

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
JULY 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 July was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, July 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, City Engineer Tim Hruska, Building Inspector Josh Tarrence, Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson, Community Development Director Larry Kirch, and City Clerk Angie Boettcher.

Also in attendance was Minnesota Green Corps Member Mary Gegen.

ITEM 5 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. MINUTES – JULY 14, 2025
- b. BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH JULY 25, 2025
- c. GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION

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 Council meeting a request was made that City Clerk Boettcher make a correction to the minutes to state under Item 3.6; 4, “Fire Department” instead of “Fired Department”.

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

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO ITEM 3.6; 4.

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 6 - SERVICE MEMBER RECOGNITION – MARY GEGEN

Minnesota Green Corps Member Mary Gegen’s service term will end with the City on July 31, 2025. Mary started her service with the City in September 2023. Mary was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her service to the City. This was informational only, no action was required.

ITEM 7 - REVIEW DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR CANNABIS PROJECTS

City Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council a draft development agreement for 270 Strupp Avenue. The developer obligations are contained within Article 3. These are the conditions of approval that were approved by the City Council when the developer obtained a waiver of the Commercial Plan Development Overlay District Master Plan and PUD requirements. In the event the developer does not comply with the timeframe put forward or the other obligations contained in Article 3, the City reserves the right to either 1) rescind or revoke either the waiver of the zoning requirements granted or 2) rescind or revoke the cannabis retail registration pursuant to Ordinance 587. No action will be taken at this time. The Council extended the time for approval of the development agreements to allow additional time to finalize the timeframe for developer obligations. Development Agreements for both 270 Strupp Avenue and 350 Strupp Avenue will be brought back to the August 11, 2025, City Council meeting for approval. The development agreement for 350 Strupp Avenue mirrors the 270 Strupp Avenue development agreement but has different parties, addresses, and approval dates. This item was informational only; no action was required.

ITEM 8 - AGENDA REQUEST – ADDITIONAL CANNABIS LICENSE/CULTIVATION IN COMMERCIAL AREA

Michael Little, owner of Little Wood LLC, addressed City Council regarding his agenda request to increase the number of cannabis retail licenses in the City.

City Attorney Wieser reviewed the procedures that City Council would need to take in order to increase the number of cannabis retail licenses and the requirements of the developer to ask the City for a text amendment to the current cannabis ordinance to cultivate cannabis. It was recommended that City Council provide direction regarding increasing the number of cannabis retail licenses in the City. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member O’Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO CALL FOR A MEETING TO REVIEW THE NUMBER OF CANNABIS RETAIL LICENSES ALLOWED IN THE CITY.

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

Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner Yes
Dale Williams Yes

and Member Jostad, Member Langen, and Mayor Poellinger voted against the same. The motion failed by a 2-3 vote.

ITEM 9 - PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. The Personnel Committee is recommending that the City Council promote Brent Thesing to the position of Captain in the La Crescent Fire Department. Mr. Thesing has been a member of the Fire Department since 2020 and is currently the Department's Assistant Training Officer. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Fire Department Rules and Regulations, Mr. Thesing will serve a twelve-month probationary period. The effective date of the promotion will be July 29, 2025. A letter from the Fire Chief regarding this recommendation is included. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member Jostad as follows:

MOTION TO PROMOTE BRENT THESING TO THE POSTION OF CAPTAIN IN THE LA CRESCENT FIRE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 29, 2025, AND PURSUANT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MR. THESING WILL SERVE 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
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 approve the internal posting of the Assistant Training Officer position in the Fire Department. A recommendation to fill the

vacancy will be presented at a future City Council meeting. A letter from the Fire Chief was included. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE INTERNAL POSTING OF THE ASSISTANT TRAINING OFFICER IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO FILL THE VACANCY BEING BROUGHT BACK TO A FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

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. The Personnel Committee is recommending that the City Council approve the hiring of five new Firefighters for the City of La Crescent as follows, Jaden George, Brad Northrup, Jacine Johanningmeier, Brandon Welke, and Joe Sandvik. A letter from the Fire Chief that includes the names of the five new Firefighters is included. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF FIVE FIREFIGHTERS JADEN GEORGE, BRAD NORTHRUP, JACINE JOHANNINGMEIER, BRANDON WELKE, AND JOE SANDVICK EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2025, AND WILL SERVE THE REQUIRED PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND OBTAIN ANY NECESSARY CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED.

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

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

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

WORK SESSION

PRESENTATIONS REGARDING CURRENT AND FUTURE PLANS OF WORK

ITEM 10 - CITY HALL/PUBLIC LIBRARY/POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES: Community Development Director Larry Kirch reported on the following:

- a) Review preliminary facility conceptual plan as well as current and proposed square footages.
- b) Update and review of USDA Loan/Grant for Public Safety Facility – and 2026 Bonding Bill application.

City Attorney Wieser reported on:

- c) Review Land Exchange Agreement with VSC Corporation.

Public Works Director Tyler Benish reported on:

- d) Review 2022 & 2023 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plans.

ITEM 11 - REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR 2025/2026 BOND ISSUE: Report presented by Public Works Director Tyler Benish.

ITEM 12 - REVIEW 2026 PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: Public Works Director Tyler Benish and City Engineer Tim Hruska reported on the following:

- a) Walnut Street Project
- b) Redwood Drive East Project.
- c) Maple/South Fourth Street Project.
- d) Wieser Park Project.

ITEM 13 - REVIEW STATUS OF VARIOUS GRANTS:

- a) Sustainability Coordinator Grant Report: Report presented by Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson.
- b) Community Development Director Grant Report: Report presented by Community Development Director Larry Kirch.

Following the work session, it was recommended that City Council give direction to proceed with the Public Safety portion of the project mentioned in Item 10. Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO PROCEED WITH THE PUBLIC SAFETY PORTION OF THE PROJECT MENTIONED IN ITEM 10.

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.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams 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 7:27 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: August 11, 2025

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator