

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 12, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the first meeting of the City Council of the City of La Crescent for the month of January was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, January 12, 2026.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following members were present: Members Cherryl Jostad, Chris Langen, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Dale Williams, and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: None. Also present were City Administrator Bill Waller, City Attorney Skip Wieser, City Engineer Tim Hruska, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

At this time, the Mayor read the following items to be considered as part of the Consent Agenda for this regular meeting:

- 1.1 MINUTES – DECEMBER 15, 2025
- 1.2 MINUTES – DECEMBER 22, 2025 - SPECIAL MEETING
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – JANUARY 9, 2026

At the conclusion of the reading of the Consent Agenda, Mayor Poellinger asked if the Council wished to have any of the items removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

ITEM 3.1 – ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

City Council took up discussion of the annual appointments for 2026, following which Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner, to approve the following motion:

A MOTION TO APPROVE DALE WILLIAMS AS THE ACTING MAYOR.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O’Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

Upon recommendation of official depositories for the City by Finance Director Kara Tarrence, Member O’Donnell-Ebner then introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-26-01

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING, AS A DEPOSITORY OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT FUNDS, ONE OR MORE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 118A.02, subd. 1 and Minn. Stat. §§ 427.01-.12, require that the City of La Crescent designate, as a depository of its funds, one or more financial institutions within 30 days of the start of the City’s fiscal year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of La Crescent designates the following financial institutions as official depositories for the City of La Crescent for all City banking functions and investments:

- Merchants Bank - La Crescent
- Alerus – La Crescent
- Northland Securities, Inc.
- 4M Fund (sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities)
- ICD Securities, Inc.
- Multi-Bank Securities, Inc.
- Eitzen State Bank – La Crescent

ADOPTED this 12th day of January, 2026.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Williams and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, all Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

Regarding the Official Newspaper, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen, to approve the following motion:

A MOTION APPOINTING THE *HOUSTON COUNTY NEWS* AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and Member Williams voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried by a 4-1 vote.

Regarding Assistant Weed Inspector, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Langen, to

approve the following motion:

A MOTION APPOINTING SHAWN WETTERLIN AS ASSISTANT WEED INSPECTOR FOR THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

Member Jostad then introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-26-02

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY AND ASSIGNING DUTIES, STATE OF MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 13.02 Subdivision 16, as amended, requires that the City of La Crescent appoint one person as the Responsible Authority to administer the requirements for collection, storage, use, and dissemination of data on individuals, within the City, and

WHEREAS, the City Council shares concern expressed by the Legislature on the responsible use of all City data and wishes to satisfy this concern by immediately appointing an administratively qualified Responsible Authority as required under the statutes,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of La Crescent appoints Angie Boettcher as the Responsible Authority for the purposes of meeting all requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, as amended, and with rules as lawfully promulgated by the Commissioner of Administration.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Responsible Authority shall require the requesting party to pay the actual costs of making, certifying, and compiling copies and of preparing summary data.

ADOPTED this 12th day of January, 2026.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, all Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried and the resolution duly passed and adopted.

ITEM 3.2 – ADVISORY COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council the various City of La Crescent standing commission appointments for 2026 and recommended reappointing those that are expiring. Prior to the meeting, Council Members were provided with the following corrections to the presented list: Mike Welch resigned from the Economic Development Committee in 2025, Colin Luz filled the position and Kristen Willow Arden resigned from the Active Transportation Action Committee. Administrator Waller also noted that in 2025 there was a stand-alone Natural Resource Advisory Group and a stand-alone GreenStep Committee. In 2026 it is proposed to combine these into the Sustainability/Natural Resource Committee. It is also proposed to combine the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee and the Safe Routes to School Committee into the Active Transportation Action Committee. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO CITY OF LA CRESCENT STANDING COMMISSIONS FOR 2026 ALONG WITH THE CHANGES AS STATED:

PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Judy Enright – 2026
2. Greg Husmann – 2028*
3. Jon Wilson – 2028^
4. Mike Welch – 2027
5. Ryan Niemerier – 2026^
6. Donny Hogan – 2027
7. Jerry Steffes – 2027

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

1. Alyssa Sebo – 2028*
2. Paul McLellan – 2028*
3. Patricia Martell – 2028*
4. Marge Loch-Wouters – 2026
5. Sarah Wetterlin – 2026
6. Diana Adamski – 2027
7. - 2027

GOLF COMMISSION

1. Gary Hill – 2028*
2. Tom Jones – 2027
3. Larry Ernst – 2028*
4. Bill Dockendorf – 2026
5. Scott Yeiter – 2026

LIBRARY BOARD

1. Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner – 2026*
2. Jess Denny – 2026
3. Kelsey Bolton – 2028*
4. Susan Amble – 2027
5. Sara Docan-Morgan – 2028*
6. Kristi Moulton – 2026
7. Erica Myhre – 2027

SUSTAINABILITY/NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

1. Jim Nissen – 2026
2. Betsy Knowles – 2026
3. Ruth Nissen – 2026
4. Jason Ludwigson – 2026
5. Randy Urich – 2026
6. Marge Loch-Wouters – 2026

7. Cindy Wright – 2026
8. Bob Spencer – 2026
9. Jeremy Wise – 2026

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1. Honor DiDonato – 2028*
2. Sarah DeLacy – 2026
3. ~~Mike Welch – 2027~~ (resigned) Colin Luz – 2027 (filled position)
4. Troy Nolop – 2026
5. Lori Kadlec – 2027
6. Al Voss – 2028*
7. Brett Kemmer – 2027

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ACTION COMMITTEE

1. Jason Ludwigson – 2026
2. Linda Larson – 2026
3. Maseray Bangura – 2026
4. ~~Kristen Willow Arden – 2026~~ (resigned)
5. Tim Peterson – 2026
6. Nathan Delarwelle – 2026
7. Ben Wilde – 2026
8. Lee Walraven – 2026
9. Linsie Hempleman – 2026
10. Thomas Pollreis – 2026
11. Tommy Riffe – 2026

HEART SAFE COMMITTEE

1. Cheri Olson – 2026
2. Mary Sue Bush – 2026
3. Angie Boettcher – 2026
4. Linsie Hempleman – 2026
5. Eileen Krenz – 2026
6. David Krenz – 2026
7. Darin Daveau – 2026
8. Cassie Buehler – 2026

Indicates Reappointed*

Indicates New Appointment^

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

ITEM 3.3 – CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

At the direction of the Mayor, the proposed Commission assignments for 2026 were reviewed by City Council. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION APPOINTING THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO CITY COMMISSIONS FOR 2026:

Planning Commission	Chris Langen
Emergency Services Commission	Mike Poellinger
Library Board	Teresa O'Donnell Ebner
Golf Commission	Chris Langen
Park and Recreation Commission	Teresa O'Donnell Ebner
Personnel Committee	Mike Poellinger and Dale Williams
Fire Cooperative	Mike Poellinger and Cherryl Jostad
Economic Development Commission	Cherryl Jostad
Fire Department Relief Association	Dale Williams
Explore La Crosse	Cherryl Jostad
Sustainability/Natural Resource Committee	Chris Langen
Heart Safe Committee	Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

ITEM 3.4 – REVIEW CITY COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES

City Attorney Wieser reviewed Resolution No. 02-13-03 which sets forth the groundwork for orderly and respectful communication and to promote efficient working of the public's interest at Council Meetings. Pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. § 412.91 Subd. 2, City Councils have the authority to regulate their own procedure. The Organizational Resolution has been in place with the City of La Crescent since 1975. Significant reviews were done in 2013 and 2014. Thereafter, the document has been reviewed and approved at the initial meeting of the year. It was recommended that the Agenda Request Form be created as an online submission. City Clerk Boettcher will prepare the online submission form and will report back to Council. This item was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 3.5 – REVIEW CITY CODE OF CONDUCT

City Attorney Wieser then reviewed with City Council the Code of Conduct for elected and appointed officials of the City of La Crescent. The Code of Conduct was initially adopted in 2014. The Code of Conduct is an aspirational document for the city and how the Council and other representatives of the city conduct themselves while performing city business. There were no proposed changes to this Code of Conduct. This item was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 3.6 – REVIEW SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council a copy of the existing Communications Policy adopted by the City of La Crescent. This was initially adopted in March 2003 and has been reviewed annually and updated as needed. There were no proposed changes. This item was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 3.7 – 2026 MILEAGE RATES

City Council reviewed a letter from Finance Director Kara Tarrence stating that the Office of the State Auditor recommends that local government entities review expense reimbursement limits and mileage rates at the first City Council meeting of the year. As of January 1, 2026, the IRS has increased the standard mileage rate for business use to \$0.72.5/per mile. A notice from the IRS was included. It was recommended that City Council approve the increase. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE STANDARD MILEAGE RATE REIMBURSEMENT LIMITS FOR BUSINESS USE IN 2026 TO \$0.72.5/PER MILE AS STATED BY THE IRS.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

ITEM 3.8 - REVIEW WALNUT STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 60% PLAN

City Engineer Tim Hruska along with HKGi Senior Landscape Architect Amy Bower (via phone) reviewed the streetscaping options along the Walnut Street Reconstruction corridor. On January 6, 2026, and January 8, 2026, WHKS & Co. and Staff presented the 60% street improvements layout and streetscaping options to the residents and businesses. Staff have reviewed the options presented and are recommending that the Council select the level of streetscaping, amenities, and furnishings for the project corridor. Examples and explanations of each level were provided for City Council review. This item was informational only, no action was required.

City resident and business owner Marty Holub had an agenda request and addressed City Council regarding the project.

ITEM 3.9 – APPROVE PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS/AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS – REDWOOD DRIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

City resident Arnie Gaustad had an agenda request and addressed City Council regarding the project. City resident and business owner Marty Holub also addressed City Council.

City Engineer Hruska reviewed with City Council the plans and specifications for the Redwood Street Storm Sewer Improvement project. The project includes the following:

Increasing storm sewer capacity along Redwood Street East – The project will remove & replace bituminous pavement, curb & gutter, driveway repairs, and install additional storm sewer to increase capacity along Redwood Street East between Welshire Drive and South 7th Street. The street will be narrowed from 41 feet wide to 37 feet wide.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan from July 2020 – The project will construct a sidewalk along the west side of Lancer Boulevard between South 11th and 12th Streets, a sidewalk along the east side of Redwood Street East from South 11th and 7th Street including crossing improvements to South 11th Street, and a 10-foot path between South 14th Street and Kistler Court along with intersection improvements at South 14th Street.

Funding – The engineering estimate for this project is \$2,078,430. The project is planned to use the following funding sources:

Safe Routes to School	\$196,000
Stormwater Implementation	\$1,052,430
Street Reconstruction Bond	\$830,000

It was recommended that City Council approve the plans and specifications and authorize to advertise for bids. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen, as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE REDWOOD STREET STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AS PRESENTED AND AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O’Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

ITEM 3.10 – REVIEW DRAFT 2026 WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

City resident and business owner Marty Holub had an agenda request and addressed City Council.

City Administrator Waller recommended that this item be moved to the January 26, 2026, City Council meeting. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO MOVE THE 2026 DRAFT REVIEW OF THE WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT BUDGETS TO THE JANUARY 26, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes

Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

ITEM 3.11 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Personnel Committee had the following recommendation for consideration by the City Council.

1. The personnel Committee is recommending that effective December 30, 2025, the City Council accept Jay Meier’s resignation as the Assistant Training/Safety Officer, and that the City Council authorize that the position be internally posted. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding the recommendation was included. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE JAY MEIER’S RESIGNATION AS THE ASSISTANT TRAINING/SAFETY OFFICER EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 30, 2025, AND AUTHORIZE THE POSITION BE POSTED INTERNALLY.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O’Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes

and Mayor Poellinger abstained. The motion was declared duly carried by a 4-0 vote.

ITEM 3.12 – GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a memo from City Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch for approval of a Gambling Permit application from the La Crescent Softball Boosters to hold a raffle on February 27, 2026, at the La Crescent Area Event Center. The application appears to be in order, and it was recommended that City Council approve the application and authorize Ms. Fortsch to forward the application to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GAMBLING PERMIT FOR THE LA CRESCENT SOFTBALL BOOSTERS TO HOLD A RAFFLE ON FEBRUARY 27, 2026, AT THE LA CRESCENT AREA

EVENT CENTER AND AUTHORIZE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CHRIS FORTSCH TO FORWARD THE APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

ITEM 3.13 – 2026 LICENSE RENEWALS

City Council reviewed a list of proposed license renewals applications for 2026. The applications appear to be in order, and it was recommended City Council approve the license renewal applications. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PRESENTED LIST OF LICENSE RENEWALS FOR 2026 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

MESSAGE BUSINESS:

Heaven's Hands

MESSAGE TECHNICIAN:

Jennifer Tornstrom

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

ITEM 3.14 – DONATION RESOLUTIONS

City Council reviewed a Resolution regarding the acceptance of donations made to the City for the Month of December. Following review and discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following Resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-26-03
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS MADE TO THE
CITY OF LA CRESCENT IN DECEMBER 2025**

WHEREAS, the following donations were made to the City of La Crescent in the month of December 2025:

1. Crucifixion Cemetery Association wishes to donate \$200.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.
2. Jason and Rita Erdman wish to donate \$100.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.
3. The Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation wishes to donate \$50,000.00 to the Grant Approved – Bluff lands purchase.
4. The Paul E. Stry Foundation wishes to donate \$50,000.00 to the Grant Approved – Bluff lands purchase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of La Crescent hereby accepts the donations as stated above.

ADOPTED this 12th Day of January 2026.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Williams and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes

Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried.

6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 6.1 City Council reviewed a flyer for the Sustainability Plan Community Input Session to be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at the Wieser Memorial Park Pavilion from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- 6.2 City Council reviewed a memo from Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson stating that the city has achieved the Charging Smart Gold Designation.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Chamber of Commerce representative Amy Shimshak was in attendance and provided an update.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members present voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried and the meeting duly adjourned at 6:06 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: January 26, 2026

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator