

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
September 16, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Schmitz at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Schmitz, Council Members, Hommerding, Genereux, Backes and Skaalerud; City Attorney Couri and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Shea,

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

Bills Payable dated September 16, 2025 for ePayments #25373e – 25387e and Checks #24976 – #24989 and #27503 - 27512.
City Council Workshop Agenda, September 16, 2025

TOWNSHIP AGREEMENT

DISCUSSION: Mr. McCabe started by presenting the agreement with Fair Have Township. He stated he hasn't heard anything and wondered if we should just cancel the agreement, look to annexing the two properties off Beaver Lake Road or something in between. Mr. Couri reviewed those options and wondered when our last communication was with the Town Supervisors. Mr. McCabe indicated he hadn't heard anything since they were in attendance at our July workshop meeting. Mr. Couri suggested we contact the Fair Haven Township residents who live on the end of Beaver Lake Road and ask what their thoughts are on being annexed to the City of St. Augusta and also indicating we will no longer be maintaining their road unless the town supervisors come up with an amended agreement on the shared roads. On consensus, Mr. McCabe was directed to send letters to the residents and a separate letter to the town supervisors canceling the agreement with the hope that a new agreement can be agreed upon quickly.

There was discussion on Lynden Township Agreement and the discussion focused on the portion of road covered in the agreement that is not at all a part of the City of St. Augusta. Mr. McCabe was again directed to send a letter to the town supervisors requesting them to meet in a joint session to renegotiate the agreement.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

DISCUSSION: Mr. McCabe began by stating our policy has, for at least as long as he has been here, been to respond to only complaints and to not look for zoning violations without a complaint. He wondered if we wanted to continue with

this policy or if we wanted to amend to at least identify the those apparent violations that are impossible to miss as one drives by. Mr. Backes indicated he would prefer to stay with the complaint driven response as our city is large enough and there are areas that are less traveled so those violations could be a long time before anyone sees them. Mr. Genereux stated we should go after all violations as he sees too many things that are being ignored and it is starting to make certain neighborhoods look less appealing. Mr. Couri indicated the city has prosecutorial discretion; meaning they can choose which violations to enforce as they would never be able to enforce them all as most every lot would have some minor violation.

Mr. Couri updated the Council on the Winkleman property and indicated he believes we need to enforce the agreement we have in place and ultimately clean up the lot as allowed. He will visit with Mr. Winkleman and this item will be added to the agenda of the regular October meeting.

Mr. Couri also touched on the Voigt property and the court order that was issued some years ago. He will review that order and we can also discuss at the October meeting.

Mr. McCabe indicated he would be away on vacation next week and then out part of the next week having surgery on his foot.

ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:55pm by Mr. Skaalerud seconded by Mr. Genereux.

Approved this 7th day of October, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator