



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

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, Adam Doumbouya, Royal Ross, John Rowan, Peter van Sluis and Chuck Thiele. Also in attendance were City Administrator Jessica Kinser, Community and Economic Development Director Dave Wanberg, Police Chief John Sherwin, Public Works Director Travis Block, Fire and Code Services Director Dustin Dienst, and Finance Director Kindra Papenfus.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Rowan, seconded by van Sluis to approve the agenda as presented and carried unanimously.

Presentations/Introductions

Oath of Office for New Paid On-Call Firefighters

New paid on-call Firefighters Fabian Hernandez, John Rivera, Ben Finholdt, and Noah Braget were sworn in by City Administrator Kinser.

Approve minutes of May 26, 2026, City Council Meeting

Motion by Doumbouya, seconded by Ross to approve minutes of May 26, 2026, City Council Meeting, and carried unanimously.

Requests to be Heard

Deborah Smits, 415 Sunshine Lane, spoke out against the building of a data center and if there was a better use of the land.

Karen Zeller, 1901 Crystal Lane, spoke out against the building of a data center and discussed the impact of noise pollution on children, the elderly and the deaf community as well as animals.

Marian Wolf, 887 4th Avenue SW, spoke out against the building of a data center and questioned where the process was and what could be reversed.

Shodo Spring, 16922 Cabot Ave, spoke out against the building of a data center and use of AI.

Consent Agenda

A. Claims List

- B. City Board and Commission Draft Minutes
- C. Approve Issuance of Complaint to the Public Utilities Commission for the Mississippi River to Mankato 345 Kv Transmission Line Project Route Permit
- D. Approve Application and Permit for a 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary Liquor License
- E. Resolution 2026-148 Approve LELS Police Officer MOU 2026
- F. Resolution 2026-150 Approve Quote for Seal Coat Oil
- G. Resolution 2026-161 Accept Proposal for Professional Design Services for 7th Street NW Feasibility Study Contract 2026-12
- H. Resolution 2026-162 Approve Low Potency Hemp Product Registrations
- I. Resolution 2026-163 Appointing Election Judges for the 2026 Primary and General Elections
- J. Resolution 2026-164 Approve County Highway Maintenance Agreement with Rice County for 2026 & 2027
- K. Resolution 2026-165 Approve Hiring Accounting Technician
- L. Resolution 2026-172 Approve Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Study of Housing Data in the City of Faribault
- M. Resolution 2026-173 Approve the Contract for Service with River Bend Nature Center for the MN DNR ReLeaf Community Forestry Grant
- N. Resolution 2026-174 Approve Hiring Recreation Lead
- O. Resolution 2026-175 Approve Street Closure for Heritage Days Car Cruise Night

Council Member Doumbouya asked to have Consent Agenda items C and L removed so he could abstain from the vote.

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Thiele to approve Consent Agenda items A, B, D to K, M, N, O, carried unanimously.

C. Approve Issuance of Complaint to the Public Utilities Commission for the Mississippi River to Mankato 345 Kv Transmission Line Project Route Permit – Doumbouya stated that there is no need for a complaint due to the preliminary nature of the actions and that the financial implications of routes needed to be reviewed. Ross asked if there is a cost to the City for the project; Kinser replied that there is not. Barnes and Thiele both stated that the complaint to the Public Utilities Commission was necessary to ensure that it was known that the proposed route through residential property and the Divine Mercy campus was not acceptable. Motion by van Sluis, seconded by Thiele to approve Consent Agenda item C; approved 6:0 with Doumbouya abstaining.

L. Resolution 2026-172 Approve Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Study of Housing Data in the City of Faribault – Doumbouya stated that this committee is not necessary and conflicts with the HRA. Mayor Spooner explained what an ad hoc committee is and that the data analysis role and proposed membership being broader than the City's HRA board. Motion by Ross, seconded by Barnes to approve Resolution 2026-172; motion carried 6:0, with Doumbouya abstaining.

Public Hearings – None

Items for Discussion

Resolution 2026-166 Accept the 2025 Audited Financial Statements

Ryan Englestad with Bergan KDV presented the 2025 audited financial statements to the City Council, noting that it was a clean, unmodified opinion which is the best that can be achieved. Overall, the results of the audit reflect the City's continued commitment to sound financial stewardship, compliance with state and federal requirements, and transparency for residents and stakeholders.

Motion by Thiele, seconded by Doumbouya to Accept the 2025 Audited Financial Statements. Carried unanimously.

Sale of 2026A and 2026B Bonds

George Eilertson with Northland Securities came before the Council to report on the sale of the 2026A and 2026B bonds, which occurred that morning.

The 2026A bond is a taxable general obligation tax abatement bond issued of \$3,710,000 for the second phase of Viaduct Park. The City got a bond rating from Standard & Poor's which was maintained at the AA level. Three firms bid on the bond, with Robert W. Baird of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, being the bidder with the lowest true interest cost at 4.92 percent over the fifteen -year period. Eilertson also reminded the Council that the bond would be callable half-way through the repayment period.

The 2026B bond is a general obligation sewer revenue bond of \$3,610,000 to be used for capital projects in the sewer fund. The bond rating for this bond is AAA due to the use of the State of Minnesota's credit enhancement program for public facilities debt. This bond had nine bidders with BOK Financial Services of Dallas, Texas as the lowest true interest cost over the fifteen-year life of the bond at 3.48 percent. This bond is also callable around the halfway point of the life of the bond.

In addition to awarding the 2026B bond, the City Council is also being asked to adopt a resolution to allow for the bond funds to be utilized before the closing on the bond, which is anticipated for July 9th.

Motion by Ross, seconded by Rowan to approve Resolution 2026-168 Awarding the Sale of Taxable General Obligation Tax Abatement Bonds, Series 2026A, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$3,710,000; Fixing Their Form and Specifications; Directing Their Execution and Delivery; and Providing for Their Payment. Carried unanimously.

Motion by van Sluis, seconded by Thiele to approve Resolution 2026-169 Awarding the Sale of General Obligation Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2026B, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$3,610,000; Fixing Their Form and Specifications; Directing Their Execution and Delivery; and Providing For Their Payment. Carried

unanimously.

Motion by Doumbouya, seconded by Barnes to approve Resolution 2026-171 Declaring the Official Intent of the City to Reimburse Certain Expenditures From The Proceeds of Bonds Issued by the City. Carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-170 Adopt Plans and Policies for the Small Cities Development Program
City Administrator Kinser introduced this topic by giving the history of the Small Cities Development Program and by the requirement by the State to adopt new plans and policies related to the use of program income from the original grant. The program income will be used to retrofit the streetlights in the Central Business District to LEDs. The plans and policies that are required to be approved are the following, which Kinser provided an overview of:

- Citizen Participation Plan
- Residential Anti-Displacement Plan
- Certification of a Drug-Free Workplace
- Prohibition of Excessive Force Policy
- Section 3 Plan
- Fair Housing Policy
- Small Cities Development Program Income Reuse Plan

Motion by Ross, seconded by Doumbouya to approve Resolution 2026-170 Adopt Plans and Policies for the Small Cities Development Program, and carried unanimously.

Bids - None

Boards and Commissions Reports, Announcements and Project Updates

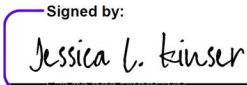
Kinser reminded everyone of the Council Chat on TIF and Tax Abatement to be held Wednesday, June 10th, at 6pm at Buckham West. Mayor Spooner reminded everyone of the Mayor's Reception as part of Heritage Days, from 5 to 7 P.M. on Thursday, June 11th. He also reminded Council members of when and where to line up for the parade on Saturday. Council member Barnes shared that Paradise Center for the Arts will be having an recycled art sale at their location starting on the 18th. Council member Ross issued thanks to the 60 election judges that were approved on a resolution on the consent agenda.

Adjournment

Motion by Doumbouya, seconded by Barnes to adjourn the City Council meeting and carried unanimously.

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed by:

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Jessica Kinser
City Administrator