



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28,
2025

6:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Spooner at 6:00 pm. Councilors in attendance included Mandy Barnes, Adama Doumbouya, Royal Ross, John Rowan and Peter van Sluis. Councilor Chuck Thiele was absent. Also in attendance were Deputy City Administrator Mark DuChene, City Clerk Heather Slechts, Planning Manager Harry Davis, Police Chief John Sherwin, Fire and Code Services Director Dusty Dienst, Public Works Director Travis Block, Planning Manager Harry Davis, Finance Director Kindra Papenfus and City Attorney Scott Riggs.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Ross, seconded by Rowan to approve the agenda with the addition of Update by Representative Keith Allen to 10. Boards and Commissions Reports, Announcements and Project Updates and carried unanimously.

Presentations/Introductions - None

Approve minutes of the October 14, 2025 City Council Meeting

Motion by Doumbouya, seconded by van Sluis to approve the October 14, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes and carried unanimously.

Requests to be Heard

Elizabeht Rite and Vicki Olson both addressed the Council regarding the potential Data Center in the City of Faribault. Mayor Spooner stated that the Council would not be responding due to pending litigation.

Consent Agenda

- A. List of Claims for Release
- B. Resolution 2025-276 Approve Procedure for Counting Write-In Votes for Local Elective Office
- C. Resolution 2025-271 Amend the 2025 Adopted Budget for the Viaduct Park Operating Budget
- D. Resolution 2025-273 Amend the 2025 Adopted Budget for Special Revenue Fund Changes
- E. Resolution 2025-275 Amending the 2025 Fee Schedule to Include Viaduct Park Rental Fees
- F. Approve LG220 Application for Exempt Permit from Rice County Pheasants Forever Chapter 0821
- G. Resolution 2025-277 Accept Donation from Depot Bar & Grill to the Fire Department
- H. Resolution 2025-278 Approve Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Military Affairs
- I. Resolution 2025-279 Declare Finance Desk as Surplus Equipment
- J. Resolution 2025-280 Authorizing the Transfer of Excess Tax Increment to Pay Down Internal Loan

- K. Resolution 2025-281 Levying Special Assessments for Delinquent Receivable Accounts
- L. Resolution 2025-282 Levying Special Assessment for Delinquent Water, Sewer and Storm Water Accounts

Motion by Ross, seconded by Barnes to approve Consent Agenda items A-L and carried unanimously.

Public Hearings

Resolution 2025-272 Adopting Special Assessments for the Airtech 2 Street, Utility and Stormwater Improvements - Contract 2022-07

Deputy City Administrator Mark DuChene explained that Resolution 2025-234 was adopted on September 23, 2025 declared the cost to be assessed and set a special assessment hearing date of October 28, 2025 for the Airtech 2 Street, Utility and Stormwater Improvements project (Contract 2022-07). Notices of the hearing were sent to the benefiting properties and published in the Daily News as required by law.

The assessments are a significant reduction from the preliminary assessment amounts based on final project costs.

The City has received no written objections to the proposed assessments.

The special assessment roll proposed to assess a total of 5 parcels in the amount of \$956,921.09. The City's share of the assessable costs is \$223,985.63 and will be paid from the Stormwater Utility Fund. The assessments will be payable over a period of fifteen (15) years with an interest rate of 4.98%. A copy of the special assessment roll is attached, as well as a copy of the notice that was published and mailed to individual property owners.

Motion by van Sluis, seconded by Doumbouya to open the public hearing and carried unanimously. The public hearing opened at 6:13 pm.

No comments were received during the public hearing.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Doumbouya to close the public hearing and carried unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 6:14 pm.

Councilor Ross asked if any companies would be paying the assessment in full, DuChene could not say for sure at this time.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Barnes to approve Resolution 2025-272 Adopting Special Assessments for the Airtech 2 Street, Utility and Stormwater Improvements - Contract 2022-07 and carried unanimously.

Items for Discussion

Resolution 2025-275 Approve Construction Documents and Establish Bid Date for 2026 Well Sealing Project

Public Works Director Travis Block explained that there are two abandoned drinking water wells located at the old water pumping station site that were taken out of production in the late 1940s. The wells were abandoned in the late 1960s. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) staff contacted the City in 2023 to revisit the sealing of the wells as records of the methods used to originally abandon the wells cannot be confirmed. MDH is requiring that the wells be resealed to ensure that proper protection of the groundwater supply is achieved.

In 2023, staff worked with our MDH Source Water Protection Planner on an application for grant funding for the project. The City was successful in obtaining a Minnesota Board of Water and

Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund grant for \$250,000.00.

Bolton & Menk prepared the construction and bid documents on behalf of the City. The cost estimate for the project is \$375,000.00. The proposed bid date is November 25, 2025. Matching funds will be provided by the Water Fund. This is a 2026 project and is scheduled to begin in the spring. The contractor will have 150 days to complete the project once given the notice to proceed. The project must be completed by December 31, 2026, per the BWSR grant requirements.

Motion by Barnes, seconded by van Sluis to approve Resolution 2025-275 Approve Construction Documents and Establish Bid Date for 2026 Well Sealing Project and carried unanimously.

Bids - None

Boards and Commissions Reports, Announcements and Project Updates

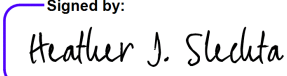
Representative Keith Allen provided an update on what happened during the 2025 legislative session and thanked the City for their support throughout the session. Councilor Barnes stated that the Paradise Theater downtown bar crawl will be on Friday night and there is a comedy show on Saturday night.

Adjournment

Motion by Barnes, seconded by van Sluis to adjourn the City Council meeting and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather J. Slechta". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Heather Slechta
City Clerk