

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
APRIL 13, 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 April was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, April 13, 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 Schmidt, Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish, Finance Director Kara Tarrence, Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson, Library Director Jess Witkins, Fire Chief Josh Tarrence, 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 – MARCH 23, 2026
- 1.2 MINUTES – MARCH 26, 2026
- 1.3 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – APRIL 10, 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 – 2025 ANNUAL LIBRARY REPORT

La Crescent Library Director Jess Witkins reviewed the 2025 annual library report with City Council. This item was informational only. No action was required.

ITEM 3.2 – SUMMER READING PROGRAM REQUEST – LIBRARY

La Crescent Library Director Jess Witkins made a request to City Council for the use of the City’s outdoor greenspace and a portion of the parking lot located behind City Hall and the Library on Saturday, July 18th from approximately 10:30am to 2:30pm and Friday, July 24th from approximately noon to 9:00pm for Summer Reading Program events. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LIBRARY’S USE OF THE CITY’S GREENSPACE AND A PORTION OF THE PARKING LOT FOR SUMMER READING PROGRAM EVENTS TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 18TH FROM APPROXIMATELY 10:30AM TO 2:30PM AND FRIDAY, JULY 24TH FROM APPROXIMATELY NOON TO 9:00PM.

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 – LA CRESCENT LIVE – UPDATE AND 2026 CONCERT SERIES REQUEST

La Crescent Live representative Ron Wilke addressed City Council with a request to hold the 2026 La Crescent Live concert series in the City’s greenspace and parking lot located behind City Hall and the Library. Concert dates include June 10th, June 24th, July 8th, July 17th, and August 5th, with August 19th being held as a possible rain date. The events will run from 5:30pm to 8:30pm with set up beginning around 3:00pm. In addition to the regular concert series, La Crescent Live is currently working with the City and the USA Cycling Gravel Nationals organization to hold a free concert series on Saturday, September 12th. La Crescent Live requests the following assistance from the City:

1. Improvements to the City green space – expand stage area and add tables and benches
2. Reserve the City green space and parking lot located behind City Hall
3. Placement of a portable toilet

4. Assistance from the City Police Department including two Police Reserve members, barricades, and notice of parking lot closure.
5. Assistance from the City Public Works Department including picnic tables, garbage and recycling containers, growing grass and mowing, city parking lot patching.

Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2026 LA CRESENT LIVE CONCERT SERIES REQUESTS AS STATED.

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
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

and Member O'Donnell-Ebner abstained. The motion was declared duly carried by a 4-0 vote.

ITEM 3.4 – NATIVE LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council the revised Native Landscape Ordinance for the City of La Crescent. City Council originally reviewed the draft ordinance at the March 9, 2026, meeting and recommended some changes. Prior to the meeting a change was made to Section 5(f) to “pay permit fee as contained in City Fee Schedule. Following discussion Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a recommendation to change the wording of “managed native landscape” to “managed natural landscape.” It was recommended that City Council adopt the ordinance with changes. Following discussion Member O’Donnell-Ebner introduced the following Ordinance and moved its passage and adoption:

**ORDINANCE NO. 598
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NATIVE LANDSCAPES WITHIN THE CITY OF LA
CRESCENT**

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

- (1) “Aesthetic landscaping” means the intentional design and maintenance of vegetation and landscape elements to achieve a visually cohesive, orderly, and managed appearance, typically characterized by defined edges, deliberate plant arrangement, and regular upkeep. This term is distinct from “managed natural landscape,” which may emphasize ecological function and naturalized plant patters over formal or conventional visual order.

- (2) “Managed natural landscape” means a planned, intentional and maintained planting of native or non-native grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plantings.
- (3) “Meadow vegetation” shall be defined pursuant to Minnesota Statute §412.925(a)(2).
- (4) “Ornamental plants” shall be defined pursuant to Minnesota Statute §412.925(a)(3).
- (5) “Noxious weed” shall mean plants so designated by the Commissioner of Agriculture pursuant to Minnesota Statute §18.77, Subd. 8.
- (6) “Rain gardens” shall be defined pursuant to Minnesota Statute §412.925(a)(4).
- (7) “Turf-grass lawn” means a lawn comprised mostly of grasses commonly used in regularly cut lawns or play areas (such as but not limited to bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass blends), intended to be maintained at a height of no more than twelve (12) inches.

SECTION 2. EXCEPTION TO NUISANCE REGULATION. Maintained and weeded prairie or native landscape vegetation that does not contain noxious weed growth, provided that the property owner applies for and issued a native landscape permit and maintains the property in a condition sufficient to maintain the permit, is not considered a nuisance. This Section does not apply to turf-grass lawns.

SECTION 3. PERMITTED USES. In accordance with Section 4 of this Ordinance and relevant Minnesota Statutes, a managed native landscape shall be permitted within a defined landscape area on parcels provided that such defined landscape area:

- (a) Occupies no more than 50% of the surface area of the parcel excluding natural wooded areas, wetlands, bodies of water, rain gardens, and scenic easements;
- (b) Is set back from the property lines by at least five (5) feet unless managed native landscaping area directly abuts a wetland, pond, lake, stream, or officially designated nature area;
- (c) Is clearly defined by edging, fence, or similar material, or is directly abutting at least a mower’s width of mowed and maintained turf grass on all sides; and
- (d) Is maintained at least once per year to a height no more than eight (8) inches.

SECTION 4. PERMIT. A native landscape permit is required prior to establishing a managed native landscape. A permit is not required for aesthetic landscaping.

SECTION 5. PERMIT APPLICATION. An application for a native vegetation landscape shall contain:

- (a) The name and address of the applicant and the location of the native landscape;
- (b) A site plan for the area sought to be permitted;

- (c) A planting plan, to include a complete list of species to be used and the maintenance requirements for each plant;
- (d) A maintenance plan, including the mature height of all native vegetation and a plan to prevent weeds and noxious weeds;
- (e) The contact information for the person(s)/entity responsible for maintaining the native landscape; and
- (f) Pay permit fee as contained in City Fee Schedule.

SECTION 6. ISSUANCE OF NATIVE LANDSCAPE PERMIT AND NATIVE LANDSCAPE SIGN. The Public Works Director shall determine the completeness of the application and shall issue the native landscape permit and native landscape permit sign unless the management and maintenance plan is incomplete or inconsistent with the application requirements. The native landscape sign shall be visible at all times.

SECTION 7. DENIAL OF NATIVE LANDSCAPE PERMIT; APPEAL. Any person whose application for a native landscape permit is denied shall receive written notice of such denial and may appeal that determination to the Public Works Director by filing such notice of such appeal within 10 days of the date on the notice of denial. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal, the Public Works Director shall set a public hearing at which the applicant and any other party wishing to be heard shall have an opportunity to present evidence as to the applicant's compliance with the provisions of this ordinance and the application procedure. If the Public Works Director determines that the applicant has complied with the application provisions of this chapter, including the management and maintenance plan requirements, the Public Works Director shall issue the native landscape permit. The Public Works Director shall affirm the denial if it determines that the applicant has not complied with the provisions of this chapter.

SECTION 8. REVOCATION OF NATIVE LANDSCAPE PERMIT. A native landscape permit may be revoked by the Public Works Director if the weeds are not maintained, if vegetation is deemed to encroach on a right of way or otherwise obstruct visibility that could reasonably be a safety hazard, or if the Permittee fails to maintain the native landscape area in a manner consistent with the maintenance plan included in the application. The notice of revocation shall indicate that the revocation shall be effective on the date identified therein, which date shall not be less than 14 days later than the date on the notice, unless the permittee files a written appeal to the Public Works Director. Upon said date of revocation, the native landscape permit sign must be removed from the property.

SECTION 9. PENALTY. Any person violating any provision of this Chapter shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. The penalty which may be imposed under this Section shall be a \$300.00 fine.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY. Should any section, subdivision, clause or other provision of this Chapter be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Chapter as a whole, or of any part thereof, other than the part held to be invalid.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION. This Ordinance shall take effect and be enforced from and after its passage and publication.

