



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
May 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Deirdre Kvale, and Todd Newcomer

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; City Engineer: Rachel Scheu; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Bryan Miller, 295 Lakeview Avenue – Mr. Miller expressed his appreciation to the Council for striving to complete road improvements in the City. He encouraged the City to forego including curb and gutter, at least on Lakeview Avenue and Upper Lea Lane, because people just do not want it. He clarified that it wasn't just his opinion that curb, gutter, and sidewalks were not needed and added that if the City wanted to confirm this, they could just survey the residents in the area.

Councilmember Kvale mentioned that the Council would be considering two different types of curb and gutter, one of which would be less invasive. She stated that information on the two types of curb styles had been included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Miller reiterated that the Lakeview Heights residents do not want to have curb and gutter or sidewalks added to their street. He indicated that he was unable to stay for the meeting tonight and explained that he hoped City Administrator Nowezki would be able to fill him in sometime later.

City Administrator Nowezki assured Mr. Miller that she would be happy to fill him in later in the week.

REGULAR BUSINESS

A. 2027 Street Improvement Project – Continue Project Design Discussion

Nowezki commented that the goal of the work session discussion was for staff to continue to request direction from the Council on street improvement project design so that the project can progress forward, with work to begin in early 2027. She particularly sought Council feedback on the City's general curb plan for streets, and highlighted the example of a recent project on Lindawood Lane that

had not included curb and was now having water problems in certain areas, which may result in the City having to return and retroactively add curb sections.

The Council discussed the current drainage issues along Lindawood Lane and how the situation may have been able to be avoided.

Nowezki briefly outlined two different curb styles, barrier and surmountable, and displayed photos so the Council was able to see the differences.

City Engineer Scheu briefly explained the differences, pros and cons of each type of curb as outlined in the staff report.

Council and staff discussed curb styles versus snowplow operations, water flow impacts, and which curb option was more forgiving for drivers.

Nowezki noted that her recommendation to the Council was that every street has a minimum standard of having at least a surmountable curb, but in high traffic areas such as Grand Avenue, they consider installing a barrier curb.

Councilmember Kvale observed that she didn't consider Grand Avenue a high-traffic area.

Nowezki clarified that the Grand Avenue example was intended to point out a style of roadway where more elements would be taken into consideration, such as sidewalks.

The Council commented on how longevity of roadways is improved with curbing; how to communicate that kind of information to residents; how drainage ditches can be affected; that many times the objection to curb and gutter from residents is related to the cost of the project, ways that the City can educate residents about the value of curb/gutter and the difference it can make to the life of a street project.

Scheu noted that neighborhood meetings were not required for this type of project, but she would recommend the City host neighborhood meetings throughout the design stages, feasibility, final design, and before construction. She stated that this allows the residents to ask specific questions and get answers for their specific properties.

The Council discussed the different design options for a surmountable curb.

Diercks noted that he would like to see curb and gutter added to all the City's street projects.

Nowezki reiterated that she was looking for feedback on creating a basic standard related to curb and gutter for City streets. With that, staff would be able to work with the City's engineers to determine which type of curb may work best for a certain street, for example, the Design D option for a surmountable curb. She stated that there may be areas where Public Works and engineering would find that a barrier curb may be best, but she would like the City to consider establishing some type of minimum standard.

Councilmember Feldmann asked if City Engineer Scheu could provide the research on the length of time roadways can last with and without curb and gutter.

Moeller suggested that perhaps the City Engineer could also put together a Frequently Asked Questions handout explaining the details of what curb and gutter does and how it improves the life of roads and drainageways.

Nowezki sought confirmation that the feedback she was hearing from the Council was that the City should have a minimum standard of a surmountable curb and gutter for street projects, unless engineering and Public Works felt more significant curbing was warranted, which could be determined on a case-by-case basis. She added that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was working with WSB to make sure that as the City moves forward with projects, watershed issues were being taken into consideration as well.

Councilmember Newcomer asked if there may be any money available from the State to help the City transition to more curb and gutter.

Nowezki responded that staff will be looking at all possible avenues for outside funding. Moving the discussion to Grand Avenue, she recalled that at an earlier Council meeting, the idea of narrowing the roadway and adding a sidewalk had been mentioned. She briefly reviewed cost variations between three possible layout options for Grand Avenue.

Councilmember Kvale indicated that she did not think a sidewalk along Grand Avenue was needed because it would essentially be a floating sidewalk that didn't really connect to anything.

Mayor Miner commented that he thought the idea was more for the safety of people who walk or bike on Grand Avenue and to be able to get them off the roadway.

Council discussed the options for Grand Avenue and how on street parking would be affected by the different scenarios.

Nowezki mentioned that the options presented were based on ideas raised at previous meetings, and her intent was to hopefully achieve united direction on a design option from the Council beforehand.

Councilmember Kvale stated that she would also like to see the surmountable curb used in this area.

The Council discussed the road width of Grand Avenue; the possibility of doing a traffic study; feedback from some residents who've requested stop signs; on street parking; and the possibility of holding a public forum meeting before moving forward with Grand Avenue plans to see, for example, if residents would like to see a sidewalk there or not.

Nowezki summarized that she was hearing the Council may be leaning between design option 1 and 2, but would not be in favor of option 3 because it was too invasive into the right-of-way.

Councilmember Dyvik suggested that option 1 could become option 3 with a parking lane if they remove the sidewalk.

Nowezki asked City Engineer Scheu how the City could obtain feedback from residents so the project isn't held up.

Scheu replied that typically that would occur during the feasibility phase and before the preliminary design stage. She added that she also liked the idea raised by the Council of doing a traffic study.

Moeller questioned how soon a traffic study could be done and expressed concern about waiting too long because school would be out for the year shortly.

Scheu stated that she could speak to their traffic department and see if they could fit it in sooner rather than later.

OTHER BUSINESS

State Flag at City Hall - Mayor Miner noted that the Council had received a copy of an email exchange between himself and Planning Commissioner Goodsell about the State flag issue.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk