

City Council Meeting Agenda

December 16, 2025 at 5:30 PM

St. James City Hall – Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

- **2. ROLL CALL:** Mayor Christopher Whitehead, Councilpersons: Susan Craig, Kathleen Hanson, Paul Harris, Stephen Lindee, Hannah Rushing
- 3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. Consideration to Approve Minutes 12.02.2025 Work Session
 - B. Consideration to Approve Minutes 12.02.2025 Council Meeting

5. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Payment of Claims and ACH Payments
- 6. SCHEDULED BID LETTING
- 7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS
- 8. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
- 9. FINANCIAL REPORTS
- 10. LICENSES AND PERMITS

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consideration to Approve Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 033, 4th Rezoning Property from R-1, One-and-Two Family Residential District to B-4, Highway Commercial Business District
- B. Consideration to Approve Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 034, 4th Establishing the Zoning Designation for Annexed Property

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.05 Setting Property Tax Levy for the Year 2026
- B. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.06 Setting the City Budget for the Year 2026
- Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.07 Establishing Annual Polling Place Location for Elections
- Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.08 Authorizing Certification by the City Clerk to the County Auditor of Certain Consent Assessments
- Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.09 Authorizing Certification by the City Clerk to the County Auditor of Certain Delinquent Accounts

- F. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.10 Authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to Transfer Funds as Budgeted in 2025
- G. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.11 Authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to Transfer Funds as Budgeted in 2025
- H. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.12 Approving Ordinance No. 033, 4th Series Rezoning Property from R-1, One-And Two-Family Residential District to B-4, Highway Commercial Business District and Authorizing the Title and Summary for Publication
- Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.13 Approving Ordinance No. 034, 4th Series Establishing the Zoning Designation for Annexed Property and Authorizing the Title and Summary for Publication
- J. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.14 Accepting Donations from the Community

13. REPORT OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

14. ADJOURNMENT

ITEM: Approval of Minutes – 12.02.2025 Council Work Session Minutes

BACKGROUND: The Minutes of December 2, 2025, City Council Work Session are attached for review and approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve/Deny Minutes.



City Council Work Session Minutes

December 2, 2025 at 4:00 PM

St. James City Hall - Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: Mayor Christopher Whitehead, Councilpersons: Susan Craig, Kathleen Hanson, Paul Harris, Stephen Lindee, Hannah Rushing

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher Whitehead, Councilpersons Sue Craig, Kathleen Hanson, Stephen Lindee

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Amanda Knoll, City Clerk-Treasurer Kris Hurley, City Attorney Mike Kircher, Building Official Harry Jenness, Code Enforcement Officer Brandon Showalter, and EDA Director Brianna Sanders

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Parking on 7th Street South from 605 8th Street South to 606 11th Street South. The City Council discussed concerns along 7th Street South. The primary issues involve properties with driveways that are too short to accommodate parked vehicles without obstructing adjacent sidewalks. This configuration results in overhanging or blocking the sidewalk, creating interference for pedestrians and posing accessibility and safety concerns. The shortened driveways were not the result of property owner modifications. The shortened driveways result from a state construction project that widened the street and added sidewalks. Driveway lengths are now insufficient for standard vehicles, causing significant overhang into the sidewalk area. Property owners with mobility challenges are limited from parking farther away or using on-street parking. Council members acknowledged that the situation was not caused by the residents and presents a unique hardship. Council members expressed general support for amending the current ordinance to allow an exemption for properties impacted by state-modified, shortened driveways.
- B. Hazardous Building Process and Priorities. The council reviewed the city's current procedures for addressing hazardous buildings and discussed strategies for moving forward. Staff described the ongoing challenges associated with deteriorated or unsafe structures, including public safety risks, nuisance conditions, and the significant costs with remediation or demolition.

It was noted that the 2025 tax levy included \$20,000 to establish a demolition fund to support cleanup efforts for properties the city is able to acquire through tax forfeiture. An additional \$20,000 is included in the 2026 tax levy. Staff will develop a more detailed plan for use of these funds.

Section 4, Item A.

ਾਂ iscussion also included recent changes to the state's tax forfeiture law, which modifies the timeline and responsibilities assigned to local governments once a property enters the forfeiture process. Council members expressed general support to work collaboratively with the County following public auctions to address the four identified tax-forfeited parcels.

The Council further discussed the possibility of engaging with owners of hazardous properties prior to forfeiture to explore voluntary options, including the potential for property owners to deed their parcels to the city to facilitate remediation. Council members indicated interest in pursuing approaches that reduce neighborhood impacts while providing a clear, consistent, and affordable process for addressing unsafe structures.

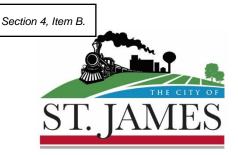
5. ADJOURNMENT	5.	AD.	ΙΟL	JRNN	MENT
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Meeting Adjourned		
Amand Knoll, City Manager		

ITEM: Approval of Minutes – 12.02.2025 Council Minutes

BACKGROUND: The Minutes of December 2, 2025, City Council Meeting are attached for review and approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve/Deny Minutes.



City Council Meeting Minutes

December 02, 2025 at 5:30 PM

St. James City Hall – Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: Mayor Christopher Whitehead, Councilpersons: Susan Craig, Kathleen Hanson, Paul Harris, Stephen Lindee, Hannah Rushing

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher Whitehead, Councilpersons Sue Craig, Kathleen Hanson, Paul Harris, Stephen Lindee, Hannah Rushing

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Amanda Knoll, City Clerk-Treasurer Kris Hurley, City Attorney Mike Kircher

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Consideration to Approve Minutes – 11.18.2025 Council Meeting

Motion made by Harris, Seconded by Rushing. Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Upon voice vote, it was unanimously approved.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Payment of Claims and ACH Payments

Payment of Claims totaling \$671,571.56 is as follows: \$361,650.85 Check No. 705418 - 705496 and \$309,920.71 ACH No. 2146 - 2159 as listed in the check register.

Motion made by Craig, Seconded by Hanson.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Upon voice vote, it was unanimously approved.

6. SCHEDULED BID LETTING

7. SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Truth in Taxation Hearing (6:00 PM)

Motion made by Lindee, Seconded by Rushing to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing.

Upon voice vote, it was unanimously approved.

Truth in Taxation Hearing opened at 6:00 p.m.

Amanda Knoll, City Manager, shared the proposed 2026 general fund budget and the proposed 2026 proposed property tax levy.

There were no public comments.

Motion made by Rushing, Seconded by Hanson to close the public hearing and reopen the regular council meeting.

Upon voice vote, it was unanimously approved.

Public hearing closed and regular meeting opened at 6:08 p.m.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS

10. LICENSES AND PERMITS

A. Consideration to Approve Special Event Permit - Winter Carnival

The Winter Carnival is a fun family-friendly celebration that brings our community together to enjoy the best of the season with activities, entertainment and festive cheer for all.

Sarah Gustafson, Executive Director, St. James Chamber of Commerce, applied for the special event permit. They are requesting street closure of 1st Avenue South to 7th Avenue South and 7th Street South. The request also includes cones, barricades, road closure signs and no parking signs.

Motion made by Lindee, Seconded by Harris to approve the permit.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Upon voice vote, it was unanimously approved.

11. OLD BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Accept Agenda Request - Meggie and Erik Munsterman, Molly and Scott Westman, and Bob and Anne Sorensen

Motion made by Craig, Seconded by Rushing.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Upon voice vote, it was unanimously approved.

Molly Westman, Meggie Munsterman and Bob Sorensen addressed Council with concerns of zoning designation and annexation of their property. They expressed concern on non-conforming structures and uses as well as the annexation process and procedure.

B. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.01 - Amending Resolution No. 05.09.01 and Restating the Cash and Investment Policy

Resolution 12.25.01 amends Resolution No. 05.09.01 and updates the Cash and Investment Policy in its entirety. Resolution No. 05.09.01 amended Resolution 12.94.01 establishing the City's investment policy. The current investment policy cannot be located. The proposed policy ensures compliance with Minnesota Statutes §118A and provides clear, current guidance for the prudent management of public funds.

Motion made by Harris, Seconded by Rushing.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Whereupon Mayor Christopher Whitehead declared Resolution 12.25.01 duly passed 5-0

Section 4, Item B.

T. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.02 - Adding a Depository for City Funds

Resolution 12.25.02 adds an additional depository, Moreton Capital Markets, LLC, for public funds. Moreton Capital Markets, LLC works with several municipalities across Minnesota and has knowledge and expertise in investing public funds.

Motion made by Craig, Seconded by Lindee.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Whereupon Mayor Christopher Whitehead declared Resolution 12.25.02 duly passed 5-0.

D. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.03 - Authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to Enter into the Hay Field Lease Agreement with Brian Spitzner

Resolution 12.25.03 authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to enter into the Hay Field Lease Agreement with Brian Spitzner. The lease agreement is for \$200.00 annually for a contract term of four (4) years. The bid opening was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Motion made by Harris, Seconded by Hanson.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Whereupon Mayor Christopher Whitehead declared Resolution 12.25.03 duly passed 5-0.

E. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.04 - Approving 2026 License Renewal

Resolution 12.25.04 approves the 2026 business, tobacco, liquor license renewals.

Motion made by Craig, Seconded by Lindee.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Whereupon Mayor Christopher Whitehead declared Resolution 12.25.04 duly passed 5-0.

F. Consideration to Approve Resolution 12.25.05 - Approving the Preliminary Plat and Final Plat of Jorgensen Subdivision and Approving the Street Name

Resolution 12.25.05 - was removed from the agenda.

G. Consideration to Approve Purchase Request - Fire Department Fleet Vehicle

The Fire Department is requesting permission to purchase a fleet vehicle – 2026 Ford F350 4X4 Crew Cab Pickup. The requested fleet vehicle will replace the current 1999 Chevy Crew Cab. The state-bid price for the fleet vehicle including off road package and outfitting is \$98,713.22.

This purchase is not within the 2025 budget and would need to be funded through the Capital Equipment Fund. The Capital Equipment Fund balance is projected to be approximately \$240,000 as of the end of the year.

Truck 7 has been placed on "out of commission" due to serious safety operating concerns. This truck has been evaluated by the Fire Department and has been determined that the vehicle is no longer safe for use in fire response or departmental operations. The key issues are significant mechanical failures, structural integrity, and safety hazards that cannot be addressed with reasonable repair costs.

Motion made by Harris, Seconded by Rushing.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Section 4. Item B.

ਹpon voice vote, it was unanimously approved.

H. Consideration to Approve First Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 033, 4th Series - Rezoning Property From R-1, One-and-Two Family Residential District to B4, Highway Commercial Business District

Ordinance No. 033, 4th Series authorizes the rezoning from R-1, one-and-two family residential district to B-4, highway commercial business district.

Motion made by Craig, Seconded by Hanson Ordinance No. 033, 4th Series received its first reading. Upon hand vote the following voted:

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Whereupon Mayor Christopher Whitehead declared Ordinance No. 033, 4th Series to have received its first reading.

I. Consideration to Approve First Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 034, 4th Series -Establishing the Zoning Designation for Annexed Property

Ordinance No. 034, 4th Series establishes the zoning designation for annexed property.

Motion made by Rushing, Seconded by Craig Ordinance No. 034, 4th Series received its first reading. Upon hand vote the following voted:

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

Whereupon Mayor Christopher Whitehead declared Ordinance 034, 4th Series to have received its first reading.

J. Presentation of Final Budget

Amanda Knoll, City Manager, presented the 2026 Final Budget with an overview of the projected revenues and expenditures for 2026.

No action needed.

13. REPORT OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Rushing, Seconded by Lindee.

Voting Yea: Craig, Hanson, Harris, Lindee, Rushing

All Yea - motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Kristin Hurley, City Clerk-Treasurer

ITEM: Old Business – Proposed Ordinance No. 033, 4th Series: Rezoning Property From R-1, One-And Two-Family Residential District to B-4, Highway Commercial Business District

BACKGROUND: The attached proposed ordinance authorizes the rezoning from R-1, one-and-two family residential district to B-4, highway commercial business district.

First Reading: December 2, 2025

Notice of Proposed Ordinance: December 11, 2025 Second Reading and Final Vote: December 16, 2025

Approval of Publication of Title and Summary of Ordinance by the Council: December

16, 2025

Publication of Title and Summary of Ordinance:

Publication of Entire Text of Ordinance at Watonwan County Library:

Recorded in the Ordinance Book and Available on Website:

Effective Date of Ordinance:

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve/Deny the 2nd Reading of Proposed Ordinance.

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

ORDINANCE 033, 4TH SERIES

AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY FROM R-1, ONE – AND TWO- FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-4, HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of St. James, Watonwan County, Minnesota as follows:

"EXHIBIT A"

be rezoned from R-1, One- And Two- Family Residential District, To B-4, Highway Commercial Business District.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, the Official zoning map shall hereby be amended to reflect said zoning change.

The effective date of this ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication.

First Reading:		
Second Reading:		
Date of Publication:		
Date Ordinance Takes Effect:		
Adopted by the City Council this	day of, 2025.	
	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor	_

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Kristin Hurley, City Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY:

City of St. James 1205 6th Ave South St. James, MN 56081 507-375-3241

EXHIBIT A

The South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (S ½ of SE¼ of NE¼), and the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼ of SE ¼ of NE ¼), **EXCEPT** those parts platted as Somerset South, Morningside Addition, and Kelly's Acres, Section Twenty-four (24), Township One Hundred Six (106), Range Thirty-two (32), Watonwan County, Minnesota.

ALSO EXCEPTING THEREFROM

That part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE ¼ of NE ¼) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township One Hundred Six (106) North, Range Thirty-two (32) West, City of St. James, Watonwan County, Minnesota, described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the plat of Kelly's Acres, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence on an assumed bearing of South 88 degrees 17 minutes 13 seconds East, along the North line of said Kelly's Acres, a distance of 361.58 feet to the Northeast corner of said Kelly's Acres located on the West right of way line of State Highway Right of Way Plat No. 83-5, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence North 0 degrees 01 minutes 43 seconds West, along said West line, a distance of 241.11 feet; thence North 88 degrees 17 minutes 13 seconds West a distance of 361.58 feet; thence South 0 degrees 01 minutes 43 seconds East a distance of 241.11 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.00 acres, subject to easements now of record in said County and State.

