

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
Wednesday, February 4, 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, Planner Cauffman.

OTHERS PRESENT: Utley & Patty Krohnenberg, Jim Tomczek, Rodney Atkinson, Bernette Perryman, Keith Ulrich, Mike Zenzen

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

City Council Minutes, January 6 & 20, 2026
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated January 6, 2026
for ePayments #25462e – 25478e and checks #28742
- 28781.
City Council Agenda, February 4, 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. Simon was in attendance. Total hours 43. Total records 67.

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

Dec Building report included. Wallen not in attendance. 14 building permits issued which included 1 new build.

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

FIRE DEPT. REPORT:

Chief Kramer presented the January report which included Jan stats. 14 calls for January 14 medical 1 was canceled. Same number of calls as Jan 2025.

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

Chief Kramer presented a quote for radios. After he received the quote, he found out the radios will be discontinued this year. They need to replace 15 more radios total for all of them to be the same. He asked if they should get all 15 now instead of the 5 they budget for each year. After discussion

the council asked if Kramer could have DSC come in and discuss options available. This was tables until the next meeting.

The other quote was for chargers, which was also tabled until they decide what to do about the radios.

Macqueen quote included in packet for gas meter calibration.

Motion was made by Genereux, to approve the quote for the gas meter calibration kit, seconded by Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

ST. CLOUD DISC GOLF PROPOSAL:

Mr. Bell and Mr. Rocky to discuss the Hidden Lake Disc Golf Course. Based on UDisc app information 1082 rounds of disc golf have was played in 2025, with 440 unique players, which only counted people who actually used the app, so actual numbers were much higher. They proposed a continuous improvement plan with included trimming branches, planting new trees, brush mowing hole 2, new signs, and new sign posts. Based on city's site review they would volunteer to do any of the work necessary for upkeep, and asked to partner with the city to replace signs and posts.

A motion was made by Genereux to approve purchasing signs and posts not to exceed \$800, and was seconded by Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM:

Mike Zenzen was present to comment on 39% tax increase. Utley Krohnenberg asked about what the increased tax amount was going towards. Representative Perryman commented about how fiscally responsible the city has been, and commended them.

VALLEY GREEN FERTILIZING QUOTE:

Quote total \$6730.68.

A motion was made by Mr. Backes to approve the quote from Valley Green Fertilizing and seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

GRADING QUOTES:

Schaber quote was for \$198 per hour for 9-10 hours of work. Another quote came in to from Diversified Paving at \$185 per hours for 9-10 hours of work.

Couri mentioned that a contract was needed to cover liability and should be approved by him and the Administrator, along with a cert of insurance naming the city of St. Augusta as additionally insured.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Report included in packet. Mr. McCabe was present. Plans are 95% complete. Project will go to bid in the next week, with bid opening February 27th and project to be awarded at the March council meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Genereux presented a City Council Meeting Public Participation & Standards of Conduct to review.

Ordinance 2007-17 review

Discussion on how to best enforce ordinance violations on snow removal. Couri said if we amended the current ordinance to reference MN Statute 429.101 the city could enforce the ordinance by doing the work themselves and or hiring it out, then billing the resident for the work. If the bill was not paid, the city could assess the properties to collect those fees. To move forward with this option a motion was tabled until the work session later this month so they could approve the amended ordinance at that time. Claussen was asked to get a quote on costs for the city to do the work.

APPROVE ORDINANCE UPDATES FROM JAN 20TH FROM BOLTON & MENK

Caufman was here to ask for approval of the ordinance discussed during the Jan 20th work session. She quoted 20 hours of work to update at a cost of \$3300.

A motion was made by Genereux to approve the quote of \$3300, and seconded by Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
REPORT:**

Claussen requested approval for a City Hall deep clean, including carpets.

A motion was made to approve Claussen to have city hall cleaned including carpets by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding, all eyes, approved.

Claussen plans to publish the Spring newsletter in Mid-late February, asked for any additions to be in by Feb 13th. Claussen confirmed the date of the City-Wide clean up as May 30th. Claussen provided an update from Mike Humpal with SCSC on the city administrator search. Council approved providing refreshments for the community meet and greet and lunch for March 3rd interview day. Due to interviews on Tuesday, March 3rd, the council asked to move the regular meeting to Wednesday, March 4th.

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

Approved this 3rd day of March, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

Kim Claussen, Interim Clerk/Administrator