

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA  
MARCH 09, 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 March was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, March 9, 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, Interim City Administrator 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 23, 2026
- 1.2 MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2026
- 1.3 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – MARCH 6, 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 – HEARTSAFE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

La Crescent Heart Safe Community Members Cheri Olson, Cassie Buehler, and Mary Sue Busch were in attendance and provided an update to City Council. This item was informational only. No action was required.

**ITEM 3.2 – LA CRESCENT YOUTH BASEBALL-BATTING CAGE-VETERANS PARK**

La Crescent Youth Baseball Board Member Mark Shay was in attendance and reviewed with City Council a request from La Crescent Youth Ball to install a batting cage in Veterans Park. The batting cage would be installed on the existing concrete pad adjacent to the upper parking lot and walking path. The cost of the batting cage and installation will be paid for by La Crescent Youth Ball. It was recommended that City Council approve the installation of the batting cage pending Park and Recreation Committee approval. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE LA CRESCENT YOUTH BASEBALL’S REQUEST TO INSTALL A BATTING CAGE IN VETERANS PARK ON THE EXISTING CONCRETE PAD ADJACENT TO THE UPPER PARKING LOT AND WALKING PATH, PENDING PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE APPROVAL, WITH THE COST OF THE BATTING CAGE AND INSTALLATION TO BE PAID FOR BY LA CRESCENT YOUTH BALL.**

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 – 5K FUN RUN REQUEST – LA CRESCENT GIRLS BASKETBALL BOOSTERS**

La Crescent Girls Basketball Representative Mark Shay was in attendance and reviewed with City Council an event request submitted by the La Crescent Girls Basketball Booster Club to hold their First Annual 5K Fun Run Event on May 29, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The annual fun run will have different themes; this year’s theme is a color run. Also included was a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager stating the Police Departments assessment of the proposed route, anticipated attendance, and the event’s planned safety measures will not pose concerns for traffic control. Officers on duty during the event timeframe will

monitor the activity as part of their routine patrol. A map of the proposed route was included. It was recommended that City Council approve the event. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE LA CRESCENT GIRLS BASKETBALL BOOSTER CLUB'S FIRST ANNUAL 5K FUN RUN EVENT TO BE HELD ON MAY 19, 2026, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. WITH ROUTE AS SPECIFIED.**

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 – NATIVE LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE**

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council a draft Native Landscape Ordinance for the City of La Crescent. In 2023 the State of Minnesota passed a new law (412.95) that requires municipalities to allow property owners and occupants to install and maintain managed natural landscape. The proposed ordinance would set up a permit application process and allow monitoring of native landscapes installed by property owners in the City. This item was informational only. No action was required.

**ITEM 3.5 – REQUEST TO CLOSE SIDEWALK, PARKING, AND TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – 420 SOUTH 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET**

Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council a request from Wieser Brothers General Contractor to close the sidewalk, parking in the right of way and a temporary road closure for utility connections adjacent to 420 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The closure is anticipated to last until August 7, 2026. A copy of the request and site map were included. It was recommended that City Council approve the closure of the sidewalk, parking in the right of way, and temporary road closure. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE WIESER BROTHERS GENERAL CONTRACTOR'S REQUEST TO CLOSE THE SIDEWALK, PARKING IN THE RIGHT OF WAY, AND TEMPORARY ROAD**

**CLOSURE FOR UTILITY CONNECTIONS ADJACENT TO 420 SOUTH 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET WITH THE CLOSURE ANTICIPATED TO LAST UNTIL AUGUST 7, 2026.**

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 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. The Personnel Committee is recommending that the City Council hire Cassandra Hanan as City Administrator for the City of La Crescent. The motion to extend an offer to Ms. Hanan was approved at the Special City Council Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026, pending a background and reference check. The background and reference checks have been completed. It is proposed that Ms. Hanan would start at Step 7 of the City Administrator wage schedule and serve a twelve-month probationary period. Ms. Hanan's official start date will be Monday, May 4, 2026. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO HIRE CASSANDRA HANAN AS CITY ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT WITH MS. HANAN STARTING AT STEP 7 OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR WAGE SCHEDULE, SERVING A TWELVE-MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD, AND AN OFFICIAL START DATE OF MONDAY MAY 4, 2026.**

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

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

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

2. At the Special City Council meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026, a motion was approved to appoint Tyler Benish, Public Works Director, as Interim City Administrator until Ms. Hanan’s official start date. City Council reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding for a wage increase of \$5.00 per hour for Mr. Benish while he serves as Interim City Administrator. It was recommended that City Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR A WAGE INCREASE OF \$5.00 PER HOUR FOR TYLER BENISH WHILE HE SERVES AS INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR UNTIL MS. HANAN’S OFFICIAL START DATE.**

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 – CALL FOR SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish requested that City Council call for a special City Council meeting to be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at the Wisser Memorial Park Pavilion, 1817 County Road 6. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and consider the bond sale and awarding a resolution of the 2026A bonds. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026, AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE WIESER MEMORIAL PARK PAVILION, 1817 COUNTY ROAD 6 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING AND CONSIDERING THE BOND SALE AND AWARDING A RESOLUTION OF THE 2026A BONDS.**

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 – RESOLUTION – WINONA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council the 2025 Winona County Hazard Mitigation Plan in conjunction with local municipalities and stakeholders in the county. This plan is to update the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan update is funded through FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant funds. The plan addresses the threat of natural hazards, with goals and objectives to mitigate the damage from disasters. The State of Minnesota has approved the plan and Winona County is asking the City of La Crescent to adopt the plan. Adoption of the plan will make the City of La Crescent eligible for future stand-alone hazard mitigation funding opportunities. It was recommended that City Council pass the resolution adopting the Winona County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-26-07**

**CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 WINONA COUNTY  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of La Crescent recognizes the threat of natural hazards to people and property within the City of La Crescent; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crescent has participated in the development of the 2025 Winona County Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with Federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Winona County Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property within the City of La Crescent from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, by adoption by the City of La Crescent demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2025 Winona County Hazard Mitigation Plan,



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 – APPROVE SERVICE CONTRACT – GENERATORS**

Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish reviewed an agreement with City Council to renew the service contract with Interstate Power Systems for yearly service, inspections and battery replacement on the City's water and wastewater generators. The City has had an agreement in place for several years with Interstate Power Systems. It was recommended that City Council approve the three-year service contract with Interstate Power Systems. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE THREE-YEAR SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH INTERSTATE POWER SYSTEMS FOR YEARLY SERVICE, INSPECTIONS, AND BATTERY REPLACEMENT ON THE CITY'S WATER AND WASTEWATER GENERATORS.**

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 – FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT – RECREATION**

City Council reviewed Ordinance No. 597 amending the 2026 Master Fee Schedule to include additional classes to be offered through the City's Aquatic Center. Following discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

**ORDINANCE NO. 597**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AMENDING THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AS SET FORTH IN ORDINANCES NO. 404, NO. 438, NO. 448, NO. 459, NO. 483, NO. 492, NO. 500, NO. 540, NO. 542, NO. 544, NO. 545, NO. 548, NO. 552, NO. 554, NO. 557, NO. 564, NO. 565, NO. 566, NO. 569, NO. 571, NO. 579, NO. 583, No. 590, NO. 595, and NO. 596**

The City Council of the City of La Crescent, Houston County, Minnesota hereby ordains:

1. The La Crescent City Code established on March 8, 2004, stated that certain fees may be set from time to time by the City Council.
2. The La Crescent City Code was amended on January 28, 2008, January 12, 2009, January 11, 2010, January 13, 2014, February 9, 2015, February 8, 2016, February 24, 2020, April 13, 2020, April 27, 2020, May 18, 2020, December 14, 2020, April 20, 2021, and December 13, 2021, December 19, 2022, February 13, 2023, April 24, 2023, June 26, 2023, July 24, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 16, 2024, March 10, 2025, December 15, 2025, and February 9, 2026, by Ordinance to amend certain fees.
3. The Fee Schedule has been reviewed by City Staff and amended each year from 2016 to 2024 by Motions passed by City Council. These amendments passed by City Council shall remain in effect.
4. The City staff has reviewed the fees which the City currently charges and is recommending that the fee schedule be amended as follows:

<b>RECREATION</b>		
	<b>CITY/TWN</b>	<b>OUT OF</b>
LOG ROLLING	\$45.00	\$55.00
SWIMMING LESSONS	\$40.00	\$55.00
SWIM TEAM	\$45.00	\$55.00
(Add) WATER AEROBICS	\$60.00	\$70.00
(Add) PARENT-TOT SWIM	\$45.00	\$55.00
<b><u>POOL ADMISSION</u></b>		
– per entry	\$3.00	\$6.00
<b><u>POOL MEMBERSHIPS</u></b>		
FAMILY	\$135.00	\$185.00
INDIVIDUAL	\$65.00	\$95.00

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member Langen and upon a roll call vote taken by the City Clerk, the following Members vote 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.

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

**MOTION THAT A PRÉCIS FORMAT OF SAID ORDINANCE 597 BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY AND WITH "OFFICIAL COPY" SO MARKED BE KEPT ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR.**

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.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member O'Donnell-Ebner 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 6:00 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: March 23, 2026

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Interim City Administrator