

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA  
APRIL 27, 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 March was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, April 27, 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, Interim City Administrator/Public Works Director Tyler Benish, City Attorney Skip Wieser, Assistant Attorney Kayla Schmidt, Finance Director Kara 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 – APRIL 13, 2026
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – ARIL 24, 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 Williams, 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 – LA CROSSE AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE-SAFE STREETS FOR ALL**

La Crosse Area Planning Committee Member Travis Key presented the La Crosse Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan with City Council. This item was informational only. No action was required.

**ITEM 3.2 – CIGARETTE/TOBACCO LICENSE APPLICATION**

City Council reviewed a memorandum from Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch regarding a retail sale license application of cigarette and other tobacco products from Heather Ries, owner of Vapor Vault LLC, who will be leasing space owned by Lori (Bauer) Wolfe at 704 Hwy 16, La Crescent. 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 Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE RETAIL SALES OF CIGARETTE AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCT LICENSE APPLICATION FROM HEATHER RIES OWNER OF VAPOR VAULT LLC, FOR LEASED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 704 HWY 16, LA CRESCENT 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
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

**ITEM 3.3 – MORATORIUM ORDINANCE ON TOBACCO LICENSES**

City Assistant Attorney Kayla Schmidt reviewed with City Council for adoption, an Interim Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on the Issuance of Licenses for the Sale of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices following the council’s discussion at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. This proposed Moratorium Ordinance, if adopted, would temporarily halt the issuance or approval of any new licenses or permits for the sale of tobacco or tobacco products for a period of up to one (1) year pending a study to determine whether an ordinance establishing a cap for tobacco licenses in the City of La Crescent

and/or distance requirements from schools or parks is appropriate. An exception to this rule would be to renew licenses as any renewals would come due. It was recommended that City Council adopt the Tobacco Moratorium Ordinance. Following discussion Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following Ordinance and moved its passage and adoption:

### **ORDINANCE NO. 599**

#### **AN INTERIM ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF TOBACCO, TOBACCO-RELATED DEVICES, AND ELECTRONIC DELIVERY DEVICES**

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 462.355, Subd, 4, the City is authorized to impose a temporary moratorium on certain uses within the City, pending study of an issue, before enacting long-term official controls.

#### SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

- (1) "Electronic Delivery Device" shall mean an electronic product that is designed to use, or that uses, liquids or pre-loaded cartridges to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of the aerosol or vapor produced from the substance.
- (2) "Tobacco" shall mean and include cigarettes and any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product; cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobaccos; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Tobacco excludes any tobacco product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.
- (3) "Tobacco-Related Products" shall mean Tobacco and related materials and devices used in rolling, smoking, or storing Tobacco. The term includes Electronic Delivery Devices and the substances sold for use by such devices.
- (4) "Tobacco Shop" shall mean a retail establishment with sales, or projected sales, of Tobacco-Related Products constituting at least 40% of the establishment's total sales in any month.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS. The City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of residents to review the current zoning and licensing ordinances regarding the sale of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, and electronic delivery devices. The City requires time to conduct a study to consider potential amendments to City Ordinances regarding the number of licenses issued and the distance between tobacco retailers and schools, parks, or residential areas. A temporary moratorium is necessary to prevent the establishment of new tobacco retailers during this study and potential ordinance adoption.

SECTION 4. STUDY. It is intended that the City Council refer this matter for study by appropriate city committees, to in turn make recommendations to the City Council to assist the Council in adopting long-term official controls, regulating businesses selling tobacco, tobacco-related devices and electronic delivery devices and nicotine products within the city limits.

SECTION 5. MORATORIUM ESTABLISHED. For a period of one (1) year from the date of introduction of this ordinance, throughout the City of La Crescent:

- (1) No license, permit, or approval shall be granted, accepted, or acted upon by the City for any new business, person, or entity intended for the sale of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic delivery devices, and nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of the aerosol or vapor produced from the substance.
- (2) This moratorium applies to any new license application, site plan review, or zoning approval that would allow for the sale of these products.
- (3) Exceptions. Subject to compliance with all applicable, existing ordinances, license renewals shall be allowed during the interim ordinance period, as well as the continued operation of a Tobacco Shop lawfully existing prior to the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. PENALTY. Any person or entity violating this moratorium ordinance is, upon conviction, guilty of a misdemeanor and/or may be subject to civil enforcement, including injunctive relief.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY. Should any section, subdivision, clause or other provision of this Ordinance be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole, or of any part thereof, other than the part held to be invalid.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect and be enforced from and after its passage and publication.

PASSED AND ENACTED THIS \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

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
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

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

**MOTION THAT A PRÉCIS FORMAT OF SAID ORDINANCE 599 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 3.4 – UPDATE ON PENDING LAWSUIT:** Gregory M. Meinertz, Rebecca M. Wolf v. Town of La Crescent a/k/a La Crescent Township, a Minnesota Municipal Corporation, City of La Crescent, a Minnesota Municipal Corporation, Houston County Case No. 28-CV-24-518.

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council that Meinertz/Wolf v. City of La Crescent mediation has been scheduled for May 8, 2026. The litigation counsel, Andrew Wolf, Attorney Wieser, Interim City Administrator/Public Works Director Tyler Benish, and City Administrator Cassandra Hanan will be attending mediation on behalf of the City Staff. It was recommended that City Council authorize Mayor Poellinger and Council Member Teresa O’Donnell-Ebner also participate on behalf of the City at mediation. City Council will be provided with an update of the result of mediation at the May 26, 2026, City Council meeting. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen, as follows:

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR POELLINGER AND COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA O’DONNELL-EBNER TO PARTICIPATE AT THE MEINERTZ/WOLF V. CITY OF LA CRESCENT MEDIATION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.**

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 – 2026 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE EVENT**

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager regarding the 2026 Memorial Day Parade event. The event will be held on Monday, May 25, 2026, with the parade beginning at 12:00 p.m. Parade participants will line up between 11:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. in the 100 block of South Oak Street.

The parade will proceed north through La Crescent and conclude at Veterans Park. The La Crescent Police Department and La Crescent Fire Department will provide traffic control throughout the parade to ensure the safety of participants, spectators, and the general public. A section of the south parking lot of Veterans Park will be closed, and barricades will be placed during the duration of the event. It was recommended that City Council approve the Memorial Day Parade event. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE LA CRESCENT MEMORIAL DAY PARADE EVENT ON MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026, 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
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 – MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM-LEAD SERVICE POTHOLING**

Interim City Administrator/Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council a pilot program between the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Rural Water Association (MNRWA) to pothole (hydro excavate) unknown water service lines, aiding in updating lead service inventories. MDH and MNRWA approached the City's Engineer firm WHKS to engage public water system clients to participate in the pilot program. The project would be an agreement between WHKS and MDH, with a potholing subcontractor operating under the WHKS agreement. The purpose of the project would be to identify fifty (50) unknown water service lines and restoration. The project will be at no cost to the City. It was recommended that City Council approve participating in the Lead service potholing program. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE PARTICIPATING IN THE LEAD SERVICE POTHOLING PROGRAM 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
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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 – RESOLUTION-LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX**

City Council reviewed for adoption a resolution amending the verbal local option sale tax resolution that was made at the April 13, 2026, City Council meeting. The House tax committee bill that was introduced has been amended to align with the proposed amended resolution. Following discussion, Member Williams introduced the following resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

**CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION 4-26-10**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE A LOCAL SALES TAX TO FUND SPECIFIC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROVIDING REGIONAL BENEFIT TO ESTABLISH THE DURATION OF THE TAX AND THE REVENUE TO BE RAISED BY THE TAX, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO ISSUE BONDS SUPPORTED BY THE SALES TAX REVENUE

**WHEREAS**, the City has engaged community residents and businesses and identified the La Crescent Community Arena ice system replacement project; the project will replace the banned R-22 refrigerant system, improve the efficiency and reliability of the coolant system as well as extend the seasonal use of the ice arena, other improvements include solar installation and energy efficiency upgrades;

