



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
September 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik (arrived at 5:42 pm), Mike Feldmann, Deirdre Kvale, and Todd Newcomer

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Newcomer, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

REGULAR BUSINESS

Continue 2027 Preliminary Levy and Budget Discussions

City Administrator Nowezki indicated that she had incorporated Council's suggestions and feedback from the last work session discussion regarding the budget and levy, and was able to arrive at a preliminary levy proposal that she was comfortable with. She reminded the Council that they would be asked to adopt the 2027 Preliminary Levy and Budget at the regular Council meeting following the work session. She outlined the changes she'd made since the Council's previous review and highlighted details of the current levy proposal including the levy increase versus tax rate increase; the impact of fiscal disparities; property tax revenues expected; general revenue decreases expected; how staff salaries contribute to the budget; challenges in filling the open Public Works position; and the expectation of much higher health insurance costs.

The Council discussed examples of other ways companies they were familiar with have handled health insurance benefits and options that may be available for the City to try to help control future health insurance costs.

Nowezki highlighted 2026 budget challenges she'd faced such as addressing fleet maintenance and ash tree removals in parks. Looking ahead to 2027, she continued to review some budget changes she'd made in the areas of engineering and planning fees, transfers, capital improvements, and planning for Holbrook Park ice rink improvements. She mentioned that City Clerk Moeller had been working on a survey for residents to request their input on the Holbrook Park rink area.

City Clerk Moeller reported that the Park Board worked on a draft of a city-wide survey for residents that would be focused on the ice rink to help find out how important it is to residents; and seeking input on how often respondents use the park, the ice rink, and the off-leash dog area.

Council and staff discussed temporary ice rink options, security improvements for the warming house, and other parks and trails related Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) items.

Nowezki briefly reviewed a comparison of the 2026 and 2027 budget details and pointed out some of the differences between the budget years.

Council and staff commented on property valuations, how they affect the tax rate, what increase residents would see on their tax bill with regard to the City's portion of the statement, adjusted tax capacity, and historical tax rates.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk / Zoning Administrator