

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA  
January 20, 2026**

**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; Interim Admin Claussen, Commission Members: Shea, Ahman, Kraemer, and Christin, Mike Couri, Robin Coffman, Shannon Sweeney, Bill McCabe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rodney Atkinson, Margaret Webb, Utley Krohnenberg, Jim Tomozk

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

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

Bills Payable dated January 7 to 20th for ePayments #25483e – 25488e and Checks #28782-28807.

City Council Workshop Agenda, January 20, 2026

**SHANNON SWEENEY W/DAVID DROWN:**

Mr. Sweeney discussed Capital Improvement Planning for upcoming projects. He said the city was in a good position as they didn't need to bond for upcoming projects. He recommended the following timeline for upcoming projects.

2026 – 238<sup>th</sup> St/Gaberdine/240<sup>th</sup> St Road/Trail

2028 28<sup>th</sup> Ave/215<sup>th</sup> St

2029 – Vienna Hills, Go-Ann Homesite, & Starlight Acres

**A motion was made to approve David Drown's schedule of road projects proposal by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**BOLTON & MENK PROPOSAL FOR PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2026:**

Mrs. Coffman discussed projects she's been working on since the meeting she had with Mr. Schmitz and Mrs. Claussen. Including an Inquiry tracker, application checklists, website content. Council members approved up the items she listed and thought they would be helpful for residents and staff.

**GROUP DISCUSSION TO UPDATE ORDINANCES:**

Mr. Couri discussed several ordinances and zoning items that could be cleaned up. Including:

- Deleting all farmstead references as the term is vaguely defined and serves no purpose.
- Section 44.04 – delete farmstead and move “farm with animals when a lot is greater than 5 acres in area” to its own category
- Delete tract and replace with lot or define tract as a lot assigned one PID number
- Split Accessory Structure and Accessory Use into two definitions
- Principal building needs a clearer definition and primary building, primary has not been defined
- Section 15.01.C how do we distinguish between what is a principal building and what is not on a farm.

Mrs. Coffman discussed the following items:

- Section 3 procedures could be simplified especially conditions and requirements
- Recommends taking out Section 6 administrative permits.
- Section 10 could be simplified and made easier to understand
- Section 16 recommends scale back exterior treatments for commercial and industrial buildings and eliminating minimum square footage and dimensions for housing –

the council discussed this and they may not want to eliminate the min square footage requirements as they may want to restrict some smaller building type homes

- Section 25, recommended differentiating between permitted and interim home occupations

Mr. Couri discussed eliminating Ordinance 2022-06 as we can no longer enforce due to state law.

Mr. Couri recommended amending Ordinance 2025-02 any section referring to low potency hemp as we cannot enforce them due to state law.

**A motion was made to amend ordinance # by Mr. Hommerding , seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **COUNCIL PURVIEW:**

Brent offered pictures of the machine St. Cloud uses to move snow on the Beaver Island Trail.

Mr. Schmitz has been asked about a city-wide clean-up day. Mrs. Claussen will check to see if May 30 or June 6 will work best and get back to the council.

#### **CLERKS REPORT:**

MIDCO will start charging \$1 per month per email. Just taking a count as to who still uses their Midco email address. Everyone but Jeff does not use it.

**ADJOURNMENT:** **A motion was made to adjourn at 8:34 pm by Mr. Hommerding and seconded by Mr. Genereux.**

Approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

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Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

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Kim Claussen, Interim Clerk/Administrator