmember Lacy reported on a meeting with the Gillespie Center, which is facing challenges related to its 25-year-old HVAC system and the high cost of replacement, with competitive bids estimated at approximately \$188,000. She noted plans to seek additional input from individuals with relevant technical expertise. It was also announced that the Gillespie Center has a new president, Ms. Carlson, who brings significant corporate and business experience. Additionally, an update was provided on the rebranding of the local Chamber of Commerce and efforts to strengthen connections between nonprofits, for-profit businesses, and city government in the western suburbs, supported by a marketing firm aimed at expanding engagement and economic activity in the community.

- iv) Peter Vickery

Councilmember Vickery reported on attendance at a Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Board meeting, where responsible salt use was emphasized due to current icy conditions. It was noted that even a small amount of salt can significantly impact water

quality, reinforcing the importance of limiting salt application to only where necessary. Vickery also acknowledged that the City has been responsible in its salt usage practices, which was viewed as encouraging.

v) Brian Govern

**8) ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Councilmember Govern, Seconded by Councilmember Lacy to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern

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