PASSED AND ENACTED THIS ___ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator

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
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 598 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.

ITEM 3.5 – SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA SMALL TOWN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PLANNING GRANT AGREEMENT

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council the City’s submitted grant application to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in 2025 for a SE MN Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to complete an Ice Arena Refrigeration Feasibility Study. The SE MN Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant was awarded to the City for \$20,000. A copy of the grant agreement was included. It was recommended that City Council approve the grant agreement between the City of La Crescent and the MPCA. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA ENERGY EFFICIENCY BLOCK GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND THE MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY.

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 – SERVICE AGREEMENT-MICHAELS ENERGY-ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PLANNING

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council for approval a contract proposal between the City of La Crescent and Michaels Energy to complete the La Crescent Community Ice Arena Refrigeration Feasibility Study and authorize the expenditure for \$20,000 from the SE MN Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT PROPOSAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND MICHAELS ENERGY TO COMPLETE THE LA CRESCENT COMMUNITY ICE ARENA REFIGERATION FEASIBILITY STUDY AND AUTHORIZE THE

EXPENDITURE FOR \$20,000 FROM THE SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT.

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 – ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

City Council reviewed for adoption the 2026 Arbor Day Proclamation. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO PROCLAIM APRIL 24TH, 2026, AS ARBOR DAY IN 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.

ITEM 3.8 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE-2026 TREE PLANTING

City Council reviewed an authorization expenditure request of funds totaling \$18,990.60 for the purchase of 177 bareroot and potted trees. As part of the Tree City USA program the City is required to spend a minimum of \$2 per capita annually on urban forestry. The City will be reimbursed for sixty-nine of the 177 trees, totaling \$8,706, by the MnDNR as a part of the 2023 ReLeaf grant awarded to the City. The City has funds in the Street department budget to cover the expenditure. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF 177 BAREROOT AND POTTED TREES AS PART OF THE TREE CITY USA PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR \$18,990.60 WITH \$8,706 COMING FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AS PART OF THE 2023 RELEAF GRANT AND \$10,284.60 FROM THE STREET 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 3.9 – VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT AGREEMENT

Fire Chief Josh Tarrence reviewed with City Council that the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant application through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) that the City Council approved for submission was awarded to the City. The grant is a 50:50 match between the MnDNR and the City of La Crescent for \$10,000 with \$5,000 from the MnDNR and \$5,000 from the City of La Crescent. The Grant Funds will be used for fire hose and fire hose equipment. It was recommended that City Council approve the grant agreement between the City of La Crescent and MnDNR. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNDNR) FOR \$10,000 WITH \$5,000 FROM THE MNDNR AND \$5,000 FROM THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIRE HOSE AND FIRE HOSE EQUIPMENT.

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 – FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Fire Chief Josh Tarrence presented Mike Poellinger with a service award honoring his forty-six years of service with the La Crescent Fire Department. This item was informational only. No action was required.

ITEM 3.11 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

1. On April 29, 2026, Greg Payne will have completed his twelve-month probationary period as assistant chief with the La Crescent Fire Department. The Personnel Committee is recommending that effective April 29, 2026, Mr. Payne’s probationary status be removed and that he be classified as a regular City of La Crescent employee. A letter from the Fire Chief was included. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO REMOVE GREG PAYNE’S PROBATIONARY STATUS AS ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF EFFECTIVE APRIL 29, 2026, AND THAT HE BE CLASSIFIED AS A REGULAR CITY OF LA CRESCENT EMPLOYEE.

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.

2. That Dan Buchholz be promoted to Lead Worker at Pine Creek Golf Course, effective April 14, 2026. A letter from the Golf Course Superintendent was included. Mr. Buchholz will serve a 120-calendar day probationary period. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member as follows:

MOTION TO PROMOTE DAN BUCHHOLZ TO LEAD WORKER AT PINE CREEK GOLF COURSE EFFECTIVE APRIL 14, 2026, WITH MR. BUCHOLZ SERVING A 120-DAY 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
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

3. That the City Council approve a tentative agreement with the AFSCME Union with the following modifications:

1. Incorporate employment notice language consistent with state law.
2. Modify step 1 grievance procedure language.
3. Updated meal period time.
4. Clarified overtime pay calculation.
5. Increased on-call pay from \$35 to \$55 per weekend day or holiday.
6. Added Juneteenth to designated holidays.
7. Modified sick leave language to incorporate ESST requirements.
8. Language was added that an employee may not go into an unpaid status if the employee has accrued leave available to them; except when the employee is on worker's compensation or MN paid leave.

9. Insurance contributions per month have been increased to:

	2026	2027	2028
Single	\$1200	\$1320	\$1451
Family	\$2800	\$3080	\$3388

10. Insurance opt out has been set at:

Single: \$700
Family: \$1200

11. No employee hired after May 1, 2026, will not be eligible for the insurance opt out benefit.
12. Increased the meal allowance from \$31 to \$63 per day.
13. Minnesota Paid Leave payroll tax will be split equally by the City and the Employee.

14. Cost of Living adjustment:

	2026	2027	2028
	4%	5%	4.5%

15. Added language for safety toed shoe reimbursement of up to \$200 per year.
16. In lieu of retro pay, the City would make a one-time payment of \$1,000 to each union employee.

The payroll and insurance contribution change would take effect May1, 2026.

At the meeting Interim City Administrator Benish made clarifications to number 5 to include "Public Works Staff", number 11 to remove the word "not", number 15 to include "with no

carryover". It was also recommended that City Council authorize Attorney Wieser and Interim City Administrator Benish to make any language modifications that may be needed. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AFSCME UNION THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT FROM 2026-2028 WITH THE MODIFICATIONS AS STATED AND AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY WIESER AND INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR BENISH TO MAKE ANY LANGUAGE MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY BE NEEDED.

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.

4. That the City Council authorize Mayor Poellinger to meet with City staff to discuss concerns of employees. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR POELLINGER TO MEET WITH CITY STAFF TO DISCUSS CONCERNS OF EMPLOYEES.

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 3.12 – WIESER MEMORIAL PARK – OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROJECT

Public Works Director/Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish reviewed the following information regarding the Wieser Park outdoor recreation grant project with City Council:

1. Concrete work bid results. The City of La Crescent advertised for concrete work to complete the outdoor recreation grant project at Wieser Memorial Park. The bids were due March 30, 2026, at 1:00pm. The City received one bid from Wieser Brothers Contractor for \$280,185. The budgeted cost for the concrete portion of the project was \$205,000 when the City applied for the grant. The increase is due to a \$10 per hour prevailing wage increase from 2025 to 2026. The prevailing wage is a requirement of the grant. The City’s General fund has funds that can be reallocated to cover the additional cost; Streets and Alleys-repair and maintenance, and Parks-landscaping materials. The grant requires a fifty percent (50%) match. It was recommended that City Council approve the bid and authorize a budget adjustment for the funds to come from the Streets and Alley, and Parks budget to cover the additional cost. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BID FOR \$280,185 FROM WIESER BROTHERS CONTRACTOR TO COMPLETE THE CONCRETE WORK AT WIESER MEMORIAL PARK AND AUTHORIZE A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FROM THE STREETS AND ALLEY, AND PARKS BUDGET TO COVER ADDITIONAL COST.

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.

2. Deed restriction. The MnDNR Outdoor recreation grant agreement includes a provision that requires the City to put a deed restriction on the improved property. The purpose of the deed restriction is to ensure that Wieser Memorial Park is maintained as a park in perpetuity. A copy of the deed restriction was included. It was recommended that City Council approve the deed restriction and record the restriction on the Wieser Memorial Park parcel. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE AND RECORD THE DEED RESTRICTION FOR WIESER MEMORIAL PARK.

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

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
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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.

