

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
December 2, 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, Backes, Skaalerud and Genereux; Fire Chief Kramer, Fire Captain Voigt, Deputy Widmer, Engineer Hajicek, Accounting Tech Claussen and City Administrator McCabe. Council Member Hommerding was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Attached list present

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe indicated we would be adding 3 bills payable; one to the U.S. Postal Service in the amount of \$2,000, one to the City of St. Augusta for the water bill in the amount of \$77.70 and one to Gopher One Call in the amount of \$75.60. A motion was made by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. 3-0

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, November 5, 2025.
City Council Agenda, December 2, 2025.
Bill's Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated December 2, 2025 and for ePayments #25440e - 25448e and Checks # 28641 - 28705.
City Council Workshop Minutes, November 17, 2025.
Tri-County Humane Society Contract
Resolution #2025-13, Approving Private Road Name
St. Augusta Legion Outdoor Liquor Sales May 16 and July 25, 2026

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Lt. Widmer was in attendance and presented the November Sheriff's report. He indicated 40 hours were spent on the contract during the month and reviewed the call types.

A motion was made to approve the sheriff's report by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously. 3-0

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S

REPORT: Mr. McCabe presented the monthly building report stating there were 25 permits issued during the month with one new house bringing the total new homes to 23 for the year.

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

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the monthly report indicating there were 17 calls for the month bringing the total to 153 for the year as compared to 140 at this time in 2024. Monthly training was the SCBA fit testing and Fire Inc did an LP emergencies hands on class.

A motion was made to approve the report by Mr. Skaalerud seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: Two complaints on snow removal.

TRUTH-in-TAXATION

PUBLIC HEARING: Mr. McCabe began by indicating the final budget has revenues of \$3,737,956 which was up 16.91% from 2024. The biggest part of that change came from the CIP fund which had a 45.12% increase over 2024. On the expenditure side, the total budgeted is \$3,442,374 or a 16.43% increase over 2024. Again, the largest share of that came from the CIP fund where we significantly increase the budget for street projects and seal coating. Mr. McCabe explained the city is losing local government aid which is 100% dedicated to our street projects and noted that our small cities street aid is only about half of what was projected by the state and included in our budget. Mr. McCabe also presented a spreadsheet that showed the salaries that were adjusted to the midpoint of the study group in 2021 have not kept up and not one of our positions would be at the midpoint of the study group. Mayor Schmitz opened the public hearing at 7:13 and allowed anyone to speak who wished to be heard.

One person asked about what roads were part of the plan. Mr. McCabe told them the scope of the project was Gaberdine Rd and phase 1 of the trail which will connect to Beaver Island Trail in the future.

Mr. McCabe explained what roads are on the plan for the next couple years. He also explained the tax rate and levy and the difference between the two.

Mr. McCabe said when he started, his and the council's goal was to get to 32% tax rate, but the rate has risen and fallen over the last twenty years based on the market.

A question was asked if 32% was still the goal.

Mr. McCabe said this council just wants to get ahead of road projects and keep up with them, and the costs of road projects and revenue will dictate what the tax rate will need to be.

More explanation of the tax rate and the levy rate and how they are figured. Mr. Schmitz said his tax rates went up too. And said he preferred the city share the costs of all road projects rather than accessing the houses that touch those roads.

After no further comments, Mr. Schmitz closed public hearing 7:27 pm. Mr. Backes arrived at 7:25 pm

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2025-12, adopting the final levy by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the final budget as presented by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

HONER ZONING APPEAL

Couri discussed his appeal. The appeal first has to go to planning commission before it comes to the council.

Couri mentioned Mr. Honer would like to blanket the concrete to protect it from elements, and wanted to make sure that wasn't considered work. Jeff said that isn't considered work so that would be okay.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Hajicek presented options for Gaberdine Road and trail. Options with respect to trail. The south side makes the most sense, page 1, county rd 7, the road is offset to the north so that does not work. First section will be directly connected to road with the shoulder between them. As soon as possible the trail will be shifted away from road to make 5 – 8' distance between the trail and road.

Mr. Hajicek mentioned crossing point to shift trail to the north side. Final curve before the county road. Will be coming to an urban section so the curb and gutter will fit better as space will be tighter. Need to discuss so that we can get in touch with residents it will affect. Mr. Hajicek suggested an open house to discuss design components and show renderings to see what it would look like.

Mr. Genereux asked how we get separation between road and trail. Tyson spoke about the shoulder, the curb and gutter.

A motion was made to approve the engineer's report by Mr. Skaalerud, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.
4-0

LYNDEN TOWNSHIP

AGREEMENT: Update – they will look at it next week and send a counter.

FAIR HAVEN TOWNSHIP

AGREEMENT: Adjustment to contract. Not switching back and forth every 5 years. They wanted to negotiate \$750, Mr. McCabe said taxes were higher than mentioned, so we will stick with \$1000 since they offered that up front. IN 2-C everything should be deleted after Beaver Lake Road subject. Couri will make those changes to contract and update.

A motion was made to approve the amended contract with Fair Haven Township by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously. 4-0

City Administrator Resignation:

A motion was made to approve Mr. McCabe's resignation by Mr. Backes, seconded by Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously. 4-0

Mr. McCabe recommended Claussen as the Interim Administrator Clerk.

A motion was made to approve Claussen as Interim Admin Clerk at \$45 per hour by Mr. Skaalerud, seconded by Mr. Genereux. 4-0

COUNCIL MEMBER

PURVIEW: Mr Schmitz had a request for 55 mph speed limit signs on 230th west of 33rd. He was also asked if we can do fire marker signs as new fireman don't know where to go. Mr. McCabe said we can do fire numbers. Mr. Schmitz said plows should be out before snow gets compacted. Mr. Genereux asked if there was any correspondence on the fence in Blackberry Farms. It was agreed to add information to the website and the next newsletter about fire markers and house numbers so emergency services can find these addresses easier.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

REPORT: League of Cities, both property casualty and work comp rates will be down next year. Mr. Schmitz asked if Planning Commission meetings could take place the week before the council meeting so they had time to consider requests. Mr. McCabe they could start that in the new year. Monday, Dec 8th at 6:00 pm, with Board of Adjustment meeting to follow at 6:30 to hear the Honer Variance appeal.

ADJOURNMENT: **A motion was made to adjourn at 8:09 pm by Mr. Skaalerud, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.**

Approved this 2nd day of December, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Claussen, Interim Clerk/Administrator