

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the second meeting of the City Council of the City of La Crescent for the month of February was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, February 23, 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, Public Works Director Tyler Benish, Finance Director Kara Tarrence, Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson, 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 – FEBRUARY 9, 2026
- 1.2 MINUTES- FEBRUARY 17, 2026
- 1.3 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – FEBRUARY 20, 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 O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen, 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 – RESOLUTION – DNR NATURAL & SCENIC GRANT APPLICATION**

City Council reviewed a Resolution approving an application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for a Natural and Scenic Grant. It was recommended that City Council adopt the resolution as presented. Following discussion, Member Williams introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

#### **RESOLUTION 02-26-05**

##### **A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A NATURAL AND SCENIC GRANT**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent act as legal sponsor for the project contained in the Natural & Scenic Areas Grant application to be submitted on 31/03/2026 and that Jason Ludwigson is hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Natural Resources for funding of this project on behalf of the City of La Crescent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the applicant maintains an adequate Conflict of Interest Policy and, throughout the term of the contract, will monitor and report any actual or potential conflicts of interest to the State, upon discovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and it has the financial capability to meet the match requirement and ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent has not incurred any development costs and has not entered into a written purchase agreement to acquire the property described in the Cost Breakdown section on this application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent has or will acquire fee title or permanent easement over all the land described in the site plan included in the application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon approval of its application by the state, the City of La Crescent may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above-referenced project, and that the City of La Crescent certifies that it will comply with all applicable

laws and regulations as stated in the grant agreement including dedicating the park property for uses consistent with the funding grant program into perpetuity.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Kara Tarrence is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the applicant.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council, of the City of La Crescent on 23/02/2026.

SIGNED:

WITNESSED:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

(Signature)

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner 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
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

**ITEM 3.2 – CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING – SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM/WALNUT STREET PROJECT**

City Council reviewed a memorandum from Community Development Director Larry Kirch regarding the need to hold a Public Hearing prior to executing the streetscaping construction contract. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any additional public comments or concerns about the Walnut Street Reconstruction and Complete Streets project. The Public Hearing would be conducted during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. It was recommended that City Council approve the public hearing. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING DURING THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026, AT 5:00 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING ANY ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE WALNUT STREET RECONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT.**

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 3.3 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – ORCHARDVIEW BOOSTER STATION**

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council a quote from Quality Flow Systems to replace the pumps at the Orchard View booster station for \$19,178. The Orchard View booster station has a failing pump and a repaired pump that is only maintaining the level in the reservoir. The quote includes supplying and installing the new pumps, removal of the old pumps, and making any piping modifications. It was recommended that City Council approve the quote for Quality Flow Systems. There are funds available in the Water Department budget to cover the expenditure. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE QUOTE FROM QUALITY FLOW SYSTEMS FOR \$19,178 TO REPLACE THE PUMPS AT THE ORCHARD VIEW BOOSTER STATION AS STATED AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE TO COME FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET.**

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 – APPROVE PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS/AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS- WIESER PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council the plans and specifications for the Wieser Memorial Park improvement project along with a Request for Bids. The City of La Crescent has been awarded an outdoor recreation grant through the MNDNR of \$277,314 for fifty percent (50%) of the Wieser Memorial Park improvement project. The project will include new playground equipment, poured in place surfacing, benches, walking path, bike parking and the addition of three pickleball courts. The playground equipment and playground surfacing was approved by City Council at a previous City Council meeting. The second part of the project is the concrete walking path, bike parking, and three additional pickleball courts. The City has put together a request for bid and specifications for the concrete work. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$205,000. The City has received \$112,170.74 in donations for the project and has funds in the 2026 general fund budget to cover the expenses related to the project. A map of the project was included. It was recommended that City Council approve the plans and specifications and authorize advertising the request for bids. The bid results will be presented at a future City Council meeting. The project will start late spring 2026 and is expected to be completed mid-summer 2026. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE WIESER MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING THE REQUEST FOR BIDS WITH THE BID RESULTS BEING PRESENTED AT A FUTURE 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 3.5 – INDEPENDENT MUNICIPAL ADVISER PROPOSALS-2026 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ISSUE**

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council that the 2026 bond issue is a negotiated sale with Northland Securities, Inc., and Minnesota Statute requires that in a negotiated sale the City retain an independent municipal advisor for the purpose of providing an opinion on the proposed pricing of the bond issue. The City has requested quotes to provide municipal advisor services to the City for purposes of

this bond issue. The scope of services for this engagement includes a review of the interest rates, yields, and discounts proposed by Northland Securities. The City has received the following two quotes:

1. Blue Rose Capital Advisors for \$1,600.
2. Government Capital for \$1,800.

It was recommended that City Council accept the proposal for \$1,600 submitted by Blue Rose Capital Advisors. There will be funds included in the bond issue to cover the cost. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY BLUE ROSE CAPITAL ADVISORS FOR \$1,600 FOR MUNICIPAL ADVISOR SERVICES TO THE CITY FOR PURPOSES OF PROVIDING AN OPINION ON THE PROPOSED PRICING OF THE BOND ISSUE AS STATED WITH THE COST BEING COVERED BY THE BOND ISSUE.**

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 3.6 – CHANGE TIME TO SUBMIT AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

City Clerk Angie Boettcher reviewed with City Council for approval a change to the Agenda Request Form stating it needs to be turned in by 3:00 p.m. the day of the City Council meeting instead of the current 4:45 p.m. due to City Hall closing at 4:00 p.m., and that the form be made available as an online fillable format. It was recommended that City Council approve the change. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGING THE AGENDA REQUEST FORM TO STATE THAT IT NEEDS TO BE TURNED IN BY 3:00 PM AS OPPOSED TO 4:45 PM THE DAY OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO CITY HALL CLOSING AT 4:00 PM AND THAT THE FORM BE MADE AVAILABLE AS AN ONLINE FILLABLE FORMAT.**

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 3.7 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. That the City Council approve the promotion of Bennett Norris to the Assistant Training/Safety Officer position in the Fire Department with Mr. Bennett serving a twelve-month probationary period. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding this recommendation was included.

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF BENNETT NORRIS TO THE ASSISTANT TRAINING/SAFETY OFFICER POSITION IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH MR. NORRIS SERVING A TWELVE-MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD.**

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 3.8 – DONATION RESOLUTION**

City Council reviewed a Resolution regarding the acceptance of donations made to the City for the Month of January. Following review and discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following Resolution and moved its passage and adoption.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-06**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS MADE TO THE**

**CITY OF LA CRESCENT IN JANUARY 2026**

WHEREAS, the following donations were made to the City of La Crescent in the month of January 2026:

1. Jerry and Jan DenBoer wish to donate \$1,000.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.
2. Mark and Vonnie Levenick wish to donate \$50.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.

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

ADOPTED this 23rd Day of February 2026.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Langen 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.

**ITEM 3.9 – GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION**

City Council reviewed a memo from Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch regarding a gambling permit application from the Lions Club of La Crescent for a Raffle to be held at the La Crescent Area Event Center on October 2, 2026. The application appears to be in order, and it was recommended that City Council approve the application and authorize that it be forwarded 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 APPLICATION FROM THE LIONS CLUB OF LA CRESCENT FOR A RAFFLE TO BE HELD AT THE AT THE LA CRESCENT AREA EVENT CENTER ON OCTOBER 2, 2026, AND AUTHORIZE THAT IT BE FORWARDED 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.

**6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

- 6.1 PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – City Council reviewed the February 2, 2026, Park and Recreation Commission Minutes.
- 6.2 EXPLORE LA CROSSE – City Council reviewed the, February 17, 2026, Explore La Crosse Board Meeting Agenda and the January 20, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.

**7. 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 Langen 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 5:13 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: March 9, 2026

SIGNED:

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Administrator