

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
MAY 12, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the first meeting of the City Council of the City of La Crescent for the month of May was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, May 12, 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, City Engineer Tim Hruska, Community Development Director Larry Kirch, Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1.1 MINUTES – APRIL 28, 2025
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – MAY 9, 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.

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 – LIBRARY REQUEST – SUMMER READING PROGRAM

City Council reviewed a request from Library Director Jess Witkins for the use of the city’s green space behind the library and a portion of the city parking lot on Thursday, July 17, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to host a concert as part of their summer reading program. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LIBRARY’S USE OF THE CITY’S GREEN SPACE BEHIND THE LIBRARY AND A PORTION OF THE CITY PARKING LOT TO HOST A CONCERT ON THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025, FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. AS PART OF THEIR SUMMER READING PROGRAM.

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 – 2025 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – BID RESULTS

City Engineer Tim Hruska reviewed with City Council the bids for the 2025 local street improvement project. The project includes North Oak Street between North 1st and Main Street, and South 6th Street from Elm Street to the Aquatic Center, and a sidewalk trail extension into Frank J. Kistler Memorial Park and over to South 7th Street. Both streets are included in the 2025-2029 street reconstruction plan. The project will be covered by funding from the Active Transportation grant, American Rescue Plan funds, Houston County, WinLac, the Street Reconstruction Bond, and State Aid. The bids were as follows:

- Griffin Construction for \$735,788.27
- A1 Excavating for \$955,144.00
- Alcon Construction for \$769,998.99
- Rochester Sand and Gravel for \$812,526.97
- BKC Construction for \$775,591.37

It was recommended that City Council award the project to Griffin Construction. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO AWARD GRIFFIN CONSTRUCTION’S BID OF \$735,788.27 FOR THE 2025 STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT OF SOUTH 6TH STREET AND NORTH OAK STREET 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 3.3 – CONTRACT – ROOT RIVER SWCD – RAIN GARDEN SOUTH 6TH STREET PROJECT

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council an agreement with the Root River SWCD for the installation of a rain garden at the end of South 6th Street. The total cost to install the rain garden is \$28,750.00. The Root River SWCD will cover 90% of the project cost, which is \$25,875.00. This amount would be reimbursed to the city. The funds are part of the WinLac One Watershed One Plan that is designated for Urban Stormwater Practices. The city would be required to contribute a 10% match of \$2,875.00. It was recommended that City Council approve the agreement. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH ROOT RIVER SWCD FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A RAIN GARDEN AT THE END OF SOUTH 6TH STREET WITH THE CITY BEING REIMBURSED \$28,750.00 OR 90% AND THE CITY CONTRIBUTING A 10% MATCH OF \$2,875.00

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

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

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

ITEM 3.4 – 2025 STREET /ALLEY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - QUOTES

City Engineer Tim Hruska reviewed with City Council the quotes received to repave alleys on the 400 and 600 block between South First and Main Streets as well as quotes for Shore Acres Road in the vicinity of the RR crossing. The city solicited quotes from three bidders, BKC Construction, Mathy Construction, and Gjerke Construction. One quote was received from BKC Construction for \$209,836.00. The quote received was higher than the engineers estimate for the project. It was recommended that City Council reject the bid received from BKC Construction. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO REJECT THE BID RECEIVED FROM BKC CONSTRUCTION FOR \$209,836.00

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 – PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS/AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS – PINE CREEK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council the final plans and specifications for the Pine Creek Stream Restoration Project as well as funding sources. It was recommended that City Council approve the plans and specifications which were included in the packet and authorize the city to put the project out for bids. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PINE CREEK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO PUT THE PROJECT OUT FOR BIDS.

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 – REVIEW ENHANCED STREET SWEEPING STUDY

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson and City Engineer Tim Hruska reviewed the completed Enhanced Street Sweeping Study with City Council. The goal of the project was to develop a plan that identifies street sweeping zones and the number of sweeps per zone to maximize the cost-benefit of street sweeping as a pollutant reduction practice. As a result, this will be a very helpful tool in finding ways to fund a new street sweeper for the city. This item was informational only, and no action was required.

ITEM 3.7 – 2025 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE EVENT

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager requesting approval for the Memorial Day Parade to be held on Monday, May 26, 2025. The parade will begin at 12:00 p.m. with parade participants lining 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. To accommodate the Memorial Day Program at Veterans Park, a section of the south parking lot will be closed during the event and barricades will be placed to secure the space. It was recommended that City Council approve the Memorial Day Parade and close a portion of the Veterans Park parking lot during the event. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LA CRESCENT MEMORIAL DAY PARADE TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025, AT 12:00 P.M. AND CLOSE A PORTION OF VETERANS PARK PARKING LOT DURING THE EVENT.

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 – LA CRESCENT APPLEFEST 5K EVENT REQUEST

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager regarding the Applefest 5K Event to be held on Saturday, September 20th, 2025. Marci Skemp, representative of the 2025 La Crescent Applefest 5K Event, is requesting city services for the event including but not limited to, police & fire personnel for escort(s), traffic control, medical response, and security. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE CITY SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, POLICE & FIRE PERSONNEL FOR ESCORT(S), TRAFFIC CONTROL, MEDICAL RESPONSE, AND SECURITY FOR THE 5K APPLEFEST EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 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.

