

Pipestone, Minnesota
August 3, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Pipestone City Council was duly held in-person and via Zoom in the Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd day of August 2026. Mayor Dan Delaney called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared. Members present: Dan Delaney, Rodger Smidt, Scott Swanson, and Danielle Thompson. Absent: None. Others present: Kyle Kuphal, Cable Access Coordinator Steve Moffitt, Jodie Jensen, Krista Vanderwahl, Brianna Jensen, Rec Director Robert Petersen, City Administrator Stephanie LaBrune, City Clerk Megan DeWitte, Rebecca Kurtz, Dave Andres, with Travis Winter and City Attorney Jason Hill via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA – ADDITIONS, CHANGES OR DELETIONS

There being no additions, changes or deletions to the agenda, motion was made by Colbeck, seconded by Thompson and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Delaney stated the Consent Agenda contains the July 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, the Payment of Claims-Listing of Bills and asked if there was any discussion regarding these items.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Colbeck and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the July 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, Payment of Claims-Listing of Bills in the amount of \$556,899.75 for warrants #077988 to #078111.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Mayor Delaney asked City Clerk Megan DeWitte to summarize a letter that staff had received from resident Faith Hernandez about a concern regarding municipal utility rates for Pipestone residents and she feels it is a human right to have water services.

Delaney explained that the cost of utility rates comes from the treatment of the water, the delivery of the water and the infrastructure of the water systems. Delaney asked LaBrune to send a response letter explaining cost details to help inform Hernandez where those costs come from.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing for 2027 Budget Public Input-

Motion was made by Swanson, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried to open the public hearing at 6:38pm. Delaney asked if there was anyone present that would like to approach the council in regards to the 2027 budget.

Dave Andres, resident of Pipestone, made reference to the night sky and cost of having lights on throughout the city all night. There could be major cost savings to having solar powered and censored lights instead.

Delaney then spoke that about the consistent need to increase the budget just to provide the same services and that staff is doing a great job working on the budget so far. Delaney said the City needs to look into providing the services more efficiently.

Swanson share that on capital expenditures that each department should come in and explain why they are asking for purchases and search for alternative options to make sure we are making the best decisions.

Delaney then invited everyone to call or visit City Hall to share any input so that city staff could try to implement those ideas the best they can.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Colbeck and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:46pm.

Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Property Tax Abatement-

Delaney shared introduction to the bond proposal. Rebecca Kurtz with Ehler's shared information about the debt process to finish and repair the 7th Ave SW project. Principal \$70,000, structured over a five-year term, and \$12,565 interest. Kurtz said that in doing this it allows the city to levy taxes to complete the project and have the authority to include it in the bond issue later on this evening. The final abatement will be based on the numbers generating the bond issue than what we had anticipated. They would be ranging from \$15,065 to \$18,000 total principal and interest and total abatement for that.

Delaney said the city is doing it this way instead of trying to levy for this project because it would cause an extreme burden towards our tax payers.

Motion was made by Swanson, seconded by Thompson and unanimously carried to open the public hearing for the proposed property tax abatement. Delaney asked if there was anyone that would like to comment for the public hearing. No comments were made.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Colbeck and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:55pm.

Bid opening for the Pipestone Municipal Airport Fuel Systems Replacement Project-

Engineer Winter conducted an online bid opening. Only one bid was received from Urban Companies. The engineer's estimate was \$873,195.00 and the received bid came in at \$1,304,190.00, which is \$430,995.00 over the engineer's estimate. Winter said Bolton & Menk will review the bid and bring forth a recommendation at the next council meeting and that this project is being funded primarily from the state of Minnesota.

ENGINEERING

2026 Street and Utility Improvements Project Pay Request No. 1- Delaney said that this is the first pay request for the 2026 Street and Utility Improvements Project for the amount of \$466,283.46 to be paid to Duininck, Inc. Delaney asked Winter if there is a recommendation to pay this request. Winter recommended approval to pay the request.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried to pay Duininck, Inc. for the 2026 Street and Utility Improvements Project for the amount of \$466,283.46.

2026 Lead Service Line Replacement Project Pay Request No.1-

Delaney shared that this is the first pay request for this project and is requested to pay \$29,744.50 to TE Underground LLC for the 2026 Lead Service Line Replacement Project.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried to approve the pay request in the amount of \$29,744.50 to TE Underground LLC for the 2026 Lead Service Line Replacement Project.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Response to Jodie Jensen Community Concern-

Delaney explained that this response is to Jensen attending the July 20, 2026 council meeting requesting clarification as to why her daughter Brianna Jensen was not paid for hours spent training and traveling to obtain her Water Safety Instructor (WSI) Certification. Delaney then explained the City's policy and previous protocol that has been followed by all prior lifeguards that pursue a WSI certification.

Pipestone Family Aquatic Center Manager Krista Vanderwahl appeared to share her perspective and support for Jensen getting paid per the request made.

