



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY JANUARY 6, 2026

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Spencer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Spencer, Fisher, McCoy, Grotting (virtual)

ABSENT: Betts

STAFF: City Administrator Kaltsas, Administrative Services Director Simon, PW
Supervisor Ben Lehman

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 City Council Minutes from the December 16, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of City Council Minutes from the December 16, 2025, Joint City Council Meeting (City of Independence and City of Maple Plain)
- c. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch #1 - Checks No. 24107-24140).
- d. *For Information* – Elected and Appointed Current Term Status.

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

5. Annual City Council Appointments.

a. **RESOLUTION No. 26-0106-01** - Annual Organizational Appointments.

The Council reviewed the annual organizational appointments. Mayor noted that Councilmember Steve Grotting would be absent frequently during the spring and asked if he wanted to continue with his current appointments or make changes. Grotting expressed a preference to maintain his positions with backup support when needed. Councilmember Fisher agreed to serve as Grotting's backup for Public Works when he is unavailable.

The Council also discussed other appointments, including the Maple Plain Fire Department Commission, which is anticipated to be terminated in the next couple of months following the fire department merger. The Mayor indicated he would contact Joe Baker to confirm his willingness to continue serving in his appointed role.

The Council also briefly discussed the requirement to maintain official newspapers for legal notices, with Crow River News designated as the official paper and Pioneer and Delano as optional papers for publication. There was discussion about the outdated nature of this state requirement given declining newspaper subscriptions, with the hope that eventually state statute would change to allow website posting for legal purposes.

Motion by McCoy, seconded by Fisherto approve Resolution 26-0106-01 for annual organization appointments. Ayes: Spencer, Fisher, McCoy, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0

6. Annual Fee Schedule Adoption.

a. **ORDINANCE No. 2026-01** – Adopting the 2026 Fee Schedule Adoption.

City Administrator Mark presented the annual fee schedule, noting that there were no significant changes from the previous year except for a recommended 3% increase in the city sewer quarterly access and availability charges to keep pace with inflation. He explained that a comprehensive sewer fund capital plan is in development and will be presented to the Council in the first half of the year.

The Administrator further detailed that staff has been evaluating all 34 lift stations, including pumps, panels, and physical structures, to create a 10-year capital plan for the sewer system. This will allow for better financial planning rather than the reactive approach taken in previous years. The Mayor noted that historically the sewer fund had been managed on a break-even basis including depreciation but without adequate capital budgeting for replacements.

Motion by McCoy, seconded by Fisher to approve Ordinance 2026-01 adopting the 2026 Fee Schedule. Ayes: Spencer, Fisher, McCoy, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0

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

Council member Fisher Attended the following meeting:

- None

Council member McCoy Attended the following meeting:

- Joint Council Meeting

Council member Grotting Attended the following meeting:

- Conversation with Lehman about upcoming PW projects for this year

Mayor Spencer Attended the following meeting:

- Joint Council Meeting
- Met with Mayor Maas-Kuske

8. Open/Misc.

The Mayor reported on discussions with Mayor Julie Mosski regarding the potential establishment of a special taxing district overlay for fire services, which would not necessarily run the fire department but would pay for fire services. This would offer flexibility and could incorporate factors beyond taxable market value, such as calls for service. He noted that Medina has also expressed interest in this approach, and suggested employing lobbyists to help draft legislation for a special district.

Councilmember McCoy mentioned the importance of participating in the upcoming fire station study.

The Administrator provided an update on the water feasibility study, indicating that internal meetings have been held with consultants and another meeting is scheduled for January 14th. Following that meeting, a workshop will be scheduled with the Council to present initial findings regarding water service options for future development areas.

The Mayor informed the Council that Medina will be discussing the Lake Independence/Snow Lake zone on January 20th, which conflicts with Independence's meeting schedule. He noted that Medina's draft ordinance still included wake boat regulations that Independence had removed from their version, suggesting further coordination would be needed to avoid confusion during the upcoming boating season.

The Mayor also shared that he had received Greenfield's engineering study for improvements to the Lakes boat access, which proposed \$400,000 in upgrades to make it ADA compliant without adding capacity. He has been in communication with the DNR about the project and noted that Independence controls the top of the hill and should have input on any changes.

The Administrator reported that the city had been released from its MS4 permit requirements, though staff would evaluate which construction policies meeting those standards should be maintained despite being relieved from the reporting requirements.

9. Adjourn.

Motion by McCoy, seconded by Fisher to adjourn the meeting at 6:49PM. Ayes: Fisher, Spencer, McCoy, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Betts. Abstain: None. Motion Approved.

4-0