ITEM 3.9 – MnDOT – 2024 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM GRANT AWARD

Community Development Director Larry Kirch reviewed the MnDOT Active Transportation (AT) infrastructure grant that the city applied for with City Council. The grant is for a sidewalk infill project identified in the city's adopted Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan (2017). The city was awarded \$363,366.00 by Minnesota DOT. The program funds 100% of the construction costs with the city being responsible for the engineering fee of \$65,406. A grant agreement and engineering agreement will be presented to the city council in the future. This item was informational only and no action was required.

ITEM 3.10 – MnDOT – 2029 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT AWARD

Community Development Director Larry Kirch reviewed the Federal (FY2029) Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant, which is administered by the Minnesota DOT, District 6, through the Areawide Transportation Partnership (ATP) committee. This grant was a rework of a grant submitted last year which was not funded. The ATP voted to approve the city's 2029 TA project for \$1,575,000. The project funds a multitude of projects as described in the project report included in the Council packet. The city must match

construction costs at 25 percent, plus engineering fees. A grant agreement and engineering agreement will be presented to the city council in the future. This item was informational only and no action was required.

ITEM 3.11 – USDA – RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FACILITIES LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Community Development Director Larry Kirch provided City Council with an update on the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program for the new Public Safety, Library/City Hall buildings. This item was informational only and no action was required.

ITEM 3.12 – USDOT – RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM GRANT & MnDOT IIJA MATCHING GRANT

Community Development Director Larry Kirch provided City Council with an update on the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant. The FRA recently sent the city an email to confirm the city had the match and was aware of changes to the contract language by the current administration. If the city council is comfortable agreeing to the new requirements spelled out in Executive Orders and in the attachments provided, the staff will continue to move forward with the FRA. This item was informational only and no action was required.

ITEM 3.13 – RESOLUTION – BONDING BILL APPLICATION – ICE ARENA

Community Development Director Larry Kirch reviewed for approval a Resolution supporting the 2025 capital project request to the State of Minnesota as a priority for the City of La Crescent and authorizing staff to pursue funding for the La Crescent Community Ice Arena R-22 ice system replacement and solar installation project. Following review and discussion, Member Jostad introduced the following Resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 05-25-16

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2025 CAPITAL PROJECT REQUEST TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AS PRIORITY FOR THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND AUTHORIZING STAFF TO PURSUE FUNDING FOR THE LA CRESCENT COMMUNITY ICE ARENA

WHEREAS, the city received an Ice System Evaluation Study for the La Crescent Community Ice Arena in 2023 which reported that the 28-year-old ice system is beyond its useful life; and

WHEREAS, there is wide community support for the La Crescent Community Ice Arena which operates for 8 ½ months per year and there is a community support to extend the season to 11 months; and

WHEREAS, the ice system improvements to the La Crescent Community Ice Arena will extend the life and function of the ice system for an additional 25 years which will improve its operations, efficiency and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the project will promote clean energy as the project includes installation of a solar array on the roof of the ice arena; and

WHEREAS, investments in Southeast Minnesota in this project will result in benefits to the state, the region and residents of the City of La Crescent as well as to non-resident visitors and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the State's process for capital investment projects is underway this spring and will continue into the fall and 2026 legislative session.

IT IS RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of La Crescent that the Capital Budget Bonding Bill priority for 2026 is the La Crescent Community Ice Arena R-22 Ice System Replacement and solar array project.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city submit the project for consideration by the Governor and that the city will fund the required 50 percent match with several funding sources including funds from the Lancer Youth Hockey Association, Tax Abatement Bonds and other funds as necessary.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the City Administrator are authorized to proceed with the State's 2026 Capital Budget request process.

ADOPTED this 12th day of May, 2025.

SIGNED:

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
Christopher Lange	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 – REVIEW INDIGENOUS ARTISTS PROJECT

Community Development Director Larry Kirch provided City Council with an update on the city's continued work with a Project Resource Committee on the Indigenous History Project. The latest activity was the issuance of a "Call for Indigenous Artists" for the Overlook Plaza site. The Blandin Foundation has given the city a second grant extension until September 1, 2026. The schedule for selecting an artist or artist team was included. This item was informational only and no action was required.

ITEM 3.15 – 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. 05-25-17

**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. Destination Dental wishes to donate \$2,500.00 to the La Crescent Police Department Neighbors Night Out event.

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

ADOPTED this 12th Day of May 2025.

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner and upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favor thereof, viz;

Cherryl Jostad	Yes
Christopher Lange	Yes
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner	Yes
Dale Williams	Yes
Mayor Poellinger	Yes

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

7. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce representative Summer Niemeier was in attendance and provided an update.

8. HOUSTON COUNTY

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

6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES:

6.1

6.2

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members present voted in favor thereof, viz;

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

and none voted against the same. The motion was declared duly carried and the meeting duly adjourned at 5:54 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE:

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator