



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2025

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brad Spencer called the meeting to order on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:30 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Spencer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Spencer, Betts, Fisher, McCoy, Grotting (virtual-no vote)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Services Director Simon, PW
Supervisor Ben Lehman, WHPS Chief DuRose, Administrative
Assistant Solien

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 December 2, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of the City Council Minutes from the December 2, 2025, Truth in Taxation.
- c. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch #1 - Checks No. 24088-24106).

Motion by McCoy, seconded by Betts to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, Fisher, McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0

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:

- WHPS Police Commission
- Ribbon Cutting for Kwik Trip
- View Santa

Mayor Spencer Attended the following meeting:

- Retirement Party for Jim Lundbuerg (LMCC)
- View Santa
- WHPS Police Commission
- NW League of Municipalities – legislatures
- MP Lutheran Church 150th Anniversary Dinner with Marvin Johnson and Julie Maas-Kuske
- Kwik Trip Ribbon Cutting

City Administrator Mark Kaltsas Attended the following meeting:

- Nothing outside of those mentioned

Administrative Services Director Amber Simon Attended the following meeting:

- View Santa

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

Director DuRose presented the November 2025 activity report for West Hennepin Public Safety. He noted there was a 20% decrease in calls compared to the same period last year. However, there was a spike in crime reports in Independence, primarily from a cluster of thefts and burglaries that occurred in one neighborhood in a single night. These incidents coincided with thefts in Loretto. Working with Medina police, they recovered nearly all stolen property and identified suspects for possible charges.

Director DuRose highlighted the department's continued aggressive traffic enforcement, resulting in five DWI arrests in Independence during November. He also mentioned his participation in the View Santa event, which he found well-organized and a testament to the community. He announced that West Hennepin Public Safety received a \$1,000 donation from the new QuickTrip store that morning. The event collected approximately 1,400 pounds of food and \$800 in cash donations for the food shelf in Mound.

7. Consider Adoption of an Amendment to the City's Surface Water Use Regulations on Lake Independence.

a. **ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04** – Amending the Lake Independence Surface Water Use Regulations.

City Administrator Kaltsas introduced the proposed amendment to the Lake Independence Surface Water Use Regulations, which followed a public hearing in August. After that hearing, the city held additional meetings with the City of Medina, Three Rivers Park District, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota DNR, LICA (Lake Independence Citizens Association), and other stakeholders.

The proposed ordinance would establish a 600-foot no-wake buffer zone around Lake Independence during high water conditions, using the same trigger level already in place (958.2). This would provide a protective buffer around the lake's perimeter while still allowing recreational use in deeper parts of the lake. Studies have shown that at 500 feet there is little to no residual wake impact, and a 600-foot buffer corresponds well with the 20-foot depth recommended for wake-related activities.

The amendment also includes provisions for:

- Educational materials to be provided at Baker Park boat ramp explaining slow/no-wake requirements and impacts on water quality
- Annual buoy installation to clearly mark the 600-foot buffer zone
- Community engagement to encourage voluntary observance of the buffer at all times

Tom Blanck, representing LICA, addressed the council. He noted LICA supports the 600-foot buffer but would prefer maintaining the current trigger level with an additional "ceiling" level at which the entire lake would revert to no-wake status during extremely high water conditions. He expressed concerns about water quality impacts, noting that Lake Independence is on Minnesota's impaired waters list and that many projects have been undertaken to improve water quality.

Mayor Spencer explained that Medina has expressed interest in a dual-trigger system. He noted that since both cities must have matching ordinances under their joint powers agreement, any changes by Medina would need to come back to Independence for review. The mayor indicated that bringing this forward now would avoid scrambling to implement regulations in spring.

Motion by Betts, seconded by McCoy to approve ORDINANCE 2025-04 amending the Lake Independence Surface Water Use Regulations. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, Fisher, McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0

8. Consider Approval of the West Suburban Fire District Fire Protection Services Agreement.

a. The Agreement will Establish West Suburban Fire District as the sole Fire Department for the City of Independence and Consolidate the Maple Plain Fire Department into the West Suburban Fire District.

City Administrator Kaltsas presented the fire protection services agreement that would engage the entire City of Independence in a contract with West Suburban Fire District to provide fire, EMS, and rescue services. This represents the culmination of discussions over the past few years regarding consolidation of the Maple Plain Fire Department with West Suburban Fire District.

Key provisions of the 5-year agreement include:

- A 2-year out clause for all parties
- West Suburban will offer membership to all active Maple Plain volunteer firefighters
- Implementation date of January 1, 2026
- Additional pension contributions (split with Maple Plain) to bring transferred firefighters up to West Suburban's higher pension level
- A "cost plus" funding formula that gradually transitions to the standard formula over 5 years
- One-time equipment cost split evenly between Maple Plain and Independence
- Agreement to purchase a new fire engine (up to \$1.5 million) with costs split 50% to West Suburban and 50% between Maple Plain and Independence
- Limited warranty on transferred equipment through December 31, 2027, covering repair costs exceeding \$25,000

Kaltsas noted that the current joint powers agreement with Maple Plain will remain in place temporarily while issues with the retirement association and PERA are resolved.

Motion by Spencer, seconded by McCoy to approve the West Suburban Fire District Fire Protection Services Agreement. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, McCoy, Fisher. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0

9. Open/Misc.

10. Adjourn.

Motion by Fisher, seconded by McCoy to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm. Ayes: Fisher, Betts, Spencer, McCoy. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0

