

MINUTES, SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR CITY OF LA CRESCENT CITY
ADMINISTRATOR
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
MARCH 2, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Special City Council of the City of La Crescent was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 2:30 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, March 2, 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 Attorney Skip Wieser, Assistant Attorney Kayla Schmitz, Finance Director Kara Tarrence, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

4. CITY ADMINISTRATOR INTERVIEWS

City Attorney Skip Wieser gave an overview of the question and answer process for the Council and described that Administration will read the same question to each candidate. Attorney Wieser also discussed that the interview sheets are public documents and comments should relate to the questions and answers. The first candidate interview with Tyler Benish began at 2:35 p.m. Upon completion of the interview, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner, to recess 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 recessed at 3:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:28 p.m. The second candidate interview with Cassandra Hanan began at 3:29 p.m. Upon completion of the interview, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams, to recess 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 recessed at 4:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 4:29 p.m. The third candidate interview with Brock Rogness-Waters began at 4:30 p.m. Upon completion of the interview, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner, to recess 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 recessed at 5:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:32 p.m. The fourth candidate Zeke Jackson had not arrived. At 5:33 Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen to recess the meeting in order for Attorney Wieser and Finance Director Tarrence to contact Mr. Jackson. The meeting reconvened at 5:37 p.m. Attorney Wieser and Finance Director Tarrence were unable to make contact with Mr. Jackson. It was recommended that City Council recess the meeting until 5:45 p.m. to allow Mr. Jackson additional time to arrive. At 5:37 p.m. Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Langen to recess the meeting until 5:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 5:47 p.m. Contact with Mr. Jackson was unsuccessful and it being seventeen minutes past the scheduled interview time, the application was considered withdrawn.

5. CONSIDERATION OF HIRING FOR POSTION OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR

At the conclusion of the interviews, discussion regarding the candidates began at 5:48 p.m. Each Council Member was asked if they had any questions for Attorney Wieser or Finance Director Tarrence regarding the candidates. Each Council Member was then asked to indicate which candidates they felt were most qualified and why. Following an extended discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO OFFER THE POSITION OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT TO CASSANDRA HANAN WITH A SALARY STEP TO BE NEGOTIATED AND PRESENTED AT A FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR APPROVAL, THE OFFER IS CONTINGENT ON A SUCCESSFUL BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE CHECK, AND THE POSITION WILL SERVE A TWELVE-MONTH PROBATION PERIOD.

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.

6. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR IF NECESSARY

Attorney Wieser discussed with City Council the need for an Interim City Administrator for approximately six weeks until Ms. Hanan is able to start the position. It was recommended that Public Works Director Tyler Benish or Finance Director Kara Tarrence be appointed as the Interim City Administrator. A Memorandum of Understanding will be brought to the March 9, 2026, City Council meeting for a temporary \$5.00/hr increase in wage for the Interim City Administrator. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPOINT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TYLER BENISH AS INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR WITH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BEING BROUGHT BACK TO THE MARCH 9, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING REGARDING THE TEMOPORARY \$5.00/HR PAY INCREASE.

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 6:19 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: March 9, 2026

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk