



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2025

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brad Spencer called the meeting to order on Tuesday, OCTOBER 21, 2025, at 6:30 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Spencer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Spencer, McCoy, Betts, Grotting, Fisher

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Services Director Simon,
WHPS Chief DuRose

VISITORS: See Sign in Sheet

4. ****CONSENT AGENDA****

Mayor Spencer stated that the consent agenda items would be considered routine and acted on by one motion unless someone would like to remove an item for discussion. The consent agenda

- a. Approval of the City Council Minutes from the October 7, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch #1 - Checks No. 23980-24013).
- c. 3rd Quarter Building Permit Report (For Information Only)

Motion by Grotting, seconded by Betts to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, McCoy, Grotting, Fisher. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 5-0

5. Reports of Boards and Committees by Council and Staff.

Council member Fisher Attended the following meeting:

- None

Council member Betts Attended the following meeting:

- None

Council member McCoy Attended the following meeting:

- Fire Commission Meeting

Mayor Grotting Attended the following meeting:

- Fire Commission Meeting

Mayor Spencer Attended the following meeting:

- NW Hennepin League
- Meeting with HC Sheriff Dawanna Witt
- Fire Dept Merger Meeting
- 6 Month review for WHPS chief DuRose

City Administrator Mark Kaltsas Attended the following meeting:

- None

6. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Matthew DuRose: Presentation of the September and October 2025 Activity Reports.

Director DuRose thanked the Mayor and Council for their support during his first six months, expressing appreciation for the warm welcome from the councils, police commission, communities, organization members, and criminal justice partners. He noted that despite some challenges, they had been able to overcome them and work together as a team.

Director DuRose presented the monthly activity report, highlighting an 18.5-19% increase in total incidents, primarily related to traffic enforcement. He explained that while there were many traffic stops being conducted, they were ticketing only those who needed to be ticketed, with education being an important part of their approach to traffic safety.

He reported on several events including:

- Night to Unite in August with good turnout in both Independence and Maple Plain
- Golf tournament with proceeds benefiting Maple Plain Fire and West Hennepin Public Safety
- West Hennepin Public Safety defeating the fire team in softball, though one officer was injured but has since returned to work in a modified capacity

Director DuRose mentioned ongoing scams in the area, particularly those taking advantage of planning commission packets available online. He reported they were working with affected citizens and developing training to address these issues.

He reported that the Highway 12 Coalition had met several times, and that the department had hired a new officer named Mason who started the previous Thursday.

Director DuRose discussed concerns about the Hennepin County Attorney's decision not to charge felony offenses stemming from "non-public safety traffic stops." He explained that police chiefs were not consulted about this policy change, receiving notification just minutes before the public announcement. He emphasized that regardless of the County Attorney's policy, West Hennepin Public Safety would continue making traffic stops as they are an important part of traffic safety. He cited a recent example where a traffic stops for expired tabs resulted in a DWI arrest of a driver with a 0.18 blood alcohol level.

Mayor Spencer asked if federal authorities might be willing to take cases the county refused to charge, particularly those involving narcotics recovered during traffic stops. Director DuRose confirmed they were in communication with federal partners about this possibility, with their drug task force officer helping facilitate those connections.

Mayor Spencer also inquired about local connections to fraud investigations related to food and autism programs featured on KSTP. Director DuRose reported no known connections to the Independence area.

7. Highway 12 – Bonding Tour Stop Update.

City Administrator Mark Kaltsas provided an update on the upcoming Senate Bonding Committee visit. He reported that the committee would be making a 15-minute stop at City Hall on Thursday, October 30th at 10:35 AM as part of their metro area tour.

Kaltsas explained they would provide a brief summary of the Highway 12 project and funding needs. The visit would include refreshments, and they hoped to have strong attendance from first responders and community members. Preparation included a handout and presentation, with about 5-7 minutes allocated for the actual presentation before the committee needs to depart.

The city is requesting approximately \$20 million in state bonding funds, with MnDOT having approximately \$9 million already set aside for the project. They are also hoping to secure about \$7 million in federal funding through legislative earmarks. The total project is estimated to need \$35-50 million.

Kaltsas noted that MnDOT has not yet selected a preferred alternative for the project. While the city recommended a 4-lane alternative, Kaltsas believes MnDOT is likely to select a 3-lane alternative based on scoring criteria and funding requirements. The 4-lane option would require closer to \$45-50 million in total funding.

Representatives from Delano and Maple Plain would also attend the meeting, along with state elected officials including Mayor Emeritus Marvin Johnson and possibly Senator Limmer and Representative Kristin Robbins.

8. Open/Misc.

Mayor Spencer mentioned that the Lake Independence Citizens Association had requested payment for their completed project. The project came in under budget and ahead of schedule, with a total cost of \$6,178 (representing 20% of the total, with a maximum commitment of \$10,000 from the city). The flowage appears to be visibly improved according to the person who performed the clean-out.

City Administrator Kaltsas reported that Midco is preparing to issue a press release announcing they have extended broadband to almost the entire city, with only about 20 residents scheduled for updates next year. He noted that Midco has invested approximately \$6 million in private funds, while the city helped obtain about \$2-2.25 million in grant funding from Hennepin County and the state broadband program. Kaltsas remarked that the progress over the past three years has been "unbelievable," with residents now having multiple broadband options.

Regarding the fire merger contract discussion, Kaltsas reported they had met the previous week to review a draft contract. They are waiting for West Suburban Fire to complete their legal review before finalizing the agreement, with the goal of joint approval in November. Maple Plain has also issued a draft lease agreement for their building as part of the consolidation.

Kaltsas provided an update on the gravel roads project, reporting it was still a couple of weeks from completion but making good progress. The project includes using a special blend of Class 2 granite material, replacing numerous culverts, and performing ditch work and drainage improvements. Despite starting about a month later than planned due to weather delays, the project is expected to be substantially complete by the end of the month, with full completion anticipated by Thanksgiving.

9. Adjourn.

Motion by Betts, seconded by Fisher to adjourn the meeting at 6:54pm. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, McCoy, Grotting, Fisher. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 5-0

