

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
St. Francis City Hall 3750 Bridge Street NW
August 18, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Mark Vogel.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Mark Vogel, Councilmembers Kevin Robinson, Sarah Udvig, Amy Faanes, and Joe Muehlbauer.

Also present: City Administrator Kate Thunstrom, Deputy Administrator-City Clerk Jenni Wida, Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Deputy Administrator-Public Works Director Paul Carpenter, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: FAANES APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA.

A roll call vote was performed:

Mayor Vogel	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye
Councilmember Robinson	aye
Councilmember Faanes	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye

Motion carried: 5-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. City Council Minutes - August 4, 2025
- B. City Council Work Session Minutes - July 28, 2025
- C. Public Works Streets and Parks Position
- D. Surplus Property - iPad
Resolution 2025-42 declaring surplus property and authorizing the disposal of said property
- E. Surplus Property – Dell Latitude 5140 laptop
Resolution 2025-43 declaring surplus property and authorizing the disposal of said property
- F. Vacation Rate Correction – Jennifer Wida
- G. Approval of Pay Estimate No. 1 for the 2025 Street Reconstruction Project
- H. Payment of Claims

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: FAANES APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA.

A roll call vote was performed:

Mayor Vogel	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye
Councilmember Robinson	aye
Councilmember Faanes	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye

Motion carried: 5-0

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tina Carrol, 23045 Ambassador Boulevard, came forward and asked why they are selling the surplus items of an iPad and a Dell laptop rather than donating them. City Administrator Thunstrom explained that they would need to look into the State donation requirements and create City policies and processes for making these kinds of donations. She noted that these devices would likely have to go back to Metro-Inet, which would likely not allow them to donate them to any outside organizations.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS - NONE

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Set a Special Meeting for Community Development Director Interviews

Thunstrom reviewed the Staff report and requested a Special Meeting to hold the Community Development Director interviews. She shared the requested date of September 22.

The Council reached consensus to schedule a Special Meeting for Community Development Director interviews on September 22, starting at 5:30 p.m.

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - NONE

Aaron Rochon, 23514 Degardner Circle, came forward and shared that he is a member of the Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT). He shared that they recently sent out a video on the new State statute and how it is being interpreted. He said he hopes to hear from the Council soon about a further discussion on this topic.

Mayor Vogel shared that he hopes the rest of the Council has been reading up on ACEIT to stay informed about what is going on at the County.

Mr. Rochon gave a brief background on what ACEIT does. He explained that there was a recent discrepancy with an Anoka County Commissioner election that had to be recounted on the paper ballots after there was a mistake on the electronic pollpads.

Robinson shared that the Anoka Union Herald put out a good article on this and also discussed what some Commissioners are and are not doing.

Tina Carrol, 23045 Ambassador Boulevard, asked for an update on the status of the property behind Subway. Thunstrom shared that they are working on the final design to get the road to bid this winter. She said this property is still under a purchase agreement until April 1 with the developer.

Ms. Carrol asked if the developer had discussed any other designs and if these would come forward at a Council meeting. Thunstrom said yes and explained that every land use application has a Public Hearing before approval.

City Attorney Schaps commented on Ms. Carrol's earlier point about the donation of City equipment and explained that there is a Charter requirement with this. He noted that Staff is working through this properly.

11. REPORTS

A. Fire Department Monthly Report - July

Fire Chief Schmidt reviewed the report for the Fire Department for the month of July. He shared there were 73 calls for service, with an average en route time of five minutes and 23 seconds, and at scene time of nine minutes and 19 seconds. He noted they are projecting a volume increase for the year of 12.9%. He reviewed the times of day and days of the week when all calls came in, with the afternoon hours being the busiest time of the day and Wednesdays being the busiest day of the week. He shared that there was a slight decrease in firefighters per call for the month, which is typical for the summer months. He noted there were 16 fire events and 57 EMS events, with the average time on scene of 27 minutes and 30 seconds. He said there was \$750 worth of property loss for the month due to a lint trap on a dryer catching fire. He shared that they provided mutual aid three times, two to Nowthen and once to Oak Grove, and received no mutual aid.

Robinson asked how they handle vacation time for firefighters. Schmidt explained that they have an informal process where they request firefighters to let their station leadership know if they will be gone for an extended period of time. He said the firefighters do a good job at keeping up with this. He added that some of their issues with lower responses for the month were due to a few firefighters being on medical leave.

Robinson asked if this time away for firefighters disrupts service. Schmidt said no.

Mayor Vogel noted that they are going to need to look at what they will do in the future if the year-over-year increase continues to be projected over 10% like it has been this year. Schmidt explained that this is actually less than what they have seen in the past few years. He noted that as the population continues to grow, the demand for service also grows. He shared that they are proactively meeting with Vista Prairie on how they present emergency services.

The Council thanked Schmidt and his Staff for their great work.

12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

The Council shared the meetings and events they attended in the past few weeks, as well as highlighting upcoming events.

Udvig shared that she attended the recent Parks Commission meeting and shared that they will be moving forward with the installation of the new park at Rum River Woods, which will start in September.

Robinson asked if anything is happening with School Resource Officers ahead of school starting back up. Police Chief Schwieger said they have not discussed this with the school. He noted that calls for service to the schools are staying rather consistent year to year.

Robinson shared that he toured the water treatment plant with Faanes and Mike Rodger and noted that the Staff does a great job with this facility. He encouraged everyone to come to the Council meeting on September 15 to discuss the water treatment plant and the reason they are raising rates.

Faanes noted that the grass outside City Hall is looking great. She asked about something she had seen in the off-week memo about a temporary light at Ambassador and Highway 47. Thunstrom shared that the State had considered a temporary roundabout at the Ambassador intersection; however, they have decided to move forward with doing the full project in 2027 rather than putting in something temporary. She added that moving this project forward would also fast-track their water and sewer project in this area.

Faanes explained that when travelling east on Ambassador, there are a lot of obstacles that cannot be seen around to the left, which causes people to have to stop past the stop line. She asked if they could look at some of these obstacles and obstructions to see if anything could be done. She noted the same is true for the intersection at Pederson. She suggested making these no-right-on-red intersections. Thunstrom said they would have to discuss this with the State, and they will share these concerns.

Mayor Vogel thanked Staff, the Police Department, and the Fire Department for putting on the National Night Out event. He said he would like to invite ACEIT and Anoka County to a meeting to discuss elections. He added that he has been

working with their legislators, who have both submitted requests for Highway 47 to be put on the bonding tour, and he hopes they will be stopping by the site sometime soon. He noted that at future meetings, he would like to see an agenda item added for a City Administrator Report to give the Council updates.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20 - Planning Commission Meeting - CANCELLED
August 21 - Cone with a Cop 4:00 - 6:00 pm
August 25 - City Council Work Session - 5:30 pm
September 01 - City Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day
September 02 - City Council Meeting (Tuesday) - 6:00 pm
September 15 - City Council Meeting - 6:00 pm
September 17 - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm
September 20 - St. Francis Recycling Event

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Vogel adjourned the regular City Council at 6:35 p.m.

Jennifer Wida, City Clerk