Delaney shared that the Parks and Recreation Board met about this also and that he agrees with what their recommendation was to increase the lifeguard wages to remain competitive to retain staff.

Recreation Director Robert Petersen was asked to share information about prior experience with WSI training and travel action taken. Petersen shared that there has never been any pay for this training and travel time or mileage reimbursement. Petersen also shared that he spoke with other surrounding towns and none of them pay for their WSI training, travel time, or mileage reimbursement.

LaBrune shared that her and DeWitte are planning to have a more defined policy ready for the next outdoor pool season so that the terms and conditions of their employment and training are clear and in writing.

Thompson spoke on what the Park and Recreation Board recommendations were and the board also agreed that it doesn't make sense to pay for the training or travel time and expense.

Faith Hernandez approached to podium to share comments about low-income lifeguards that could not afford to go take this training, but would like to do the WSI training.

There was a lot of discussion throughout the council, attendees, and city staff. Delaney asked if there were any other statements or questions and then asked what the wishes of the council were.

Smidt said he wishes to follow what the Recreation Board recommended. Delaney said we need clear policy so there are no further misunderstandings and it is unfortunate that it turned out like this.

Swanson made a motion to pay Jensen up to \$500 for the training and mileage request. Thompson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously carried.

Resolution 2026-41: A Resolution Relating to Property Tax Abatement for the Public Street Improvements; Granting the Abatement- Delaney stated that this resolution relates to the public hearing that council conducted at the beginning of the meeting and would approve authorization to the City to grant an abatement of certain property taxes levied against net tax capacity imposed by the City on parcels of property by the adoption of a resolution specifying the terms of abatement.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Swanson, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 2026-41 A Resolution Relating to Property Tax Abatement for the Public Street Improvements; Granting the Abatement.

A roll call vote was taken. Five were in favor and none opposed.

Resolution 2026-42: A Resolution Awarding the Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026A, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$3,130,000; Fixing their Form and Specifications; Directing their Execution and Delivery; and Providing for their Payment-

Delaney shared that this amount will help finance the 2nd Ave. SW Street and Utility Project, 7th Ave SW repairs, and Airport Fuel Tank Replacement Project.

Rebecca Kurtz shared that this will award the bond for the bids received. Kurtz stated that there were eight bids received and the low bid was for 3.79% interest. Kurtz shared the rating of the city to be a double a minus, which means that the city and staff are doing a good job with the tax payer money. Kurtz said that they were able to get the bond down from the \$3,130,000 to \$2,965,000 and that the bond will mature in 2041.

Motion was made by Colbeck, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 2026-42 awarding the sale of general obligation bonds, series 2026A.

A roll call vote was taken. Five were in favor and none opposed.

City of Pipestone Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Project SSP 059-615-051 Agreement-

Delaney shared that this agreement would allow Pipestone County to serve as the sponsor for the FLAP grant project and is needed to move forward with the trail project near the Hiawatha Pageant Park. Delaney asked why the city needs to partner with the County.

LaBrune said that based on our population that the city can not be the fiscal host so a partnership with the county is needed to move forward with the grant.

Memorandum of Understanding Between Southwest Health and Human Services and the City of Pipestone-

Delaney said that this memorandum is to establish a partnership between Southwest Health and Human Services (SWHHS) and the City of Pipestone to increase community access to naloxone (Narcan) by purchasing, and maintaining a publicly accessible naloxone wall cabinet at the Meinder's Community Library location.

Motion was made by Swanson, seconded by Smidt, and unanimously carried to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Southwest Health and Human Services and the City of Pipestone.

Application to sell Off-Sale 3.2 Beer-

Delaney stated that staff has received an application from Coborn's requesting the authorization to sell Off-Sale 3.2 Beer at their Pipestone location and that Coborn's has provided all the necessary documentation to support the application request.

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Thompson, and unanimously carried to approve the application request for Coborn's to sell Off-Sale 3.2 beer.

Application for Municipal Dance License-

Delaney shared that staff has received an application from the Church of God to host a dance at Leon H. Moore Park on August 22nd, 2026.

Motion was made by Swanson, seconded by Smidt, and unanimously carried to approved the Municipal Dance License for the Church of God for August 22nd, 2026.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Colbeck reported the Hiawatha Pageant Park Commission met and talked about the FLAP grant status and condition of the pond and stock of the pond.

Delaney reported that the Human Rights Commission had met July 21st and that there was a Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting for Rooted and Fruited and The Branded Barn.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Delaney shared that the Pipestone County Fair is happening this week August 5th through the 8th and that the Primary Election is coming up on August 11th, so everyone get out and cast your votes.

LaBrune shared that City Staff will be coming around door to door giving residents a chance to sign up for a sanitary sewer update to their residence through a 0% interest loan that the City has available.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Smidt, seconded by Colbeck, and unanimously carried to close the meeting at 8:07pm.

Dan Delaney
Mayor

ATTEST:

Megan DeWitte
City Clerk