ALSO EXCEPTING THEREFROM

That part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE ¼ of NE ¼) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township One Hundred Six (106) North, Range Thirty-two (32) West, City of St. James, Watonwan County, Minnesota, described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of Lot One (1) of Block One (1) of Somerset South Addition to the City of St. James, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence on an assumed bearing of South 90 degrees 00 minutes West, along the South line of said Lot One (1) of Block One (1), a distance of 300.00 feet to the southwest corner of said Lot One (1) of Block One (1); thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes West a distance of 25.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East, parallel with the South line of Lot One (1) of Block One (1) of said Somerset South Addition, a distance of 300.00 feet; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes East a distance of 25.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.172 acres, subject to easements now of record in said County and State.

AND

Lot 1, Block 1, James Square, Watonwan County, Minnesota, EXCEPTING THEREFROM the North 450 feet of Lot 1, Block 1, James Square.

AND

All that part of Ninth Street South, as dedicated on the plat of James Square, on file and of record with the Watonwan County Recorder, which lies southerly of the easterly extension of the south line of the North 450.00 feet of said Lot 1, Block One, James Square.

ITEM: Old Business – Proposed Ordinance No. 034, 4th Series: Establishing the Zoning Designation for Annexed Property

BACKGROUND: The attached proposed ordinance establishes the zoning designation for annexed property.

First Reading: December 2, 2025

Notice of Proposed Ordinance: December 11, 2025 Second Reading and Final Vote: December 16, 2025

Approval of Publication of Title and Summary of Ordinance by the Council: December

16, 2025

Publication of Title and Summary of Ordinance:

Publication of Entire Text of Ordinance at Watonwan County Library:

Recorded in the Ordinance Book and Available on Website:

Effective Date of Ordinance:

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve/Deny the 2nd Reading of Proposed Ordinance.

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

ORDINANCE 034, 4TH SERIES

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ZONING DESIGNATION FOR ANNEXED PROPERTY

The City of St. James does ordain as follows:

Section 1. <u>Purpose.</u> This ordinance assigns an initial zoning designation to property recently annexed into the City of St. James. Minnesota law requires that all land within the municipal limits be assigned a zoning district consistent with the City's Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan.

Section 2. <u>Property.</u> The property subject to this ordinance is legally described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated by reference. The property was annexed into the City by Resolution 11.25.06.

Section 3. Zoning Designation.

Parcel 1 (PID# 110240100). The property described in Exhibit A is hereby assigned the zoning district of R-1, One- and Two- Family Residential District, in accordance with the St. James Zoning Ordinance. The City, however, recognizes that this property contains structures (sheds) that are for agricultural storage, which is a non-conforming use and exceeds the size requirements, making them non-conforming structures. These structures shall be allowed as set forth in Minnesota Statute §462.357, Subd. 1e.

Parcel 2 (PID# 110240101). The property described in Exhibit A is hereby assigned the zoning district of R-1, One- and Two- Family Residential District, in accordance with the St. James Zoning Ordinance. The City, however, recognizes that this property contains structures (sheds) that are for agricultural storage, which is a non-conforming use and exceeds the size requirements, making them non-conforming structures. These structures shall be allowed as set forth in Minnesota Statute §462.357, Subd. 1e.

Parcel 3 (PID# 110240105). The property described in Exhibit A is hereby assigned the zoning district of R-1, One- and Two- Family Residential District, in accordance with the St.

James Zoning Ordinance. The City, however, recognizes that this property is currently being farmed and may continue such agricultural use, which is a non-conforming use, until this property is developed.

Section 4. Zoning Map Amendment. The Official Zoning Map of the City of St. James is hereby amended to reflect the zoning designation assigned by this ordinance.

Section 5. Effective Date. The effective date of this ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication.

First Reading:	
Second Reading:	
Date of Publication:	
Date Ordinance Takes Effect:	
Adopted by the City Council this day	of, 2025.
	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
ATTEST:	
Wileda Hadaa Cira Chal	
Kristin Hurley, City Clerk	
THIS INSTRUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY	<i>Y</i> :

City of St. James 1205 6th Ave South St. James, MN 56081 507-375-3241

EXHIBIT A

The South Half of the Southwest Quester of the Northeast Quarter (S ½ SW ¼ NE ¼), and the East 33 feet of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (S ½ SE ¼ NW ¼), all in Section 24, Township 106 North, Range 32 West, Watonwan County, Minnesota,

AND

Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot 4 of Block 1 of Sorensen's Fourth Addition to the City of St. James, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence on an assumed bearing of North 0 degrees 26 minutes 12 seconds West, along the west line of said Block 1, a distance of 324.73 feet to the northwest corner of Lot 2 of said Block 1; thence North 82 degrees 56 minutes 12 seconds West a distance of 346.91 feet to an iron monument located on the easterly line of 4th Street South, as platted in Sorensen's Fifth Addition to the City of St. James, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence southwesterly, along said easterly line, along a non-tangential curve, concave to the southeast, having a radius of 273.39 feet, a central angle of 13 degrees 57 minutes 55 seconds, the chord of said curve bears South 6 degrees 28 minutes 49 seconds West, a chord distance of 66.47 feet, an arc distance of 66.64 feet to a plat monument; thence South 0 degrees 35 minutes 42 seconds East, along the easterly line of said 4th Street South, a distance of 238.12 feet to the southeast corner of said 4th Street South, as platted in said Sorensen's Fifth Addition; thence continuing South 0 degrees 35 minutes 42 seconds East, along the east line of said 4th Street as platted in Matthew's Addition to the City of St. James, according to the recorded plat thereof, a distance of 10.12 feet to the northwest corner of Lot 1 of Block 2 of said Matthew's Addition; thence North 89 degrees 25 minutes 55 seconds East, along the north line of said Lot 1, a distance of 140.12 feet to the northeast corner of said Lot 1; thence South 0 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, along the east line of said Lot 1, a distance of 47.05 feet to an iron monument; thence South 87 degrees 58 minutes 47 seconds East a distance of 211.25 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.60 acres, subject to easements now of record in said county and state.

AND

That part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter and the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 106 North, Range 32 West, and that part of Lot 4 and that part of the vacated alley in Sorensen's Addition, City of St. James, Watonwan County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 4 of Block 1 of Sorensen's Fourth Addition to the City of St. James, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence on an assumed bearing of North 0 degrees 26 minutes 12 seconds West, along the west line of said Block 1, a distance of 324.73 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 2 of said Block 1, said Northwest corner being the point of beginning of the tract to be described; thence North 82 degrees 56 minutes 12 seconds West a distance of 346.91 feet to an iron monument located on the easterly line of Fourth Street South, as platted in Sorensen's Fifth Addition to the City of St. James, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence northeasterly, along said easterly line, along a non-tangential curve concave to the southeast, having a radius of 273.39 feet, a central angle of 21 degrees 43 minutes 44 seconds, the chord of said curve bears North 24 degrees 19 minutes 39 seconds East, a chord distance of 103.06 feet, an arc distance of 103.68 feet to a plat monument; thence North 35 degrees 07 minutes 36 seconds East, along the southeasterly line of said Fourth Street South, a distance of 183.63 feet to the Northeast corner of said Fourth Street South as

platted in said Sorensen's Fifth Addition, also being on the south line of Sorensen's Second Addition to the City of St. James, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence South 87 degrees 57 minutes 52 seconds East, along the south line of said Sorensen's Second Addition, a distance of 24.81 feet to the Southeast corner of said Sorensen's Second Addition located on the west line of Lot 6 of Sorensen's addition to the City of St. James, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence South 2 degrees 58 minutes 40 seconds West, along the west line of said Lot 6, a distance of 10.12 feet to the Southwest corner of said Lot 6; thence South 88 degrees 00 minutes 39 seconds East, along the south line of said Lot 6 and along the south line of Lot 5 of said Sorensen's Addition, a distance of 150.00 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot 5; thence South 0 degrees 25 minutes 05 seconds East, along the west line of an alley as platted in said Sorensen's Addition, a distance of 90.03 feet to the westerly extension of the north line of Lot 4 of said Sorensen's Addition; thence South 88 degrees 10 minutes 40 seconds East, along said westerly extension, a distance of 20.05 feet to the Northwest corner of said Lot 4; thence South 88 degrees 10 minutes 40 seconds East, along the north line of said Lot 4, a distance of 30.00 feet to the east line of the West 30 feet of said Lot 4; thence South 0 degrees 22 minutes 40 seconds East, along the east line of the West 30 feet of said Lot 4, a distance of 80.10 feet to a plat monument located on the north line of Lot 1 of Block 1 of said Sorensen's Fourth Addition; thence South 0 degrees 27 minutes 39 seconds East, along the west line of said Lot 1, a distance of 25.07 feet to a plat monument; thence North 87 degrees 53 minutes 37 seconds West, along the west line of said Lot 1, a distance 30.00 feet to a plat monument; thence South 0 degrees 26 minutes 20 seconds East, along the west line of said Lot 1, a distance of 74.87 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.70 acres, subject to easement now of record in said county and state.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING:

Matthew's Addition;

AND

Floradale Addition No. 4;

AND

Floradale Addition No. 3;

AND

Sorensen's Fourth Addition;

AND

Sorensen's Addition

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.05: Setting Property Tax Levy for the Year 2026

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution outlines the differences between the tax levy from 2025 to 2026. The tax levy for 2026 is set at the amount of \$1,606,603.00 which decreased from \$1,633,753.00 for the proposed tax levy set at the September 16, 2025, city council meeting. Please reference Resolution 09.25.09 to review the approval of the proposed 2026 tax levy in the amount of \$1,633,753.00.

Section 12, Item A. RESOLUTION NO.: 12.25.05

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.05

RESOLUTION SETTING PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2026

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES,

MINNESOTA, that the following sums of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2026, upon taxable property in the City of St. James for the following purposes:

Proposed Tax Levy	2025	2026
General Fund	\$1,264,708.00	\$1,407,758.00
Special Levy – 2016B: 6 th Ave S/refi Street Ambulance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Levy – 2016A: Old Hospital Demolition	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Levy – 2022 A: 2 nd Ave S Improvement	\$65,186.00	\$62,850.00
Swimming Pool Operating Levy	\$40,000.00	\$20,995.00
Airport Project Levy	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Capital Expense Levy	\$50,000.00	\$20,000.00
Housing Demolition	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Total Levy	\$1,514,894.00	\$1,606,603.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the County Auditor of Watonwan County, Minnesota.

Adopted by the City Council this 16 th da	y of December 2025.
ATTEST:	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk	<u> </u>

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.06: Setting the City Budget for the Year 2026

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution outlines the proposed final 2025 city budget.

Section 12, Item B. RESOLUTION NO.: 12.25.06

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.06

RESOLUTION SETTING THE CITY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA, that the proposed annual City Budget of Operating Expenses and Capital Improvements for the City of St. James for calendar year 2026 is set as follows:

Fund	2026 Budget
General & Special Revenue Funds	
General Fund	\$5,258,412.00
Campground	\$52,575.00
Storm Water	\$260,263.00
Economic Development	\$168,425.00
Debt Service	\$855,581.00
Airport	\$183,325.00
Swimming Pool	\$118,680.00
Theatre	\$129,655.00
Ambulance	\$423,975.00
Total General & Special Revenue	\$7,450,891.00

Enterprise Funds	2026 Budget
Water	\$1,633,767.00
Wastewater	\$2,255,920.00
Electric	\$6,479,537.00
Liquor	\$1,278,225.00
EDA Housing	\$218,430.00
Total Enterprise Funds	\$11,865,879.00
Equipment Replacement	\$181,300.00
Capital Improvement	\$95,500.00
Total of All Funds	\$19,593,570.00

Adopted by the City Council this 16th day of December 2025.

ATTEST:	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk	_

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.07: Establishing Annual Polling Place Location for Elections

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution establishes the annual polling place location for elections. This resolution needs to be approved each year before December 31.

Section 12, Item C. RESOLUTION NO.: 12.25.07

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.07

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ANNUAL POLLING LOCATION FOR ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the City of St. James, pursuant to Minnesota Statue 204B.16 POLLING PLACES; DESIGNATION, is required by December 31 of each year to designate by ordinance or resolution a polling place for each election precinct. The polling places designated in the ordinance or resolution is the polling places for the following calendar year, unless a change is made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA, as follows:

1. The City of St. James designates City Hall located at 1205 6th Avenue South. as the polling place for Elections.

Adopted by the City Council this 16 th day	y of December 2025.
ATTEST:	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk	_

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.08: Authorizing Certification by the City Clerk to the County Auditor of Certain Consent Assessments

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution authorizes certification of consent assessment agreements. The city allows residents to complete necessary work in order to keep city utilities properly functioning. This necessary and relevant work and improvements can be assessed to the property taxes with interest.

Section 12, Item D. RESOLUTION NO.: 12.25.08

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.08

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTIFICATION BY THE CITY CLERK TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF CERTAIN CONSENT ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of St. James from time to from allows residents to complete necessary work in order to keep city utilities properly functioning, consolidation of high utility bill, tree removal, and agreement of property improvement for development; and

WHEREAS, these assessments are intended to facilitate essential improvements that benefit both the property owner and the city by maintaining the integrity and functionality of public utilities, public safety, and public interest; and

WHEREAS, the property owners of said consent assessments have entered into an agreement with the City through an application process and are eligible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA, as follows:

PARCEL ID	REASON	AMOUNT	RATE %	YEARS
20.100.0620	SEWER REPAIR	\$6,108.65	2%	10
20.100.0625	SEWER REPAIR	\$4,072.43	2%	10
20.201.1180	TREE REMOVAL	\$2,000.00	2%	5
20.151.1310	TREE REMOVAL	\$4,187.62	2%	5

Christopher Whitehead, Mayor

Adopted by the City Council this 16th day of December 2025.

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.09: Authorizing Certification by the City Clerk to the County Auditor of Certain Delinquent Accounts

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution authorizes certification of delinquent accounts that need to be certified to the County. These accounts appear to be uncollectible except by action against the property.

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.09

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTIFICATION BY THE CITY CLERK TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF CERTAIN DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, the City Code provides that the city may certify delinquent charges to the County Auditor to be extended on the tax rolls against the premises the costs in the same manner as other taxes, and;

WHEREAS, there are certain delinquent charges which appear to be uncollectible except by action against the property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES MINNESOTA, that it is necessary and expedient to invoke the

CITY OF ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA, that it is necessary and expedient to invoke the provisions of the City Code to extend certain delinquent charges on the real property tax rolls for the County of Watonwan; and the City of St. James, Minnesota does hereby elect to do so. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and instructed to certify the following accounts to the Watonwan County Auditor for extension on the tax rolls in the same manner as other taxes:

PARCEL ID	REASON	AMOUNT
20.201.2700	RENTAL LICENSE FEE	\$170.00
20.201.2690	RENTAL LICENSE FEE	\$170.00
20.276.1500	MOWING CHARGES	\$1,245.00
20.201.2040	RENTAL LICENSE FEE	\$60.00
20.100.1900	MOWING CHARGES	\$586.22
20.151.1120	TREE REMOVAL	\$1,603.12
20.176.0320	FIRE CALL	\$600.00
20.276.2240	MOWING CHARGES	\$329.39
20.276.1300	MOWING CHARGES	\$732.79
20.276.1670	NEW WATER SERVICE LINE	\$800.00
20.201.1310	UNPAID UTILITY CHARGES	\$929.16
	TOTAL	\$7,225.68

Adopted by the City Council this 16 th da	y of December 2025.
ATTEST:	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk	

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.10: Authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to Transfer Funds as Budgeted in 2025

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution authorizes the City Clerk to transfer funds set aside in the 2025 budget, along with additional purchases requests made throughout 2025.

RESOLUTION NO.: 12.25.10

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.10

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK-TREASURER TO TRANSFER FUNDS AS BUDGETED IN 2025

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ST. JAMES, WATONWAN COUNTY, MINNESOTA, that the following sum of money be transferred for the current year as follows and authorize the City Clerk-Treasurer the ability to adjust according to December 31, 2025 Balances.

2025 Transfers

TRANSFERS	TO	
General Fund	Fund 103	\$125,000.00
General Fund	Fund 105	\$131,480.00
General Fund	Fund 227	\$ 49,510.00
General Fund	Fund 612	\$ 34,000.00
General Fund	Fund 650	\$ 26,953.00
Campground Fund	Fund 101	\$ 20,000.00
Equipment Fund	Fund 101	\$370,706.00
Equipment Fund	Fund 602	\$ 50,900.00
Water Fund	Fund 103	\$ 50,000.00
Water Fund	Fund 105	\$ 25,000.00
Wastewater Fund	Fund 105	\$ 25,000.00
Wastewater Fund	Fund 103	\$ 50,000.00
Electric Fund	Fund 101	\$765,000.00
Electric Fund	Fund 103	\$125,000.00
Liquor Fund	Fund 616	\$ 59,080.00
Liquor Fund	Fund 617	\$ 73,980.00
EDA Housing Fund	Fund 227	\$ 25,000.00
Ambulance Fund	Fund 103	\$ 20,000.00
Airport Fund	Fund 101	\$ 26,000.00
Capital Improvement Fund	Fund 227	\$ 13,300.00
Capital Improvement Fund	Fund 101	\$ 55,000.00
Adopted by the Council this 16 th day of Dec	cember 2025.	
	Christopher Wh	nitehead Mayor
ATTEST:	Christopher Wi	1110110uu, 111u y 01
Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk		

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.11: Authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to Transfer Funds as Budgeted in 2025

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution authorizes the City Clerk to transfer bond payments set aside in the 2025 budget.

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.11

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK-TREASURER TO TRANSFER FUNDS AS BUDGETED IN 2025

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ST. JAMES, WATONWAN COUNTY, MINNESOTA, that the following sum of money be transferred for bond payments in the current year as follows and authorize the City Clerk-Treasurer the ability to adjust according to December 31, 2025 Balances.

2025 Transfers

TRANSFERS	TO	
Storm Revenue (2017A)	Fund 326	\$ 182,004.00
Storm Revenue (2018B)	Fund 327	\$ 26,013.00
Storm Revenue (2021A)	Fund 331	\$ 9,363.00
Storm Revenue (2022A)	Fund 332	\$ 31,362.00
Storm Revenue (2025A)	Fund 345	\$ 2,238.00
Water Fund (2016B)	Fund 320	\$ 23,995.00
Water Fund (2018B)	Fund 327	\$ 43,000.00
Water Fund (2019C)	Fund 330	\$ 21,015.00
Water Fund (2021A)	Fund 331	\$ 26,635.00
Water Fund (2025A)	Fund 345	\$ 5,719.00
Wastewater Fund (2018B)	Fund 327	\$ 36,000.00
Wastewater Fund (2019C)	Fund 330	\$ 49,035.00
Wastewater Fund (2021A)	Fund 331	\$ 106,180.00
Wastewater Fund (2025A)	Fund 345	\$ 4,476.00
Adopted by the Council this 16 th day of	December 2025.	
	Christopher Wh	itehead, Mayor

ATTEST:	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk	_

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.12: Rezoning Property from R-1, One-And Two-Family Residential District to B-4, Highway Commercial Business District

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution authorizes the rezoning from R-1, one-and-two family residential district to B-4, highway commercial business district. This resolution also approved the title and summary for publication.

