



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 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.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Whalen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- a) Pledge of Allegiance
- b) Introductions: City Council: Mayor Lisa Whalen, Cathleen Reffkin, Claudia Lacy, Peter Vickery, Brian Govern Staff: City Administrator Jasper Kruggel, Finance Director Brian Grimm, Community Development Director David Abel, Director of Public Safety Craig Squires, Assistant City Administrator Paula Bauman, Director of Public Works Gary Peters (Remote) and City Clerk Ann Meyerhoff (Remote) Consultants: City Attorney Sarah Sonsalla, Kennedy & Graven (Remote) and City Engineer Alyson Fauske, WSB Engineering (Remote)
- c) Approval of Agenda
Motion made by Councilmember Reffkin, Seconded by Councilmember Govern to approve the agenda as presented.
Voting Yea: Mayor Whalen, Councilmember Reffkin, Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern

2) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

3) PERSONS TO BE HEARD

4) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approve City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2026
- b) Res. No. 68-26 Approve Claims
- c) Res. No. 69-26 Approve Findings of Fact & Record of Decision for the EAW for property South of Hwy 7 (7635 State Hwy 7)
- d) Res. No. 70-26 Approve Election Judge Appointments for the 2026 Primary and General Election
- e) Res. No. 71-26 2026 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project - Approve Plans & Specifications; Authorize Advertisement for Bids
- f) Res. No. 72-26 2027 Street Improvement Project - Approve Task Order 18 to Prepare Feasibility Report and Preliminary Design
- g) Approve Temporary Liquor License for Northwest Tonka Lions
- h) Authorize the hiring of two Public Works Seasonal Employees

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Whalen, Councilmember Reffkin, Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern

5) PUBLIC HEARINGS

6) BUSINESS ITEMS

- a) Approving Ordinance No. 506 - Water Users Utility Fees Update Effective July 1, 2026

- i) Res. No. 73-26 Approve Publication of Ordinance 506 by Title and Summary

Council reviewed the proposed ordinance updating utility rates in conjunction with the City's transition from quarterly to monthly utility billing beginning July 1, 2026. The changes, previously discussed during a work session and the 2026 budget process, include phased adjustments to water rates to support infrastructure investments, including the new water treatment plant, and to align rates with monthly billing. The ordinance updates the water base rate and usage-based charges and establishes corresponding monthly rates for sewer, stormwater, and recycling services. Residents receiving city water service will transition to monthly billing beginning July 1, with their final quarterly bill covering April through June usage and their first monthly bill covering July usage. Properties not connected to city water will continue to receive quarterly billing for applicable sewer, stormwater, and recycling services. Council also noted that, despite the rate increase, the City's water rates remain lower than many neighboring communities while providing high-quality, safe drinking water. No additional questions or comments were raised.

Motion made by Councilmember Reffkin, Seconded by Councilmember Vickery to approve Ordinance No. 506 – Water Users Utility Fees Update Effective July 1, 2026. Voting Yea: Mayor Whalen, Councilmember Reffkin, Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern

Motion made by Councilmember Vickery, Seconded by Councilmember Reffkin to approve Res. No. 73-26 Approve Publication of Ordinance 506 by Title and Summary. Voting Yea: Mayor Whalen, Councilmember Reffkin, Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern

7) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- a) Future Agenda Items

- a) Water Meter Software Update (7/20/2026 WS)
- b) Comp Plan Task Force Interviews (7/20/2026 WS)
- c) City Council Pay Check-In (7/20/2026 RM)
- d) ATV Ordinance Discussion (7/20/2026 RM)
- e) Greg Peterson Recognition (7/20/2026 RM)
- f) Employee Service Recognition (7/20/2026 RM)

Staff informed the Council of a proposed change being considered by the Minnesota Plumbing Board and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry that could restrict the use of stormwater reuse systems for irrigation. Staff noted that the proposal has generated significant opposition from watershed districts, municipalities, and other organizations due to concerns about water conservation and potential impacts on local

water supplies. Discussion focused on the benefits of stormwater reuse in reducing summer irrigation demand and avoiding the need for additional groundwater wells. Concerns raised by regulators primarily relate to backflow prevention and the potential for contamination of water systems. Staff explained that the City's irrigation systems are designed as separate systems with safeguards in place to prevent cross-connections. Council discussed the issue and was advised that a resolution opposing the proposed change may be presented for consideration at the July 20 meeting following consultation with the City's building official and further review of the proposal.

b) Council Reports

i) Mayor Lisa Whalen

Mayor Whalen provided a report on the recent Northwest League meeting, which focused primarily on legislative issues affecting local governments. Significant discussion centered on proposed state legislation that could preempt municipal authority over local planning and zoning decisions. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential impact such measures could have on future comprehensive plan updates and the ability of cities to address local issues through local decision-making. Attendees emphasized the importance of continued communication with state legislators to oppose legislation that would reduce municipal authority. Representatives from Metro Cities, the League of Minnesota Cities, and the Small Cities organization provided updates and expressed similar concerns regarding the proposed legislation.

She also noted recent changes affecting the sale or trade-in of former law enforcement vehicles, requiring the removal of police-related equipment and markings prior to transfer. The change was reported to be a public safety measure and may result in additional costs for agencies disposing of vehicles.

ii) Cathleen Reffkin

iii) Claudia Lacy

iv) Peter Vickery

Council member Vickery reported attending Officer White's retirement gathering and noted appreciation for the opportunity to recognize his service and see members of the Police Department together.

The Council also received an update on the alum treatment project at Whale Tail Lake. Treatment began the previous week but was temporarily halted after monitoring showed the lake's pH level was declining more than anticipated, creating potential risks to aquatic plant life. Staff reported that the contractor will return in the fall to complete the treatment when conditions are more favorable and that no additional costs will be incurred by the City as a result of the delay. The Council was further advised that grant funding supporting the project is scheduled to expire, and representatives from Three Rivers are working with the funding agency to seek an extension of the grant.

v) Brian Govern

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilmember Reffkin, Seconded by Councilmember Lacy to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Voting Yea: Mayor Whalen, Councilmember Reffkin, Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern

ADOPTED the 20th day of July by a vote of _____Ayes and _____Nays

Lisa Whalen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ann Meyerhoff, City Clerk