

Minutes
City Council
Monday, September 22, 2025
5 pm

The meeting opened with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Pitzl called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with council members Chad Altermatt, Roger Baumann, and Mike Remiger present.

Also present was Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Brandon Baune.

2026 Budget and Preliminary Levy Review – Mr. Baune presented the council with a draft of the 2026 Budget, including the Preliminary Levy. He noted the following items:

1. Preliminary 10% increase in General Fund Levy, and an 8.38% increase overall.
2. Preliminary \$7,500 EDA Levy, an increase from \$5,000 for many years.
3. Preliminary 3.5% increase in salaries, primarily determined by recent inflationary numbers.
4. Preliminary 5% increase in sewer and water rates. Rate increases are necessary and were previously agreed upon to pay water and sewer Revenue Bonds. Mr. Baune noted that there were still shortfalls in the water and sewer fund but planned further work to find additional savings. A final recommendation would be made at the meeting on the 29th, but rates do not need to be finalized until the new year.

Other Items discussed include the following:

1. Technology Upgrades and Changes – Mr. Baune noted that Troy Walsh from the League of MN Cities joined him for their annual Loss Control meeting. This year focused on Cyber Security. Mr. Baune will be working with Troy and Chad from Tech Unlimited to work on policies to ensure proper handling of equipment, software, and other issues regarding technology. Mr. Baune also noted that he would be researching city employees getting work phones prior to the next council meeting.

2. Brandon's Vacation – Mr. Baune noted that he had scheduled a short trip and would be out of the office Thursday and Friday, September 25th and 26th, with plans to close the office Thursday afternoon. It was the consensus of the council to approve the vacation and plans for the office during that time.

3. Liquidated Damages Sewer Rehab Project – Mr. Baune noted that M.R. Paving had reached out to inquire whether the council had interest in waiving liquidated damages incurred as seeding was not done on the project before the completion date of 8/31/2025. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the council to table the conversation for a vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting on October 13th.

3. Taft Law Invoice – Mr. Baune presented an invoice from Taft Law in the amount of 12,000 for legal services on bond 2025C for the Water Treatment Plan and New Well Upgrade Project. He noted that Taft Law had requested we pay the bill before the end of the month due to their fiscal year end. Motion by Altermatt, second by Baumann to approve the bill in the amount of \$12,000.

Pitzl – yes; Altermatt – yes; Baumann – yes; Remiger - yes

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Brandon Baune
Clerk/Treasurer Administrator

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