



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

April 20, 2026 at 5:00 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 5:00 p.m.

Council Present: Mayor Whalen, Councilmembers Reffkin & Govern. Staff; City Administrator Kruggel, Assistant City Administrator Bauman, Community Development Director Abel, Director of Safety Squires, City Clerk Meyerhoff, City Engineer Fauske.
Absent: Councilmembers Vickery & Lacy.

2) DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) MnDOT TH7 Improvements Discussion - Presentation will be given at meeting

Staff provided an update on the Highway 7 corridor study and the planned 2029 improvement project. The study, completed in February, evaluated safety, mobility, and pedestrian/bicycle needs, including crash history, traffic operations, pavement conditions, and environmental considerations. Recommendations included roundabouts at key intersections, three-quarter access intersections, trail improvements, and a proposed concrete median barrier to reduce severe crossover crashes; however, the barrier is not currently funded or included in the 2029 project. The 2029 project, with an estimated budget of \$48.6 million, will focus on pavement preservation (mill and overlay), construction of select roundabouts and intersections (including at County Road 92/13 and Minnewashta Parkway), signal replacements at Highway 41 and Christmas Lake Road, bridge replacement, access modifications, and trail connections. Several suggested study improvements, including additional roundabouts and intersection changes, are not included due to funding limitations.

Council discussion focused on safety priorities, particularly concerns about access restrictions, right-in/right-out designs, and the potential impacts of a raised median. Members expressed interest in prioritizing roundabouts—especially at high-crash locations such as Wildwood Avenue—and raised concerns about multi-lane roundabouts based on past community feedback. Questions were asked about construction staging, traffic detours, and the timeline for securing funding, with staff noting that additional funds would need to be identified by late summer or fall to be incorporated into project design. Future improvements beyond 2029 would likely be driven by safety and operational needs. Council also discussed advocacy strategies, including coordination with regional organizations and legislators, to secure additional funding and advance desired safety improvements.

MnDOT presented a overview of the Improvements Study for TH7. Lisa asked why put in a roundabout at 92 and asked about Wildwood.

b) MN DNR Canada Goose Removal Process Update

City staff presented a request regarding a new permitting process from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for managing Canada goose populations. Under the updated process, homeowners no longer need a formal wildlife management plan and can instead obtain a permit directly from the DNR with a simple authorization letter from the City. Staff sought Council direction before issuing such letters and clarified that the responsibility, cost, and implementation of goose management would rest entirely with the requesting homeowner.

Council members discussed the limited scope of the request, noting it currently applies to a single resident and primarily affects properties near water. Questions were raised about management methods, with examples including egg removal and non-lethal deterrence techniques, though specifics would be determined by the DNR permit. Council generally expressed support for allowing staff to issue authorization letters, emphasizing that the City would not be involved in decision-making beyond granting permission and that oversight would remain with the DNR.

3) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Reffkin, seconded by Govern to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Moton passed 3-0.

Lisa Whalen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ann Meyerhoff, City Clerk