**WHEREAS**, the project(s) will result in benefits to both the residents and businesses of the City of La Crescent and to non-resident visitors and businesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, funding the project(s) with a local sales tax will more closely distribute the cost of the project(s) to the users of the facilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the project(s) are estimated to cost approximately \$6,500,000 and,

**WHEREAS**, the city estimates that a local sales tax of one half of one percent (0.5%) would generate \$6,500,000 over 20 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the city has provided documentation of the regional significance of each project, including the share of the economic benefit to or use of each project by persons residing, or businesses located, outside of the jurisdiction; and,

**WHEREAS**, Minn. Stat. § 297A.99 authorizes the imposition of a general sales tax if permitted by special law of the Minnesota Legislature; and,

**WHEREAS**, Minn. Stat. § 297A.99 requires the City to pass a resolution authorizing such a local tax and to obtain Legislative approval prior to approval by the local voters to enact the local tax;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the following:**

1. The city council supports the authority to impose a general local sales tax of one half of one percent for a period of 20 years to fund the aforementioned project;
2. Upon approval of this resolution, the city will submit the adopted resolution and documentation of regional significance to the chairs and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Taxes committees for approval and passage of a special law authorizing the tax.
3. Upon Legislative approval and passage of the special law authorizing the tax, the city will adopt a resolution accepting the new law, which will be filed with a local approval certificate to the Office of the Secretary of State before the following Legislative session.
4. The city will put a detailed ballot question(s), which includes separate questions for each project, on a general election ballot for local voter approval. This will be done within two years of receiving legislative authority.
5. If one or more ballot questions pass, the city will also pass an ordinance imposing the tax and notify the commissioner of Revenue at least 90 days before the first day of the calendar quarter that the tax will be imposed.
6. Upon completion of the aforementioned requirements, the local sales tax will commence and run for a period of 20 years or until a sum sufficient to fund the voter approved project, including related debt costs, is raised, whichever comes first.

**Adoption by the City Council of the City of La Crescent this 27th day of April, 2026.**

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

ATTEST:

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

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 3.8 – RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT RFP**

Interim City Administrator/Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council information regarding the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant. The grant requires the City to provide a selection process for the consultant that will perform the work outlined in the grant. A Request for Proposals (RFP) to perform the services outlined in the grant was included for City Council review and consideration. The City has submitted all the necessary documents to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and is anticipating a grant contract within the next three weeks. The timing of the RFP will allow the consultant time to do field work this summer and fall, with time to construct and finalize the plan over the winter. The tentative plan would be to bring the FRA grant agreement and a recommendation for selecting a consultant to the City Council at the July 13, 2026, Council meeting. It was recommended that City Council approve the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant RFP and authorize to advertise for proposals. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES AND AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS.**

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 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. That the City Council approve an increase to the Fire Chief Supplemental Fee from \$150 per month to \$250 per month, and an increase in subsequent years at the same percentage as the Union and non-union cost of living increase. The fee was set in 2010 and has not been increased since. The increase would be effective May 1, 2026. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE AN INCREASE TO THE FIRE CHIEF SUPPLEMENTAL FEE FROM \$150 PER MONTH TO \$250 PER MONTH AND AN INCREASE IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS AT THE SAME PERCENTAGE AS THE UNION AND NON-UNION COST OF LIVING INCREASE, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 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.

2. The Personnel Committee is recommending that the City Council accept Randy Urich's resignation from the Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee, effective April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. A copy of Mr. Urich's notice is included. There are no current applications for appointments to the Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO ACCEPT RANDY URICH’S RESIGNATION FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>, 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 3.10 – AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE – SHORE ACRES GRINDER TANK**