3. Change order with flagship recreation. The outdoor recreation grant requires any contracted company to pay its employees a specified wage based on work they are performing. The wages are set by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Flagship Recreation has determined that the playground and surfacing installation staff are most comparable to a carpenter classification. The 2026 wage class for carpenters has increased \$9.53 per hour a 15 % increase over the 2025 rate. Due to increased wages, Flagship Recreation has proposed a change order to the project that would split the increased labor cost in half. The change order would be \$2,567.50. It was recommended that City Council approve the change order with Flagship Recreation. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER WITH FLAGSHIP RECREATION FOR \$2,567.50.

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 3.13 – TIF DISTRICT 1-9 REVENUE NOTE – 31 SOUTH WALNUT STREET

Public Works Director/Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council that the developers at 31 South Walnut Street have satisfied the criteria for the TIF revenue note to be issued. The TIF district was established March 22, 2021, with a duration of fifteen (15) years. The TIF revenue note shall not exceed \$195,000 and payments will be solely based on the tax increment derived from TIF district 1-9. The City will retain ten percent (10%) of the increment payment for administrative expenses and fees. The development agreement and the TIF revenue note were included. It was recommended that City Council approve the Mayor and Interim City Administrator to execute the tax increment revenue note.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR AND INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE TIF DISTRICT 1-9 REVENUE NOTE FOR 31 SOUTH WALNUT STREET.

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 3.14 – ISD 300 – POSITIVE IMPACT TEAM REQUEST

City Council reviewed a request from ISD Positive Impact Team (PIT Crew) to install lancer shields in city parks as part of a scavenger hunt. The shields would be temporarily mounted on a wood dowel and custom painted or decorated by classes in elementary school. Park locations include Old Hickory, Eagles Bluff, Veterans, Vetsch, Frank J. Kistler Memorial, Wieser Memorial, Abnet, Red Apple Trailhead, and Eagles Bluff Loop Trail. The Park and Recreation commission reviewed the request at their April 6th meeting, and it was the consensus of the commission to approve the request. It was recommended that City Council approve the request from the Positive Impact Team. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE ISD POSITIVE IMPACT TEAM (PIT CREW) REQUEST TO INSTALL TEMPORARY LANCER SHIELDS IN THE STATED CITY PARKS AS PART OF A SCAVENGER HUNT.

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 3.15 - LETTER OF SUPPORT – BASICS ACT

City Council reviewed a Memorandum from Community Development Director Larry Kirch requesting the support of the mayor’s signature on two letters requesting that the City’s congressional delegation sponsor and support the passage of the BASICS Act. The BASICS Act is the periodic federal transportation five-year spending and policy bill. In the renewal of the transportation bill, there is a provision to provide additional funding to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The City is a member and the mayor is on the policy board of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC). The LAPC would receive additional funding support for regional transportation planning efforts. The letters are written to Congressman Finstad asking that he co-sponsor and support the legislation and that Senator’s Klobuchar and Smith co-sponsor and support the Senate version of the legislation. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO SUPPORT MAYOR POELLINGER TO SIGN AND SEND LETTERS TO CONGRESSMAN FINSTAD ASKING THAT HE CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF THE BASICS ACT LEGISLATION AND THAT SENATOR’S KLOBUCHAR AND SMITH CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT THE SENATE VERSION OF THE LEGISLATION.

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 3.16 – NEWSPAPER REVIEW

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council that the Houston County News, the City’s official newspaper, has been discontinued as of April 1, 2026. It was recommended that City Council approve the Caledonia Argus as the City’s official newspaper beginning April 13, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with the following findings:

1. On or about April 1, 2026, the City received notice that the Houston County News will be discontinuing publication.
2. The City desires to have an official newspaper for publication of required notices and designates the Caledonia Argus as the City’s official newspaper as of April 13, 2026.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CALEDONIA ARGUS AS THE CITY’S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER BEGINNING APRIL 13, 2026, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026, WITH THE STATED FINDINGS.

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 3.17 – CIGARETTE/TOBACCO LICENSE APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a Memorandum from Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch stating that Emad Al Hussni will be leasing space owned by Rose Street Business Condos at 111 S. Walnut St., Ste. A. Emad, the owner of EMD Tobacco LLC, has submitted a license application to make retail sales of cigarettes and other tobacco products. The application appears to be in order, and it was recommended that City Council approve the license application and authorize that it be forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR RETAIL CIGARETTES AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO BE LOCATED AT 111 SOUTH WALNUT STREET, SUITE A SUBMITTED BY EMAD AL HUSSNI AND AUTHORIZE THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.

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 3.18 – DISCUSSION TOPIC – CIGARETTE/TOBACCO LICENSE

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council the City’s existing business regulation from 1997. Currently the City’s ordinance does not limit the number of cigarette/tobacco licenses. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY WIESER TO BRING BACK AN UPDATED ORDINANCE CAPPING THE NUMBER OF CIGARETTE/TOBACCO LICENSE BUSINESSES IN THE CITY AT NINE AND IF A CURRENT CIGARETTE/TOBACCO BUSINESS CLOSES THAT THE CITY DOES NOT REPLACE THE BUSINESS WITH ANOTHER CIGARETTE/TOBACCO BUSINESS WITH THE NUMBER OF LICENSES EVENTUALLY BEING CAPPED AT SIX.

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 3.19 – DISCUSSION TOPIC – LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

Mayor Poellinger reviewed with City Council his communication with Representative Davids regarding funds for the Ice Arena freon system. Representative Davids made an offer to introduce a bill for the City to have a .5% sales tax which could be used to fund a bond to make the ice arena improvements. Following discussion, Member Williams introduced a verbal Resolution to support Representative Davids offer to introduce a bill for the City to have a .5% sales tax which could be used to fund a bond to make improvements to the ice arena.

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;

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.

ITEM 3.20 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – TREE REMOVAL WALNUT STREET

Public Works Director/Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council tree removal information for the Walnut Street reconstruction project. The funding for the project has restrictive dates on the tree removal. The City has solicited local tree contractors to remove the trees ahead of the deadline and in advance of the project. The City has received the following quotes:

Woody’s Tree Service: \$6,500
B&B Tree Service: \$7,800

It was recommended that City Council authorize the expenditure of \$6,500 with Woody’s Tree Service to remove the trees for the Walnut Street project. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$6,500 WITH WOODY’S TREE SERVICE FOR THE REMOVAL OF TREES FOR THE WALNUT STREET RECONSTRUCTION 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
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

ITEM 3.21 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – GOLF CARTS

Public Works Director/Interim City Administrator Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council a request from Pine Creek Golf Course to purchase twenty (20) used 2020 Yamaha QuieTech EFI gas golf carts from X-it Outdoors. The total cost of the carts is \$66,800. The Golf Commission approved the purchase of 2019 Yamah carts that have been sold since the Golf Commission meeting. The 2020 carts are \$200 dollars more per cart that the commission approved. The Pine Creek Golf Course budget has funds to cover the expenditure. It was recommended that City Council authorize the purchase of the golf carts for \$66,800 and authorize the sale of twenty of the course’s current aged golf carts on MNBID. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY (20) USED 2020 YAMAHA QUIETECH EFI GAS GOLF CARTS FROM X-IT OUTDOORS FOR \$66,800 AND THE SALE OF TWENTY OF THE GOLF COURSE’S AGED GOLF CARTS ON MNBID.

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 – PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES 4/6/2026
City Council reviewed the April 6, 2026, Park and Recreation meeting minutes.
- 6.2 – EXPLORE LA CROSSE – FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES
City Council reviewed the February 17, 2026, Explore La Crosse meeting minutes.
- 6.3 – EXPLORE LA CROSSE – MARCH AGENDA
City Council reviewed the March 24, 2026, Explore La Crosse meeting agenda.
- 6.4 – GOLF COMMISSION MINUTES 3/25/2026
City Council reviewed the March 25, 2026, Golf Commission meeting minutes.

7. HOUSTON COUNTY

Houston County Commissioner Cindy Wright was in attendance and provided an update.

8. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce representative Kayla Schmidt was in attendance and provided an update.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member Langen 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 6:25 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: April 27, 2026

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

Interim City Administrator