

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA  
APRIL 28, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the second 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 28, 2025.

Upon a roll call taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following members were present: Members Cherryl Jostad, Chris Langen, Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Dale Williams, and Mayor Mike Poellinger. Members absent: None. Also present were, City Administrator Bill Waller, City Attorney Skip Wieser, Public Works Director Tyler Benish, Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson, Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

Also in attendance from the Houston County Assessor's office were Luke Onstad, Joe Olson, and Kelly Petersen, and from Winona County Assessor's office were Kathy Frette, and Lindsey Brandt.

**ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

At this time, Mayor Poellinger read the following items to be considered as part of the Consent Agenda for this regular meeting:

- 1.1 MINUTES – APRIL 14, 2025
- 1.2 MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2025
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH APRIL 25, 2025

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. Prior to the meeting a request was made to City Clerk Angie Boettcher to change Item 3.6 of the April 14, 2025, minutes to state Tammy Stremcha spoke on "behalf of the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism".

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

**A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE REQUESTED CHANGE TO ITEM 3.6 OF THE APRIL 14, 2025, MINUTES TO STATE TAMMY STREMCHA SPOKE ON "BEHALF OF THE LA CRESCENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM".**

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 – LEASE AGREEMENT – HEALTHY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council a lease agreement with La Crescent Area Healthy Community Partnership (HCP) for the house that the city owns at 333 Main Street. The City has leased the property to HCP since 2016. It was recommended that City Council approve the lease agreement with HCP with an expiration date of April 30, 2026. The lease is modified slightly so that HCP is responsible for all maintenance costs that may arise during the next year. HCP has been actively looking and will continue to look for another site that meets their needs and is within their budget. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2025 LEASE AGREEMENT WITH LA CRESCENT AREA HEALTHY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR 333 MAIN STREET WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF APRIL 30, 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 3.2 – INSTALL MISSISSIPPI RIVER BUOYS**

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council a request from city resident Ron Wilke on behalf of residents on the south end of Shore Acres for the city to pay for the cost of installing and removing voluntary no wake markers/buoys. The cost would be \$975 in 2025, \$600 in 2026 and 2027. It was recommended that City Council authorize the expenditure and amend the City Council discretionary line item in the 2025 general fund budget to include this expenditure. The cost would then be included in the 2026 general fund budget. Ron Wilke was in attendance to answer any questions regarding the request.

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

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$975 IN 2025, FOR THE CITY TO PAY TO INSTALL AND REMOVE VOLUNTARY NO WAKE MARKERS/BUOYS AND AMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY LINE ITEM IN THE 2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO INCLUDE THE EXPENDITURE WITH THE COST THEN BEING INCLUDED IN THE 2026 GENERAL FUND 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 3.3 – MEMORIAL DAY 2025 EVENT INFORMATION**

Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch reviewed the Memorial Day Event information with City Council to be held on Monday, May 26, 2025, in the city. This was informational only, no action required.

### **ITEM 3.4 – CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT AGREEMENT-STONEY POINT**

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant agreement from the Minnesota DNR that the city was awarded to complete phase II of the forest habitat restoration on the Stoney Point property. The grant is for \$49,875 and the project involves forestry mowing, follow-up foliar spraying applications, and planting of hardwood seedlings in the area south of the well house to south 7<sup>th</sup> street. A copy of the grant agreement was included, and it was recommended that City Council approve entering into the grant agreement with the Minnesota DNR. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO THE GRANT AGREEMENT FROM THE MINNESOTA DNR FOR \$49,875 TO COMPLETE PHASE II OF THE FOREST HABITAT RESTORATION ON THE STONEY POINT PROPERTY.**

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 3.5 – CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT AGREEMENT – BLUFFLANDS AREAS**

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant agreement from the Minnesota DNR that the city was awarded to complete removal of invasive species across the city bluffland parks and property. The grant is for \$50,000 and the project involves cutting and stump treating invasives such as buckthorn, honeysuckle, black locust, winged burning bush and others. A copy of the grant agreement was included, and it was recommended that City Council approve entering into the grant agreement with the Minnesota DNR. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO THE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE MINNESOTA DNR FOR \$50,000 TO COMPLETE THE REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES ACROSS THE BLUFFLAND PARKS AND PROPERTY.**

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 – SOLAR ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS GRANT APPLICATION**

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council that the city issued a Third-Party Solar Request for Proposals on July 22, 2024, for the Stoney Point Wellhouse. The city received proposals from All Energy Solar and Solar Connection. City staff reviewed the proposals, and it was recommended that City Council approve the proposal from Solar Connection for the city to apply for the Full Grant Application for the Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM SOLAR CONNECTION FOR THE CITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE FULL GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE SOLAR ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE STONEY POINT WELLHOUSE.**

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

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

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

**ITEM 3.7 – PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL BIKE MONTH**

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council for approval a proclamation recognizing May 2025 as National Bike Month in the City of La Crescent. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO PROCLAIM MAY 2025 AS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH IN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT.**

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

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

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

**ITEM 3.8 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. On April 18, 2025, Jevin Dorschner, Greg Payne, Garret Pritchard, and Doug Stavenau successfully completed their probationary period as Firefighters. Effective April 18, 2025, the Personnel Committee is recommending that their probationary status be removed, and that they be classified

as Firefighters for the City of La Crescent. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding the recommendation was included. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO REMOVE THE PROBATIONARY STATUS FOR FIREFIGHTERS JEVIN DORSCHNER, GREG PAYNE, GARRET PRITCHARD, AND DOUG STAVENAU AND THAT EFFECTIVE APRIL 18, 2025, THEY BE CLASSIFIED AS FIREFIGHTERS FOR 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

and Mayor Poellinger abstained. The motion was declared duly carried by a 4-0 vote.

2. On April 30, 2025, that the City Council accept Shawn Wetterlin's retirement as a Firefighter for the City of La Crescent. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding the recommendation was included. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

**MOTION TO ACCEPT SHAWN WETTERLIN'S RETIREMENT AS A FIREFIGHTER EFFECTIVE APRIL 30, 2025.**

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.

3. On April 29, 2025, that the City Council promote Firefighter Greg Payne to the position of Assistant Fire Chief. Mr. Payne will serve a twelve-month probationary status as the Assistant Fire Chief. Mr. Payne resides in the City of La Crescent, has twenty-plus years of experience in the fire service, and is currently employed as a full-time firefighter in an area community. A letter from the

Fire Chief regarding the recommendation was included. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO PROMOTE FIREFIGHTER GREG PAYNE TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF EFFECTIVE APRIL 29, 2025, WITH MR. PAYNE SERVING A TWELVE-MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD.**

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

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes

and Mayor Poellinger abstained. The motion was declared duly carried by 4-0 vote.

**ITEM 3.9 – LETTER OF SUPPORT – NEWSPAPER LEGISLATION**

City Council reviewed a letter of support for legislation regarding local government newspaper publication requirements. It was recommended that City Council approve the letter of support. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION REGARDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

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 – NO PARKING ORDINANCE**

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council for approval an Ordinance limiting parking on South 1<sup>st</sup> Street directly across from the Fire Station to Emergency Responders only. If

approved signs would be installed and the curb would be painted red. Following discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following ordinance and moved its passage and adoption:

**ORDINANCE NO. 592**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT REGULATING  
PARKING ON S 1<sup>st</sup> Street**

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

SECTION I. There shall be no parking, except emergency responder personnel’s vehicles, on the south side of South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, from its intersection with Oak Street easterly 100 feet; as shown on the attached Map.

SECTION II. Any person, firm or corporation that violates this Ordinance 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 III. Repeal Ordinance 338, an ordinance of the City of La Crescent amending “No Parking” regulations and the city code with reference thereto, Adopted October 15,1996.

SECTION IV. These provisions shall become effective from and after due passage and enactment and publication, according to law.

PASSED AND ENACTED this 28th day of April 2025.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 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.

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

**MOTION THAT A PRÉCIS FORMAT OF SAID ORDINANCE 592 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 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.

**ITEM 3.11 – DONATION RESOLUTION**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-25-15**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS MADE TO THE  
CITY OF LA CRESCENT IN APRIL 2025**

WHEREAS, the following donation was made to the City of La Crescent in the month of April 2025:

1. Lancer Youth Hockey Association wishes to donate \$34,853.00 to the La Crescent Ice Arena Donation fund.

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

ADOPTED this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2025.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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

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 present voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Chris Langen	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mike Poellinger	Yes

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

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

**6.1 RIBBON CUTTING – CANOE/KAYAK ACCESS**

City Council reviewed a flyer regarding the La Crescent Canoe/Kayak access Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

**6.2 PINE CREEK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT – INFORMATIONAL SESSION**

City Council reviewed a flyer regarding the Pine Creek Stream Restoration Project informational session to be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

**6.3 EXPLORE LA CROSSE**

City Council reviewed the Explore La Crosse, April 15, 2025, Board Meeting agenda and the March 18, 2025, Board Meeting minutes.

**6.4 2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER**

City Council reviewed the 2025 spring issue of the La Crescent City Newsletter.

**7. HOUSTON COUNTY**

Houston County Commissioner Cindy Wright was in attendance and provided updates.

At 5:18 Mayor Poellinger recessed the regular meeting.

At 5:30 Mayor Poellinger convened the annual Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING**

At 5:30 PM the City Council convened the annual Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. Lucas Onstad, Kelly Petersen, and Joe Olson from the Houston County Assessor’s Office were present as well as Kathy Frette and Lindsay Brandt from the Winona County Assessor's Office. Houston County Assessor Lucas Onstad reviewed the Board of Appeal and Equalization proceedings.

Mayor Poellinger opened the meeting to the public beginning with Winona County. There were no members of the public that wished to appeal before the City Council and representatives from the Winona County Assessor’s Office.

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

Joe and Becky Zoelher – 1112 Spruce Drive an eight-plex apartment building. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR AND ADJUST THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE TO \$1,100,000 BASED ON THE FINDINGS PRESENTED FOR THE PROPERTY OWNED BY JOE AND BECKY ZOELHER AT 1112 SPRUCE DRIVE.**

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
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

Dick Wieser – Best Western Plus, 509 North Chestnut St. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO MAKE NO CHANGE TO THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE FOR THE BEST WESTERN PLUS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 509 NORTH CHESTNUT STREET.**

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
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

Ralph Mullaly – 840 South Oak Street addressed the assessors with questions and no request for appeal.

Brian Wieser – 200 Twilite Street, 100 Twilite Street, and 120 Midnight Street. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

**MOTION TO MAKE NO CHANGE TO THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUES FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 200 TWILITE STREET, 100 TWILITE STREET, AND 120 MIDNIGHT STREET.**

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
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

There being no further appeals to come before the Council at this time, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen to adjourn the Board of Appeal and Equalization 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
Mayor 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 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 6:01 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: May 12, 2025

SIGNED:

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Administrator