Interim City Administrator/Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council that the City of La Crescent has received \$18,000 from FEMA for flood mitigation from the flooding in 2024; the mitigation project is to replace and waterproof one grinder tank that serves 414 and 410 Shore Acres Road to reduce the impacts of future flooding. The cost of the tank is \$6,400 from Midwest Pump Works and the cost to install is \$11,250 from BKC Construction. The remaining funds will include updating the control box and reconnecting electricals. It was recommended that City Council authorize the expenditure for the replacement of the grinder tank. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$17,650 FROM THE \$18,000 FLOOD MITIGATION FUNDS RECEIVED FROM FEMA IN 2024 FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND WATERPROOFING OF A GRINDER TANK THAT SERVES 410 AND 414 SHORE ACRES ROAD WITH THE REMAINING FUNDS USED TO UPDATE THE CONTROL BOX AND RECONNECTION OF ELECTRICALS.**

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 – DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT EXTENTION REQUEST** – 350 Strupp Avenue and 270 Strupp Avenue

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council a request from the developer at 270 Strupp Avenue for an extension to the development agreement deadlines and request to assign the development agreement to BKW 270 Strupp LLC, the entity that is acquiring the property at 270 Strupp Avenue. A copy of the developers proposed amendment and assignment (11.3) along with the first amendment of the development agreement (11.4) was included. It was recommended that City Council authorize the assignment of the development agreement for 270 Strupp Avenue to BKW 270 Strupp LLC, and extend the development agreement deadlines as follows:

Article 3 section E Streets:

1. Irrevocable Letter of Credit: May 15, 2026
2. Completion of road construction: October 31, 2026

Article 3 section F Certificate of Occupancy: October 31, 2026

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

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 270 STRUPP TO BKW 270 STRUPP LLC AND EXTEND THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT DEALINES AS STATED.**

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.

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council a request from the developer at 350 Strupp Avenue for an extension to the development agreement deadlines and a request to assign the development agreement to Minn Comm RE2 LLC, the entity that is acquiring the property at 350 Strupp Avenue. The developer's request (11.1) and a copy of the first amendment of the development agreement (11.2) were included; the first amendment includes the original development agreement as exhibit A. It was recommended that City Council authorize the assignment of the development agreement for 350 Strupp Avenue to Minn Comm RE2 LLC, and extend the development agreement deadlines as follows:

Article 3 section E Streets:

1. Irrevocable Letter of Credit: May 15, 2026

- 2. Completion of road construction: October 31, 2026  
Article 3 section F Certificate of Occupancy: October 31, 2026

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

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 350 STRUPP TO MINN COMM RE2 LLC AND EXTEND THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT DEADLINES AS STATED.**

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 2 – PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING - 5:30 P.M. – LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION MEETING**

At 5:30 pm Mayor Poellinger recessed the regular City Council meeting and convened the annual Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. Lucas Onstad, Mark Bennett, and Joe Olson from the Houston County Assessor's Office were present as well as Stephanie Smith and Scott Heftman from the Winona County Assessor's Office. Houston County Assessor Lucas Onstad reviewed the Board of Appeal and Equalization proceedings and Winona County Assessor Stephanie Smith gave a review of the market values for the City of La Crescent properties located in Winona County.

Mayor Poellinger opened the meeting to the public beginning with Houston County.

The following members of the public wished to address the City Council and representatives from the Houston County Assessor's Office for Appeal:

Jack Haase – 817 Stoney Point Road. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO REDUCE THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE FROM \$487,000 TO \$467,000 BASED ON THE FINDINGS PROVIDED.**

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.

John and Jan Munson – 829 Bridle Lane. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO MAKE NO CHANGE TO THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 829 BRIDLE LANE.**

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.

Joe Zoellner – 1112 Spruce Drive an eight-plex apartment building. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO MAKE NO CHANGE TO THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1112 SPRUCE DRIVE.**

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.

Lynne and Scott Lintelman – 1127 Jonathan Lane. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO REDUCE THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1127 JONATHAN LANE FROM \$518,000 TO \$502,000 TO \$485,000 BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR.**

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.

Dick Wieser – 610 Hillcrest Avenue. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO MAKE NO CHANGE TO THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 610 HILLCREST AVENUE.**

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.

Michael Oliver – 514 South Hill Street. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR AND REDUCE THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 514 SOUTH HILL STREET FROM \$229,400 TO \$194,100.**

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.

There were no members of the public that wished to appeal before the City Council and representatives from the Winona County Assessor's Office.

There being no further appeals to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Poellinger closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular City Council meeting at 6:32 p.m.

**ITEM 3.12 – INSURANCE LIABILITY COVERAGE WAIVER**

City Finance Director Kara Tarrence reviewed with City Council the annual requirement for the City Council to adopt the liability coverage waiver form, included in the packet, for the City's general liability insurance coverage with the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Based on the recommendation of the City's insurance agent, the City Council has always not waived the statutory tort limits. This established by MN Statute 466.04 limits the amount an individual or multiple claimants could recover from a single occurrence. It was recommended that City Council continue with not waiving the statutory limits for the 2026/2027 renewal. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO NOT WAIVE THE STATUTORY LIMITS FOR THE CITY'S 2026/2027 GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES INSURANCE TRUST.**

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 – EXCLUSIVE BEVERAGE AGREEMENT – AQUATIC CENTER**

Interim City Administrator/Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council an exclusive beverage agreement between Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of La Crosse and the La Crescent Aquatic Center, which was originally signed in 2001. The City of La Crescent receives rebates from Gillette Pepsi Companies for the sale of 20 oz. beverage products at the Aquatic Center. The agreement is for a term of five (5) years and requires the Aquatic Center only sell beverages provided by Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of La Crosse. It was recommended that City Council approve the agreement. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PEPSI-COLA BOTTLING OF LA CROSSE AND THE LA CRESCENT AQUATIC CENTER.**

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 – JDRF-BIKE RIDE REQUEST**

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager with a request from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) to hold their Ride to Cure Diabetes event in the City of La Crescent, scheduled for Saturday, August 15, 2026. The event coordinators are requesting permission from the La Crescent Police Department to assist with traffic control at the intersection of south Chestnut Street and Highway 16 (northbound lanes) to facilitate the safe crossing of participants. The expected impact on normal traffic flow is minimal. A map of the designated route was included. It was recommended that City Council approve the event requests. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION RIDE TO CURE DIABETES EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026, WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE 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
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

**ITEM 3.15 – COULEE CRUSHERS GRAVEL RACE REQUEST**

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager with a request from Trek Bicycles to host the inaugural Supper Club Gravel Series event in La Crescent on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. This is a new Midwest gravel racing series. The event will have three (3) race distances of 25, 50, and 75 miles with a mass starting time of 8:00 a.m. on Timm Lane near Veterans Park and Swing Bridge Pub. There will be a neutral, police-led rollout through the City before riders head into the county. Riders will return on South 7<sup>th</sup> Street and finish on the off-road double-track leading to Stoney Point Road. No full road closures are required, and riders will follow all traffic laws. Trek is requesting use of Veterans Park and city-owned lots from morning through 3:00 p.m. on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, a temporary 15-minute traffic hold on Timm Lane from 7:45-8:00 a.m., LCPD support for the neutral lead-out, LCPD assist for left turn from County Road 6/S 7<sup>th</sup> Street onto the off-road finish, and coordination with the Fire Department and Public Works as needed for safety and traffic management. It was recommended that City Council approve the event requests. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE TREK BICYCLES INAUGURAL SUPPER CLUB GRAVEL SERIES EVENT ON SATURDAY, MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2026, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPARTMENT, LA CRESCENT FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AS REQUESTED.**

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 3.16 – REQUEST TO USE ICE ARENA PARKING LOT**

Interim City Administrator/Public Works Director Tyler Benish stated that this item no longer requires action.

**6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

6.1 RIBBON CUTTINGS – 5/11/2026

City Council reviewed a press release regarding a ribbon cutting on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street in La Crescent for the Electric Vehicle Chargers and DriftCycle Bike Station to be held on May 11, 2026.

6.2 EXPLORE LA CROSSE-MARCH 2026 MINUTES

City Council reviewed the March 24, 2026, Explore La Crosse Board meeting minutes.

6.3 EXPLORE LA CROSSE-APRIL AGENDA

City Council reviewed the April 21, 2026, Explore La Crosse Board meeting agenda.

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 6:39 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: May 11, 2026

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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