

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
November 5, 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, Backes, Skaalerud and Genereux; Fire Chief Kramer, Deputy Theisen, Planner Edwards and City Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Janel Honer, Jim Honer, Adam Ripple, Daryl Stang, Sherri Stang, Lauren Bahr, Mike Cramer, John Rosha, Gail Rosha, Vince Manderfield, Jim Tomczk, Eileen Annis, Brent Ahmann, Patricia Kronenberg

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Genereux to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, October 7, 2025.
City Council Agenda, November 5, 2025.
Bill's Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated November 5, 2025 and for ePayments #25414e - 25433e and Checks # 28584 - 28615.
City Council Workshop Minutes, October 21, 2025.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: A motion was made to approve the sheriff's report by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried 3-0.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S

REPORT: Mr. McCabe presented the monthly building report stating there were 50 permits issued during the month with two new houses bringing the total new homes to 22 for the year.

A motion was made to approve the building inspector's report as presented by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried 3-0.

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the monthly report indicating there were 10 calls for the month bringing the total to 136 for the year as compared to 127 at this time in 2024. Monthly training pump training on the new engine and Fire Inc held a wild land and search and rescue class.

A motion was made to approve the report by Mr. Genereux seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried 3-0.

Chief Kramer indicated Gunner Gilmore has completed all his training and recommended he be removed from probation.

A motion was made remove Mr. Gilmore from probation by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried 3-0.

***** Mr. Backes entered the meeting at 7:10 ******

Chief Kramer presented a quote in the amount of \$7,897 for items related to the new rip packs.

A motion was made to approve the \$7,897 quote by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

Daryl Stang, representing the fire relief association, was in attendance and presented a letter requesting an increase in the annual benefit to \$2,000/year.

A motion was made to approve the benefit increase to \$2,000 per year of service by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM:

Mike Cramer was in attendance to thank the Council for the work that was done on Beaver Lake Road.

Gail Rosha was in attendance and asked that we can look at 23rd Avenue and the safety of 23rd Avenue.

A motion was made to amend the speed limit on 23rd Avenue to 40mph by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

**PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION
ORDINANCE**

#2025-06:

Mr. Edwards explained the planning commission met on Monday and unanimously recommended approval of the ordinance that is cleaning up items from the last amendment. He reviewed the changes and while doing so, Mr. Alseits suggested we edit his

A motion was made to approve Ordinance #2025-06 as amended, Amending the St. Augusta Zoning Ordinance by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION

**RECOMMENDATION,
HONER VARIANCE
RESOLUTION**

#2025-11:

Mr. McCabe indicated the planning commission recommended denial based on the fact the practical difficulty is not unique to the property and may have been created by the property owner. The minutes of the planning commission listing findings of fact will be attached to these minutes.⁷⁴

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2025-11 denying the variance by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Bunders submitted a written update on the status of the layout of Gaberdine Road. Mayor Schmitz indicated he had met with staff earlier today.

A motion was made to approve the engineer's report by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Generux asked about the Blackberry Farms pond and if we heard anything from residents.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the proposed tax rate information from Stearns County. He indicated the rate jumped a little more than 7% over the 2025 rate stating that is exactly what we predicted when we set the preliminary levy.

Mr. McCabe indicated that Fair Haven Township has called and wants to meet to negotiate the road agreement. They were not real keen on maintaining Beaver Lake Road in equal 5 year terms. Mr. Backes stated we are willing to meet at a regular meeting. Mr. Genereux indicated he would like to see them come with a proposal. Consensus was to invite them to December 2 meeting.

Mr. McCabe asked if anyone had anything they wanted added to the newsletter that we intend to get out early next week.

Mr. McCabe asked what the Council's wishes were in finding a replacement for him. He indicated he had talked to two experienced administrators who are in different jobs or retired to gauge their interest in maybe acting as the interim administrator. One will be in Arizona for a good chunk of the time and the other has a full time position that cannot be left for something that isn't permanent. Mr. McCabe also wondered if they wanted to do the search themselves or if he should

solicit proposals from search firms. He was instructed to solicit search firms and have those available for the November 18 work session meeting.

ADJOURMENT: **A motion was made to adjourn at 7:50 pm by Mr. Hommerding seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

Approved this 2nd day of December, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator