



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
September 1, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm.

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

Staff Present: City Administrator: Amanda Nowezki; City Clerk/Zoning Administrator: Jeanette Moeller; and Public Works Director: Sean Dierks

Absent: Council: Todd Newcomer (with prior notice)

APPROVE AGENDA

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

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Discuss 2027 Preliminary Levy and Budget Preparation

City Administrator Nowezki began by highlighting a budget and levy summary page and explained her initial proposed levy scenario. She mentioned that General Fund revenues are decreasing a bit, in part due to decreased permit activity. Nowezki reviewed budget considerations including fleet planning items, planning and engineering work related to the Comprehensive Plan, and certain parks improvements. She commented that her preliminary numbers reflect an overall tax levy increase of 14.58% and a tax rate increase of around 4%. She indicated that she expects the City to end up on target with the 2026 budget numbers; however, in planning for 2027, she tried to focus more on the necessity to address Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) items and projects. She reminded the Council that everything she was presenting tonight was preliminary and she would need to officially present the preliminary budget and levy to the Council at their next meeting. She also presented a table showing a number of different levy options and welcomed the Council's feedback.

Council and staff discussed the impact of fiscal disparities, reviewed budget scenarios and how they would affect homeowners, and reviewed capital expenses expected in the next few years. They discussed budget proposals for the Lake Quality Fund; the Comprehensive Plan update project; Pavement Management Plan work; the need for a plow truck; various parks and ways recreational needs may be addressed creatively; the possibility of surveying residents and asking the Park Board to weigh in regarding some of the choices and financial aspects in park usage decisions; future Fire Department capital needs; Well No. 1 repairs happening later this week; health insurance premium increases; and Public Works staffing challenges.

Councilmember Dyvik stated that he would like to find a way to bring the overall tax levy budget increase under 10% to reduce the proposed increase in the City's tax rate.

The Council continued to discuss line-by-line options in the proposed budget numbers, transfers into individual capital fund,, and grant options that may be available for some of the City's projects.

Discuss 2027 Utility Rates

Nowezki reminded the Council that they had discussed 2027 Utility Rates at their last work session. She briefly reviewed adjustments she had made to the proposed 2027 Utility Rates since the Council's last review, and commented on the importance of assuring the City's enterprise funds are taking into account the need to plan for aging infrastructure.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Nowezki
City Administrator