



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 07, 2026 at 6:30 PM

7701 County Road 110 West Minnetrista, MN 55364

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor of the Day Essay Winners Matthew Hilleren and Niko Pekarek 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 and City Clerk Ann Meyerhoff Consultants: City Attorney Sarah Sonsalla, Kennedy & Graven and City Engineer Alyson Fauske, WSB Engineering

- 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

- a) Mayor for the Day Essay Winners

Matthew Hilleren and Niko Pekarek read their essays for the Council and Mayor Whalen presented them with certificates.

3) PERSONS TO BE HEARD

4) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approve Work Session Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2025
- b) Approve City Council Regular Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2025
- c) Approve Appointments and Designations
- d) Approve Memos of Understanding with the various Union Groups employed by the City of Minnetrista
- e) Res. No. 1-26 Approve Claims
- f) Res. No. 2-26 Street Improvement Project: Accept Improvements and Authorize Final Payment
- g) Res. No. 3-26 Award Salt Storage Building Fabric Replacement
- h) Res. No. 4-26 Authorizing Execution of a Pervious Pavement Agreement at 4995 Minneapolis Avenue
- i) Res. No. 5-26 Planning Commission Appointments for 2026

- j) Res. No. 6-26 Well 7 Rehabilitation Project: Accept Improvements and Authorize Final Payment

Vickery asked to remove item h.

Motion made by Councilmember Lacy, Seconded by Councilmember Reffkin to approve the Consent Agenda removing item h for further discussion.

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

The Council discussed the use and maintenance of pervious pavement and the associated credit toward hard cover limits. Staff explained that pervious pavement currently qualifies for a 50% hard cover credit, compared to 100% for traditional concrete or asphalt, and that an agreement is recorded with the property requiring ongoing maintenance to prevent clogging and loss of permeability. Councilmember Vickery expressed concern that while the number of installations is currently limited, future growth could lead to homeowners using pervious pavement to maximize building size without properly maintaining it, potentially impacting shoreline and lake protection. It was noted that installations are inspected initially for compliance with engineering specifications, but there is no ongoing or point-of-sale inspection requirement. Possible future solutions discussed included reducing the credit, adding periodic inspections or maintenance documentation requirements at the homeowner's expense, incorporating inspections at property transfer, or revisiting the issue in a future work session to consider code changes and enforcement capacity.

Motion made by Councilmember Vickery, Seconded by Councilmember Govern to approve item h, Res. No. 4-26 Authorizing Execution of a Pervious Pavement Agreement at 4995 Minneapolis Avenue.

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

5) PUBLIC HEARINGS

6) BUSINESS ITEMS

- a) Res. No. 7-26 2026 Street Improvement Project: Approve Plans and Specifications and Authorize Advertisement for Bids

City Engineer Fauske presented the proposed 2024 Street Improvement Project and considered staff's request to approve the plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids. The project includes improvements to Game Farm Road, North and South Saunders Lake Drive, West Edge Boulevard (added per prior Council direction), Pinnacle Drive, Lakeside Drive, and Basswood Drive with most work consisting of mill and overlay, and select areas requiring full-depth pavement removal and replacement based on pavement condition data. Additional components include spot curb and gutter repairs, culvert replacements and inlet cleaning on Game Farm Road, minor sanitary sewer improvements, ADA-compliant pedestrian ramp upgrades, and trail improvements as bid alternates. Bid alternates also include an asphalt underseal on Game Farm Road to reduce reflective cracking and relocation of a hydrant currently located in the trail near County Road 110. The estimated project cost is just over \$3.5 million and will be funded through a combination of city funds, state aid, special assessments, and a contribution from the City of Mound for its portion of West Edge Boulevard. The proposed schedule includes bidding in early February, assessment hearings and contract award in March, and construction from May through August, with contract provisions to minimize disruption to residents. Staff also indicated

plans to provide advance notification to affected property owners once the project is awarded.

Motion made by Councilmember Reffkin, Seconded by Councilmember Vickery Approving Res. No. 7-26, 2026 Street Improvement Project: Approve Plans and Specifications and Authorize Advertisement for Bids.

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

7) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a) St. Bonifacius Joint City Council Meeting Discussion

City Engineer Fauske informed Council of follow-up on a previously discussed drainage issue at the southeast corner of County Road 110 and County Road 151, where an eroding culvert is affecting the area as water flows toward Lake Minnetonka and near an existing sanitary sewer manhole. Staff reported that a cost-share request to Hennepin County in the amount of \$40,950 was submitted and approved. Public Works staff will further evaluate the project scope, coordinate with county water resources staff, and address required follow-up items. Council can expect a task order request for design services to be brought forward in the coming months as the project moves into the late fall or early winter timeframe.

Administrator Kruggel brought up setting a date for strategic planning meeting. Council agreed on February 26th.

Kruggel informed Council that staff intends to take a different approach to strategic planning this year by meeting individually with each Council member to discuss priorities and long-term goals. These one-on-one meetings will focus on big-picture planning, anticipated needs over the next one to three years, and preparation for the upcoming comprehensive plan update expected to begin later this year. Staff noted that these discussions will help align Council and staff priorities and inform development of a balanced and efficient work plan. Staff will reach out to Council members individually to schedule meetings in the coming weeks.

Kruggel advised Council of an opportunity to participate in the Elected Officials Institute, information for which was recently distributed. Staff noted that the program serves as a helpful refresher on local government topics and offers both beginner and advanced tracks. Council members were encouraged to express interest if they wish to participate so staff can assist with registration and scheduling.

Kruggel discussed the possibility of holding a joint City Council meeting with the City of St. Bonifacius following discussion at a recent police advisory meeting. Proposed topics for the joint meeting include a potential annexation of a small, isolated parcel surrounded by St. Bonifacius, the ongoing water interconnection agreement and related cost considerations, updates on the fire district joint powers agreement, and general coordination on future interconnection projects. The discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring both councils have a shared understanding of timelines, costs, and implications, as well as maintaining positive intergovernmental relations. Staff noted that the meeting would likely be scheduled as a special meeting, potentially in the February–April timeframe and would require coordination with St. Bonifacius to identify a suitable date, time, and location. Staff will follow up with both councils to propose potential meeting options and gather availability.

b) Council Reports

i) Mayor Lisa Whalen

Mayor Whalen provided an update on several meetings attended by the City Administrator and herself throughout the day. These included a regional meeting with representatives from the League of Minnesota Cities, local mayors, and staff to discuss key city issues, including ongoing monitoring of proposed affordable housing legislation and efforts to preserve local planning and zoning authority. Staff reported plans to pursue additional discussions with a state senator and affordable housing stakeholders to explore potential compromise solutions. Updates were also provided on discussions related to FMLA and PFMLA requirements, with the possibility of a future work session to further educate Council and consider potential legislative adjustments. Additional meetings included a town hall with Representative Myers, a Highway 7 Corridor Coalition meeting addressing future direction, branding, and funding considerations, and a discussion with the Halstead Group regarding early grading permit requirements and outstanding application items. It was noted that Halstead is expected to return to Council in late January or early February and that Council may need to consider whether to extend preliminary plan approval, potentially with a defined timeframe, if required documentation is not completed before the current approval expires.

The Council discussed a proposed mayoral letter circulating among local officials regarding state-level fraud concerns and whether Minnetrista should sign it. The Mayor explained the decision not to sign the letter, citing the need for prior Council discussion, concerns about the letter's tone, lack of supporting data, absence of proposed solutions, and its potential impact on maintaining neutrality and productive relationships with state legislators—particularly in light of the City's current bonding requests and other legislative priorities such as affordable housing. The Mayor emphasized that addressing fraud is important but noted that the City has already raised concerns directly with multiple state legislators and prefers a constructive, collaborative approach. Council members expressed interest in further discussion, including the possibility of adopting a City resolution that clearly states Minnetrista's concerns in a more balanced manner. It was agreed that the matter will be placed on the agenda for a future work session, currently planned for March 2, to allow for a more comprehensive discussion and potential participation by legislative representatives.

ii) Cathleen Reffkin

iii) Claudia Lacy

iv) Peter Vickery

v) Brian Govern

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilmember Lacy, Seconded by Councilmember Vickery to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Voting Yea: Mayor Whalen, Councilmember Reffkin, Councilmember Vickery, Councilmember Lacy, Councilmember Govern 7:28 p.m.