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.12

RESOLUTION APPROVING ORDINANCE 033, 4TH SERIES REZONING PROPERTY FROM R-1, ONE – AND TWO- FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-4, HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING THE TITLE AND SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of St. James introduced the proposed Ordinance 033, 4th Series rezoning property from R-1, One-And Two-Family Residential District to B-4, Highway Commercial Business District; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. James City Council reviewed this item during their December 2, 2025, city council meeting, agreed with the recommendation and approved the first reading of the proposed Ordinance 033, 4th Series; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. James City Council held a second reading of the proposed Ordinance 033, 4th Series during their December 16, 2025, meeting; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.91, Subd. 4, allows publication by title and summary in the case of lengthy ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. James City Council finds that the following title and summary would clearly inform the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance 033, 4th Series.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA, that the City of St. James City Council hereby approved the second and final reading of the proposed Ordinance 033, 4th Series rezoning property from R-1, One-And Two-Family Residential District to B-4, Highway Commercial Business District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager shall cause the following summary of the proposed Ordinance to be published in the official newspaper in lieu of the entire ordinance:

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE 033, 4th SERIES REZONING PROPERTY FROM R-1, ONE – AND TWO- FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-4, HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

The City Council of St. James has adopted Ordinance 033, 4th Series, rezoning property from R-1, One-And Two-Family Residential District to B-4, Highway Commercial Business District in connection with the proposed 12th Avenue South Highway Expansion

project. The effective date of the ordinance is December 26, 2025.

This summary of Ordinance 033, 4th Series has been approved by the City Council on December 16, 2025. A printed copy of the full text of the ordinance is available for public inspection in the office of the city clerk.

Adopted by the City Council this 16^{th} day of December 2025.

	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
Attest:	
Kristin Hurley, City Clerk - Treasurer	

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.13: Establishing the Zoning Designation for Annexed Property

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution establishes the zoning designation for annexed property. This resolution also approved the title and summary for publication.

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.13

RESOLUTION APPROVING ORDINANCE 034, 4TH SERIES ESTABLISHING THE ZONING DESIGNATION FOR ANNEXED PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE TITLE AND SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of St. James introduced the proposed Ordinance 034, 4th Series establishing the zoning designation for annexed property; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. James City Council reviewed this item during their December 2, 2025, city council meeting, agreed with the recommendation and approved the first reading of the proposed Ordinance 034, 4th Series; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. James City Council held a second reading of the proposed Ordinance 034, 4th Series during their December 16, 2025, meeting; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.91, Subd. 4, allows publication by title and summary in the case of lengthy ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. James City Council finds that the following title and summary would clearly inform the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance 034, 4th Series.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA, that the City of St. James City Council hereby approved the second and final reading of the proposed Ordinance 034, 4th Series establishing the zoning designation for annexed property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager shall cause the following summary of the proposed Ordinance to be published in the official newspaper in lieu of the entire ordinance:

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE 034, 4^{th} SERIES ESTABLISHING THE ZONING DESIGNATION FOR ANNEXED PROPERTY

The City Council of St. James has adopted Ordinance 034, 4th Series, establishing the zoning designation for annexed property. The ordinance identifies non-conforming structures and non-conforming uses of the annexed properties. The effective date of the ordinance is December 26, 2025.

This summary of Ordinance 034, 4th Series has been approved by the City Council on December 16, 2025. A printed copy of the full text of the ordinance is available for public inspection in the office of the city clerk.

Adopted by the City Council this 16 th day of 1	December 2025.
	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
Attest:	
Kristin Hurley, City Clerk - Treasurer	

ITEM: New Business – Resolution 12.25.14: Accepting Donations from the Community

BACKGROUND: The attached resolution graciously accepts the donations received in 2025.

Section 12, Item J. RESOLUTION NO.: 12.25.14

State of Minnesota County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 12.25.14

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the City of St. James receives donations from time to time for specific projects sponsored by the City of St. James;

WHEREAS, the City of St. James on an annual basis acknowledges the receipt of said donations;

WHEREAS, public recognition needs to be given to the generous individuals of the St. James Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA, as follows:

Acknowledged Donations	2025
Fire Department – Equipment Fund	\$ 1,400.00
Hanging Flowers	\$ 1,946.00
Music in the Park	\$ 2,350.00
Archery Range	\$ 13,150.00
Splash Pad	\$ 148,343.58
Total	\$ 167,189.58

Adopted by the City Council this 16 th da	y of December 2025.
ATTEST:	Christopher Whitehead, Mayor
Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk	_