



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2026**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brad Spencer called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 20, 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 (virtual)

ABSENT: Fisher

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 January 6, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch #1 - Checks No. 24141-24171).
- c. Confirming the Date of the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting for Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM.
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Building Permit Report – For Information

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

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

**Council member Grotting Attended the following meeting:**

- None

**Council member Betts Attended the following meeting:**

- Fire District Meeting after previous council meeting

**Council member McCoy Attended the following meeting:**

- None

**Mayor Spencer Attended the following meeting:**

- Hwy 12 Safety Coalition meeting
- Dinner with Chief Leuer
- NW Hennepin League
- Sat as an alternate for Joe Baker at the PSCWS meeting

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

Director DuRose presented the monthly activity report for West Hennepin Public Safety from December 2025. He noted activity was up about 13.5% year over year, primarily due to traffic-related enforcement and education by officers.

DuRose mentioned that starting next month, there would be a new format for the monthly activity report to better align with how they report to the BCA. He informed the council that West Hennepin Public Safety would be participating in the Polar Plunge on January 31st at Lake Minnetonka with team name "Cool Whips."

DuRose also announced a recognition ceremony scheduled for February 2nd for three police officers and Sergeant Eblin, as well as recognition of performance and other activities from 2025.

He briefly addressed questions about immigration enforcement, stating that while there had been some federal agent activity in the area, West Hennepin Public Safety had not been involved in any operations.

The Mayor asked about what appeared to be an ice rescue practice on Lake Sarah on East Bay the previous night. DuRose was not aware of any rescue or training exercise.

7. Planning Commission Appointments.

- a. **RESOLUTION No. 26-0120-01** - Approval of Planning Commission Reappointments for Leith Dumas, Anita Volkenant and Timothy Usset.

There was discussion regarding the Planning Commission appointments. The Mayor noted that the agenda incorrectly listed the reappointments as Gardner, Thompson, and John Paul Story,

while the resolution correctly listed Anita, Leith and Tim Usset (alternate) as the terms that were up for reappointment.

Staff indicated that Leith had expressed interest in continuing to serve. The council discussed the value of Leith's experience as a builder/developer and the consistent attendance and contributions of John Paul Story, who was currently an alternate.

Council Member Betts suggested moving John Paul Story from alternate to a commissioner position and potentially offering Anita Volkenant an alternate position due to attendance concerns during summer months.

Council Member Grotting, who attended via Zoom, expressed that all commissioners have been fantastic and suggested reaching out to them to see if they would be willing to rearrange positions rather than making changes without their input.

**Motion by Grotting, seconded by Betts to approve RESOLUTION 26-0120-01 for Planning Commission reappointments, with the condition that individual roles would be determined at a future meeting after staff consultation with the commissioners. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, McCoy, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Fisher. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0**

8. Consider Approval of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Agreement with Hennepin County.
  - a. **RESOLUTION No. 26-0120-02** – Considering approval of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Agreement with Hennepin County.

Staff explained this was a triannual agreement that provides grant funding from Hennepin County for the city's recycling opportunities. The county board approved an updated policy in November 2025 for the contract period from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

The Mayor inquired about the organics recycling requirement. Staff confirmed that the city maintains an organics collection container at the public works area that residents can use during business hours. Approximately three residents per week use this service, which meets the county's requirements.

**Motion by McCoy, seconded by Betts to approve RESOLUTION 26-0120-02 Approving the 2026-2028 Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Agreement. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, McCoy, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Fisher. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0**

9. Open/Misc.

The Mayor introduced a proclamation for Winter Salt Week (January 26-30, 2026) that he brought from the watershed meeting. The proclamation highlighted the importance of proper salt application and the impact that salt has on water quality, noting that chloride contamination from deicing salt has been found in Lake Sarah, Lake Independence, and Pioneer Creek watersheds.

The proclamation urged all residents, businesses, and city departments to take part in activities that promote responsible use of deicing salt and adoption of winter maintenance strategies that maintain safety while reducing environmental harm.

**Motion by Spencer, seconded by Betts to proclaim January 26-30,2026, as Winter Salt Week in the City of Independence. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, McCoy, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Fisher. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0**

8. Adjourn.

**Motion by McCoy, seconded by Betts to adjourn the meeting at 6:57PM. Ayes: Spencer, Betts, McCoy, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: Fisher. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 4-0**