

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
MAY 27, 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 May was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Tuesday, May 27, 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, Assistant Attorney Kayla Schmitz, Public Works Director Tyler Benish, Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson, Deputy Fire Marshal Cassie Buehler, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

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 – MAY 12, 2025
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH MAY 23, 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 – FIRE AGREEMENT – RED CROSS HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN

Deputy Fire Marshal Cassie Buehler reviewed with City Council a Home Fire Campaign (HFC) partnership agreement between the American Red Cross and the La Crescent Fire Department. With the HFC, the American Red Cross can provide free smoke alarms that will allow the La Crescent Fire Department to install working smoke alarms and provide fire safety education to residents. Laura Garves, Community Disaster Program Manager for the American Red Cross was in attendance to answer any questions. It was recommended that City Council approve the agreement. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN (HFC) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE LA CRESCENT FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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 – SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING CONTRACT EXTENSION

Assistant Attorney Kayla Schmitz reviewed with City Council an Amendment to the Solid Waste Contract dated November 9, 2018. The amendment includes a termination date of December 31, 2030, the rates for refuse services per 33-gallon refuse bag and for recycling services per recycling cart for the years 2026 through 2030 with the rate adjustment for both going into effect January 1st of each year, and the application of a fuel surcharge if the price of diesel fuel exceeds \$4.75 per gallon. It was recommended that City Council approve the amendment and authorize the appropriate signatures. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE SOLID WASTE CONTRACT DATED NOVEMBER 9, 2018, AS STATED AND AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATE SIGNATURES.

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 – RESOLUTION/AGREEMENT – MnDOT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION GRANT – SOUTH 6TH STREET PROJECT

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reviewed with City Council a Resolution to enter into an Active Transportation Program Grant Agreement. It was recommended that City Council approve the Resolution and authorize the appropriate signatures for the grant agreement. Following review and discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following Resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION 05-25-18

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT
GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
SAP 236-590-001**

WHEREAS, the City of La Crescent has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Active Transportation Account; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this project is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$201,000.00 by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of La Crescent does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.38, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate and will return to the Active Transportation Account any amount appropriated for the project but not required. The proper city officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

ADOPTED this 27th Day of May 2025.

SIGNED:

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.

ITEM 3.4 – CONDITIONAL CANNABIS LICENSE APPLICATIONS

City Attorney Skip Wieser reviewed with City Council two requests for conditional approvals for retail cannabis businesses within the City. The following recommendations were made to City Council:

- To approve the Do Be Kind retail cannabis business registration request. The applicant has already submitted a grading plan and stormwater plan that have been approved by the City Engineer.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE DO BE KIND RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUEST.

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.

- To approve the High Hopes Ventures, LLC retail cannabis business registration request with the following conditions:
 1. Within Sixty (60) days the City enter into a development agreement with MNRE270 Strupp LLC as permitted by Ordinance No. 587 addressing and requiring the following:
 - A. Any conditions or requirements of MNDOT following completion of their development review. Compliance with any conditions or requirements of MNDOT will be at MNRE270 Strupp LLC sole expense.
 - B. Approval by City Engineer of MNRE270 Strupp LLC’s stormwater plan in compliance with City’s MS4 permit.
 - C. Approval by City engineer of MNRE270 Strupp LLC’s grading plan.
 - D. Acknowledgement to be bound by the terms of the development agreement by lessees of 270 Strupp Avenue, La Crescent, Minnesota.
 - E. Any other conditions reasonably determined by the City Engineer or City Building Official related to proposed use of the property located at 270 Strupp Avenue, La Crescent, Minnesota.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE HIGH HOPES VENTURES, LLC RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUEST WITH THE STATED CONDITIONS.

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 3.5 – MnDOT – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed a letter from MnDOT with City Council stating that the La Crescent-Hokah Secondary School Safe Routes to School Improvements project in the City of La Crescent was selected for the SRTS Program funds appropriated by the legislature in 2023. The state has awarded the city \$482,194.00 in SRTS Infrastructure funds for this project. This is a result of a grant application that the city submitted to MnDOT in 2024 for Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Funds. The

project covers construction costs but not engineering costs. The Engineering costs will need to be included in the 2026 general fund budget. A timeline for the project was also included. This item was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 3.6 – MnDOT – ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson provided information to City Council that the City of La Crescent Active Transportation Program Planning Assistance application was selected for funding through the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) 2024 Active Transportation Program planning assistance solicitation. Planning assistance will begin in June of 2025 in partnership with our local Active Transportation Planning team, which will be lead by Maria Wardoku and Erin Daly Davenport with Alta. The process will produce an Active Transportation Plan for the city and will lay out how the city can improve its active transportation infrastructure. An anticipated timeline was included. This was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 3.7 – MPCA – IMPLEMENTATION STORMWATER RESILIENCE GRANT

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed information with City Council regarding a grant application the city submitted to MPCA in 2025 for an Implementation Stormwater Grant. The city was awarded \$1,052,430.00 for the Implementation Stormwater Grant which will enable the city to upsize the stormwater pipe underneath Redwood Street East in conjunction with street replacement and a Safe Routes to School sidewalk addition. It is anticipated that the project will be constructed in 2026. This was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 3.8 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. On June 21, 2025, Josh DeBoer will have successfully completed his one-year probationary period as a Peace Officer for the City of La Crescent. Effective June 21, 2025, the Personnel Committee is recommending that Mr. DeBoer's probationary status be removed, and that he be classified as a regular employee with the City of La Crescent. A letter from the Police Chief regarding this recommendation was included. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION THAT EFFECTIVE JUNE 21, 2025, JOSH DEBOER'S PROBATIONARY STATUS AS PEACE OFFICER BE REMOVED AND THAT HE BE CLASSIFIED AS A REGULAR EMPLOYEE WITH 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.

