

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
January 6, 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 Backes, Hommerding, Genereux and Skaalerud; Fire Chief Kramer, Attorney Couri, Clerk/Administrator Claussen.

OTHERS PRESENT: Patty & Utley Kronenberg, Jim Tomczk, Margaret Webb, Paul Shea, Rodney Atkinson

CONSENT AGENDA: The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, December 2, 8, 16, 2025
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated January 6, 2026
for ePayments #25462e – 25478e and checks #28742
- 28781.
City Council Agenda, January 6, 2026

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Dec report included in packet. Lt. Widmer was not attendance. Contract is for 520 hours, they had 509 hours and we will only be billed for the 509 hours.

A motion was made to approve the Sheriff's reports by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S

REPORT: Dec Building report included. Wallen not in attendance. 26 building permits issued which included 4 new builds.

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

FIRE DEPT.

REPORT: Chief Kramer presented the December report which included Dec stats. 19 calls for December 18 medical 2 were canceled and 1 fire. 172 calls for 2025 (151 calls in 2024)

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

Chief Kramer presented a letter recommending Travis Barker and Brandon Hanebuth to be removed from probation as they have completed all required training and drive time.

A motion was made to hire Mr. Barker by Mr. Skaalerud, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: Mr. & Mrs. Kronenberg were in attendance to ask questions on the Honer accessory building. They wanted to know what happened, why he was able to move forward with construction. Mr. Couri explained briefly, prior meetings and ultimately what the planning commission and council made their final decision on, the basis that the Honer residence qualified as a farmstead.

ACTING MAYOR: **A motion was made to appoint Mr. Hommerding acting mayor by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Hommerding abstaining.**

**BOARDS, COMMISSIONS,
OFFICIALS AND
COUNCIL**

REPRESENTATIVES: A motion was made to make the following appointments by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud.

Council Fire Department Representative: Justin Backes and Jeff Schmitz.

City Assessor: Jonathan Springer Stearns County Assessor's Office

City Attorney (Civil): Mike Couri – Couri and Ruppe

City Attorney (Prosecution): Jenall Kendal – Stearns County

Admin. Hearing Officer: Jenall Kendal – Stearns County

City Engineer: Chris Bunders – Moore Engineering.

Planning Consultant: Robin Caufman – Bolton & Menk

Building Inspector: Mike Wallen, Inspectron

Electrical Inspector: Kelly Johnson

Weed Inspector: Paul Hollermann

Assistant Weed Inspector: Mark Kiffmeyer

**RESOLUTION
#2026-01, SETTING
COMPENSATION:**

Mrs. Claussen presented a resolution with wages as budgeted.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2026-01, approving the salaries by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

**SCHEDULE OF REGULAR
MEETINGS, OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
AND OFFICIAL
DEPOSITORIES:**

A motion was made to declare the regular council meetings on the First and Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, the regular Planning Commission meetings on the Monday a week prior to the first Tuesday in each month at 6:00pm, amended to add any agenda items should be in by the Thursday prior to the scheduled meeting and only emergent items added after if necessary.

EDA meetings as needed.

The St. Cloud Times designated the official newspaper Harvest Bank, Steifel, and US Bank as official depositories by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #2026-02,

DESIGNATING

SIGNERS:

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2026-02 designating officials authorized to sign approved checks by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #2026-03,

DESIGNATING 2027

POLLING PLACE: A motion was made to approve Resolution #2026-03, designating the 2027 polling place by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE #2026-01,

ESTABLISHING 2026

FEE SCHEDULE: A motion was made to approve Ordinance #2026-01, designating the 2026 Fee Schedule, amended with updated base water/sewer price and fee adjustment taken out for THC license by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

DATA PRACTICES

POLICIES:

A motion was made to approve the data practices policies as presented by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding; Motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER'S

REPORT:

Mr. Bunders was not in attendance.

COUNCIL MEMBER

PURVIEW:

Mr. Schmitz would like a joint meeting with the planning commission and Mr. Couri and Planner Mrs. Caufman scheduled for Jan 20th, so they can discuss meeting preparedness and ordinance updates.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

REPORT:

Claussen spoke with Rollie Jurgens from Fairhaven about amending 4A to give more time notice for major projects.

A motion was made to amend 4A of the agreement to include the other party at the initial project discussion phase. And to add a provision for emergency work identified any condition in which would be hazardous to anyone traveling on that route.

Couri wanted to talk about low-potency hemp setbacks. The state has changed its rules for low-potency hemp and the city can no longer enforce setbacks. The question was do we still want to require interim use permits? After some discussion the board decided to move this topic to the Jan 20th meeting in which ordinances will be the main topic.

Ordinance violations – Mike Couri email. After discussion on how to handle nuisance violations, this topic is also moved to Jan 20th work session as the ordinance would need to be amended to reflect any change.

Need to reschedule Feb 3rd meeting as that is Caucus night. Council agreed to meet Wednesday, February 4th, 2026.

Mr. Couri has spoken with Mr. Winkleman and while some effort has been made to clean up his property, there is still more work to be done. The end of March was the date given by Winkleman to have more stuff cleaned up.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 9:00pm by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud.

Approved this 4th day of February, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Claussen, Interim Clerk/Administrator