



CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY JUNE 2, 2026

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

4. ****Consent Agenda****

All items listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Council and will be acted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- a. Approval of City Council Minutes from the May 19, Regular City Council Meeting.
 - b. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch #1 - Checks No. 24392-24408).
 - c. Gambling Permit – Lyndale Lutheran Church
 - d. Non-City Assembly Permit Requests:
 - Wedding Reception: 5675 Kochs Crossing – July 11, 2026
 - Motor Condos Grand Opening – June 12, 2026
5. Reports of Boards and Committees by Council and Staff.
 6. Consider approval of Resolution Authorizing Maple Plain to Install Entrance Sign in City of Independence (within MnDOT ROW).
 - a. **RESOLUTION No. 26-0602-01** - Approving the Resolution.
 7. Consideration of the 2026 Gravel Road Project and Approving Plans and Authorizing Staff to Bid the Project.
 - a. **RESOLUTION No. 26-0602-02** - Approving the 2026 Gravel Road Plans and Authorizing Staff to Bid the Project.
 8. Open/Misc.
 9. Adjourn.



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brad Spencer called the meeting to order on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Spencer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Spencer, Fisher, Grotting

ABSENT: McCoy, Betts

STAFF: Administrative Services Director Simon, Public Safety Director DuRose

VISITORS: Jody Farley (NorthShore Gymnastics)

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 May 5, Regular City Council Meeting.
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable; (Batch #1 - Checks No. 24365-24391).
- c. Non-City Assembly Permit Requests:
 - Tour De Tonka – August 1, 2026
 - Polo Classic – August 2, 2026

Motion by Spencer, seconded by Grotting to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: Spencer, Fisher, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: McCoy, Betts. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 3-0

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

Council member Fisher Attended the following meeting:

- LMCC

Council member Grotting Attended the following meeting:

- None

Mayor Spencer Attended the following meeting:

- Meeting with Mayor Maas- Kusske and Chief DuRose for Annual Chief review
- Mayor Maas-Kusske's grandpa's funeral
- MP Fire Dept (West Suburban) Banquet – retirement for Scott Hartmann
- NW League of Mayors
- Gary Kroells' Mass for his father

Amber Simon Attended the following meeting:

- HC Election Training

6. West Hennepin Public Safety – Director Matthew DuRose: Presentation of the April 2026 Activity Reports.

Director DuRose presented the April 2026 monthly activity report for West Hennepin Public Safety. He highlighted several key points:

The department continues to refine the format of the activity report to more accurately reflect statistics and operational activity, including the carving out of incidental activities in other jurisdictions — such as traffic stops made while assisting a neighboring agency — to ensure those incidents are not counted as Independence or Maple Plain calls.

Call volume continues to rise, up approximately 9% over the same period last year, which itself reflected an increase over 2024. Recent activity has included a notable volume of administrative requests, primarily background checks from other law enforcement agencies. Director DuRose noted this may reflect seasonal hiring trends.

The department is not issuing burn permits at this time, in keeping with the ongoing statewide burn ban. Director DuRose reported that the community has been largely compliant and understands the restrictions.

The department continues to see scam activity targeting residents and has been providing information to city newsletters to help residents and families protect themselves.

Two hiring processes are currently active: one for a part-time police officer position and one for a full-time vacancy. Both candidates are in the background investigation phase, with an estimated start date of approximately August 1st.

Director DuRose also announced the publication of the West Hennepin Public Safety 2025 Annual Report, now live on the department website and promoted via Facebook. He acknowledged Reserve Officer Lisa for her significant effort in redesigning the report format. The Council had no questions.

7. Consider approval of the issuance of a 501(C)(3) Facilities Revenue Note for the North Shore Gymnastics Project, SERIES 2026, and related documents and actions therefor.
 - a. **RESOLUTION No. 26-0519-01** - Approving the Issuance of the Conduit Bonds.

The Mayor provided brief background, noting that the Council had previously discussed this item and that the remaining step had been finalizing contract language. A representative of North Shore Gymnastics, Jody, was present to answer any questions; the Council had none. The Mayor clarified for the record that these conduit bonds represent no debt obligation or financial liability to the City of Independence. The city is serving as the issuing authority because North Shore Gymnastics' home city of Maple Plain does not have the requisite issuing capacity. The City of Independence will receive a modest fee for its role.

Motion by Grotting, seconded by Fisher to approve RESOLUTION 26-0519-01 approving issuance of Conduit Bonds. Ayes: Spencer, Fisher, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: McCoy, Betts. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 3-0

8. Discussion on New Options for Cities Relating to In-Person Early Voting Days for the Upcoming Local, State and National Elections.

Amber Simon presented information on recently enacted legislation giving cities the option to reduce in-person early voting from 46 days to 18 days prior to an election. She explained that under the current 46-day window, voter turnout at City Hall is very sparse in the early weeks — sometimes only one to a few voters per week — with the bulk of activity concentrated in the final two weeks. The current setup also creates operational friction, as staff must continually switch between managing early voting and handling routine city hall business at the front desk.

Simon noted that the proposed 18-day model would allow the city to designate a dedicated voting space — similar to the setup used on Election Day — providing a more focused and secure environment for voters. She also highlighted that under the 18-day window, ballots are fed directly into the tabulating machine on-site, rather than being transported to Hennepin County by courier. This was seen as a security improvement, particularly in light of concerns from the prior election cycle regarding courier handling of ballots.

It was clarified that residents wishing to vote before the 18-day window could still do so via mail-in ballot, which follows essentially the same process. Required extended voting hours — including weekend days and evening hours in the final weeks before the election — would

remain unchanged. Director Simon also confirmed that voting services at Vinland would continue as in prior years. The Mayor expressed support for the change, noting that the extended 46-day window raises questions about voters casting ballots before candidates may withdraw.

The Council directed staff to notify the county of the city's preference to adopt the 18-day in-person early voting option, with a response deadline of June 2, 2026.

Motion by Spencer, seconded by Fisher to indicate the city's preference to reduce in-person early voting from 46 days to 18 days. Ayes: Spencer, Fisher, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: McCoy, Betts. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 3-0

9. Proclamation Recognizing and Thanking – First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain's Good Works Philanthropy Group for the volunteer services performed in the City of Independence in Association with the Community Clean-Up Day.

The Mayor read aloud a proclamation recognizing the First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain's Good Works Philanthropy Group for their volunteer contributions at the City of Independence Community Clean-Up Day held on May 2, 2026. The group assisted with unloading vehicles and provided food for participants. The Mayor noted this was the second consecutive year the group has supported the event and commended their dedication. A copy of the proclamation is to be sent to the organization.

10. Open/Misc.

The Mayor reported on several notable legislative and funding developments:

The state bonding bill included \$4,000,000 for Highway 12 improvement efforts in the city — the largest single-district earmark the Mayor could identify in the bill. The original request had been \$16,000,000 for implementation and \$4,000,000 for design work. While the appropriation reflects only partial funding, the Mayor expressed gratitude to Senator Lehman and Representative Robbins for their advocacy, noting the outcome exceeded initial expectations. The city is awaiting final bill language to understand timing and conditions for accessing the funds, and expressed hope that the appropriation can be leveraged for meaningful forward progress rather than absorbed back into MnDOT's general budget.

Senator Amy Klobuchar has included \$1,000,000 in federal special project earmarks for paving improvements at the Vinland Center. The appropriation has advanced to final approval stages, which the Mayor described as a positive milestone, noting that many such projects do not reach this point.

The city also secured a two-year extension — to 2029 — on \$450,000 in previously allocated railroad crossing improvement funding for the crossing on Townline Road just west of Loretto. The original funds were set to expire at the end of 2027, a timeline the Mayor indicated was not achievable given the scope of work and funding gap.

11. Adjourn.

Motion by Fisher, seconded by Grotting to adjourn the meeting at 6:53PM. Ayes: Spencer, Fisher, Grotting. Nays: None. Absent: McCoy, Betts. Abstain: None. Motion Approved. 3-0

City of Independence

Consideration of the New Maple Plain Entrance Sign

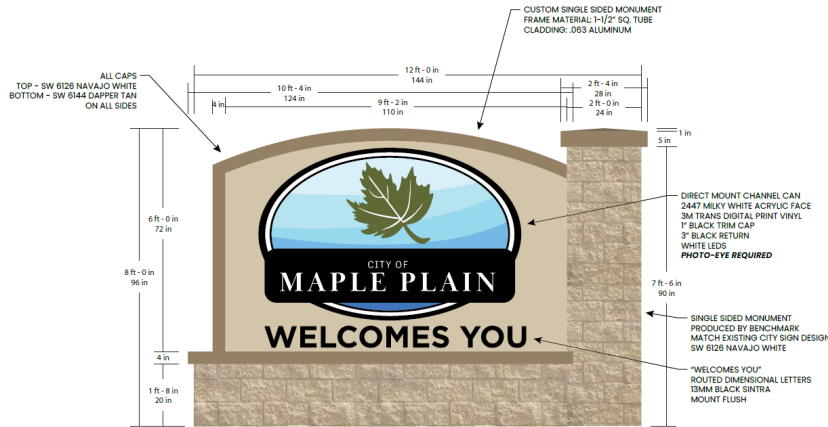
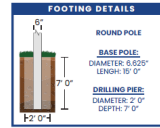
To: City Council
From: Mark Kaltsas, City Administrator
Meeting Date: June 2, 2026

Background

The City of Maple Plain asked for approval to locate a new entrance sign in the same location as the existing sign on the south side of Highway 12. This sign is actually located within the City of Independence, as shown by the municipal boundary line (see location map).



Independence City Council made a motion to approve the sign; however, MNDOT is now asking for a resolution from Independence for the sign. Attached to this report is a resolution approving Maple Plain to locate a sign in the MnDOT right of way.



DRAWING DETAILS

SIGN TYPE:
 MONUMENT

SALESMAN:
 DARYL KIRT

LOCATION:
 MAPLE PLAIN, MN

DATE:
 9/11/25

DESIGNER:
 BRET SCHWINGHAMMER

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' **WO#:** N/A

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APPROVAL:

LEGAL NOTES
 The client warrants that the subject matter to be printed is not copyrighted by a third party. The client also recognizes that the client has the right to have their copyright notice in order to be printed by copyright law. The client also warrants that no copyright notice has been removed from any material used or printed by a third party. To support these warranties, the client agrees to indemnify and hold Scenic Sign Corp. harmless for all liability, damages and expenses that may be incurred in any legal action connected with copyright infringement involving the work product of printed.

Recommendation

Staff is seeking City Council approval of the Resolution allowing Maple Plain to locate their sign in the City of Independence.

Attachments: Resolution NO. 26-0602-01



RESOLUTION OF THE
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. 26-0602-01

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAPLE PLAIN ENTRANCE SIGN

IT IS RESOLVED that the City of Maple Plain enter into Limited Use Permit No. 2713-0287 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for maintenance and use by the City of Maple Plain upon, along and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 12 and the limits of which are defined in said Limited Use Permit.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE AS FOLLOWS; that the Mayor and the City Administrator are authorized to execute the Limited Use Permit and its amendments, and anything else needed for MnDOT to issue the sign permit to the City of Maple Plain.

This resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Independence on this 2nd day of June 2026, by a vote of _____ ayes and _____ nays.

Brad Spencer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mark Kaltsas, City Administrator

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above Resolution is an accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Independence, Minnesota at an authorized meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2026, as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
_____ day of _____, 2026

Notary Public _____

My Commission Expires _____

NOTARY
STAMP

City of Independence

Consideration of the 2026 Gravel Road Project and Approving Plans and Authorizing Staff to Bid the Project

To: City Council
From: Mark Kaltsas, City Administrator
Meeting Date: June 2, 2026

Background

The City of Independence has identified roadway and drainage improvements on several of the City's gravel road segments as a priority capital improvement for 2026. These improvements are included in the City's adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and represent approximately two (2) miles of roadway work.

The proposed project segments are as follows:

- County Line Road
- Valley Road
- Dean Lane
- Turner Road
- Maple Ponds Trail

The project is anticipated to include gravel road reconditioning, grading, drainage improvements, and related work as detailed in the plans and specifications prepared by the City's engineer. The City does not intend to fund this project through special assessments to benefitted properties; project costs will be funded through the City's Capital Improvement Plan budget.

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name	2026 Gravel Road Improvements Project
Estimated Construction Cost	Approximately \$300,000
Project Length	Approximately 2 miles
Funding Source	City Capital Improvement Plan (No Special Assessments)

Applicable Statute	Minn. Stat. § 471.345 (Uniform Municipal Contracting Law)
Bid Advertisement	Official newspaper; minimum 10 days prior to bid deadline

STATUTORY BIDDING REQUIREMENTS

Because the estimated project cost exceeds \$175,000, the project is subject to the competitive bidding requirements of Minnesota Statutes § 471.345 (Uniform Municipal Contracting Law).

The following procedural requirements apply:

- Sealed bids must be solicited through a public advertisement in the City’s official legal newspaper.
- The advertisement must be published at least ten (10) days before the deadline for submission of bids.
- Bids must be opened publicly at the date, time, and location stated in the advertisement.
- The contract must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, subject to City Council approval.

City staff and the City’s engineer will prepare the advertisement for bids and coordinate the public bidding process following Council authorization.

PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Milestone	Estimated Date
Council approves plans, specs & authorizes bidding	June 2, 2026
Advertisement for Bids published (official newspaper)	June 3, 2026
Bid opening	TBD, 2026
Council considers bid award	July 7, 2026
Anticipated construction start	Summer/Fall 2026

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated total project cost is approximately \$300,000. Funding is included in the City's adopted Street Capital Improvement Plan budget. No special assessments are proposed. Final contract cost will be determined through the competitive bidding process. Staff will return to Council with a bid tabulation and recommended contract award following receipt and opening of bids.

ATTACHMENTS

- Plans and Specifications — 2026 Gravel Road Improvements Project
- Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
- Draft Advertisement for Bids
- **Resolution No.26-0602-01:** Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids

Recommendation

Staff is seeking City Council adoption of the attached resolution approving the plans and specifications for the 2026 Gravel Road Improvements Project and authorizing City staff to advertise for competitive construction bids in accordance with Minnesota Statutes § 471.345 and § 412.311.

Attachments: Resolution NO. 26-0602-02



RESOLUTION OF THE
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. 26-0602-02

**RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND
AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS
2026 GRAVEL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Independence has identified roadway and drainage improvements on approximately two (2) miles of gravel road segments within the City, including County Line Road, Valley Road, Dean Lane, Turner Road, and Maple Ponds Trail, as a capital improvement priority for 2026; and

WHEREAS, said improvements are included in the City's adopted Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer has prepared plans and specifications for the 2026 Gravel Road Improvements Project with an estimated construction cost of approximately \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, the estimated project cost exceeds \$175,000 and the project is therefore subject to the competitive bidding requirements of Minnesota Statutes § 471.345; and

WHEREAS, the City does not intend to fund this project through special assessments to benefitted properties; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the plans and specifications and finds them acceptable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Independence, Hennepin County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The plans and specifications for the 2026 Gravel Road Improvements Project, as prepared by the City Engineer, are hereby approved.
2. City staff is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for competitive sealed bids for the 2026 Gravel Road Improvements Project in accordance with Minnesota Statutes § 471.345 and § 412.311.
3. The advertisement for bids shall be published in the City's official legal newspaper not less than ten (10) days prior to the deadline for submission of bids.
4. City staff is further authorized to take all other actions reasonably necessary to implement the bidding process for this project consistent with applicable Minnesota law.

This resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Independence on this 2nd day of June 2026, by a vote of _____ ayes and _____ nays.

Brad Spencer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mark Kaltsas, City Administrator