2. That the City Council approve to amend the City's Earned Sick and Safe Time Policy stating that accruals will not carry over from one year to the next for temporary and seasonal staff separated from employment for more than 180 days. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE TO AMEND THE CITY'S EARNED SICK AND SAFE TIME POLICY STATING THAT ACCRUALS WILL NOT CARRY OVER FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT FOR TEMPORARY AND SEASONAL STAFF SEPARATED FROM EMPLOYMENT FOR MORE THAN 180 DAYS.

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. That the City Council approve a five-month leave of absence request from Firefighter Garrett Pritchard from June 1, 2025, through November 1, 2025. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding the recommendation was included. It was recommended that City Council approve the leave with the following finding:

It is in the best interest of the City to allow Mr. Pritchard to be gone longer than the current three-month leave of absence period that is currently set in the Fire Department rules and regulations due to the training experience Mr. Pritchard is going to obtain and bring back to the City.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE A FIVE-MONTH LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR FIREFIGHTER GARRETT PRITCHARD FROM JUNE 1, 2025, THROUGH NOVEMBER 1, 2025, WITH THE FINDING 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.

4. That the City Council approve the internal posting of the position of Assistant Fire Chief. 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 APPROVE THE INTERNAL POSTING OF THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF.

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.

5. That the City Council authorize to advertise the position of Firefighter with the City of La Crescent. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding the recommendation was included. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE THE POSITION OF FIREFIGHTER WITH 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.

- That the City Council accept Mike Welch's resignation from the Economic Development Commission and appoint Colin Lutz to fill the vacancy. Mr. Lutz is an owner of Copperhead Carts, a business located in the City of La Crescent. A letter from Mr. Welch was included. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE MIKE WELCH'S RESIGNATION FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND APPOINT COLIN LUTZ TO FILL THE VACANCY.

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.

- That the City Council accept Jon Steffes' resignation from the Park & Recreation Commission and appoint Alyssa Sebo to fill the vacancy. Ms. Sebo is the city's new Summer Recreation Director. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO ACCEPT JON STEFFES' RESIGNATION FROM THE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION AND APPOINT ALYSSA SEBO TO FILL THE VACANCY.

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 – PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES – MAY 6, 2025

City Council reviewed the May 6, 2025, Planning Commission Minutes. This was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 3.10 – CITY COUNCIL PLANNING/WORK SESSION

City Administrator Bill Waller reviewed with City Council a planning/work session for the July 28, 2025, City Council meeting. The meeting agenda will focus on the following items:

1. A review of current and planned improvement projects.
2. A review of current and pending grant applications.
3. A review of the preliminary plans for a new City Hall/Library facility and a new Public Safety facility.

This item was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 3.11 – AGREEMENT – EMERGENCY SIRENS INSPECTION & PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager regarding a proposed three-year preventative maintenance contract from Emergency Communication Systems (ECS) for annual tornado siren maintenance at the city’s four emergency warning siren locations. It was recommended that City Council approve the contract. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE THREE-YEAR PREVENTATIVE MAINTNENANCE CONTRACT WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (ECS) FOR ANNUAL TORNADO SIREN MAINTENANCE AT THE CITY’S FOUR EMERGENCY WARNING SIREN LOCATIONS.

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 3.12 – GREAT GREEN RUN – PARADE/STREET CLOSURE

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager regarding a request for a temporary street closure for the 12th Annual Great Green Run and Roll 2025 event hosted by the La Crescent Elementary School PTO. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 3, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The request includes barricading South 4th Street between Oak and Elm Street during the event and permission to temporarily post the northside of South 4th Street as “No Parking”. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL GREAT GREEN RUN AND ROLL 2025 EVENT ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025, FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. TO INCLUDE BARRICADING SOUTH 4TH STREET BETWEEN OAK AND ELM STREET AND TEMPORARILY POST THE NORTHSIDE OF SOUTH 4TH STREET AS “NO PARKING”.

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 – ROTARY REQUEST – APPLE BLOSSOM BICYCLE TOUR

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager regarding the 12th Annual Apple Blossom Bicycle Tour scheduled for Saturday, August 9, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the parking lot located behind TimeOut Tavern. This is a Rotary Club sponsored event, and the organizers are requesting police assistance for traffic control at the intersection of Veterans Parkway and North 4th Street. Organizers are also requesting the city provide four picnic tables and two garbage cans to be placed at a specified location of the Event Center parking lot. It was recommended that City Council approve the requests. Following discussion, Member O’Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUESTS FROM THE LA CRESCENT ROTARY CLUB FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL APPLE BLOSSOM BICYCLE TOUR SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025, FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

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.

6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES:

6.1 POSTCARDS – STONEY POINT RESTORATION PROJECT

City Council reviewed postcards that the city has received recognizing the efforts to restore the hardwood forest in Stoney Point.

6.2 EXPLORE LA CROSSE

City Council reviewed the May 20, 2025, Explore La Crosse Board Meeting agenda and the April 15, 2025, Board Meeting minutes.

6.3 PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 5/19/2025

City Council reviewed the May 19, 2025, Park and Recreation Commission Meeting minutes.

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 5:35 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: June 9, 2025

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator