

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 11, 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 August was called to order by Mayor Mike Poellinger at 5:00 PM in the La Crescent Community Building, La Crescent, Minnesota, on Monday, August 11, 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, Public Works Director Tyler Benish, City Engineer Tim Hruska, Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager, City Attorney Skip Wieser, Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson, Community Development Director Larry Kirch, 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 – JULY 28, 2025
- 1.2 BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH – AUGUST 11, 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 Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner, 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 – PARADE ORDINANCE

Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager reviewed the revised Parade Safety and Conduct Ordinance with City Council. It was recommended that City Council approve the ordinance. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following ordinance and moved its passage and adoption:

Ordinance No. 593

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT

REGULATING PARADE SAFETY AND CONDUCT IN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the safety of parade participants and spectators, minimize noise-related disturbances, and ensure responsible event management practices during parades held within the City of La Crescent.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

1. Parade: A public procession, including floats, vehicles, or participants, organized for celebratory, commemorative, or promotional purposes along a defined route within the City of La Crescent.
2. Parade Participant: Any individual, group, organization, or entity participating in a parade.
3. Safety Plan: A document prepared by parade organizers outlining measures to ensure traffic control, security, and emergency access during the event.

SECTION 3. REGULATIONS

A. Noise Level Control

1. The use of sirens, horns, or other high-decibel noise-making devices is prohibited.

B. *Candy Distribution*

1. Throwing candy or any other objects from moving vehicles during parades is strictly prohibited.
2. Parade participants may distribute candy or other small items by walking alongside their floats or vehicles and handing them directly to spectators.
3. Guidelines for candy distribution shall be incorporated into the parade permit application process, and all participants must adhere to these rules.

C. *Application for Parade Permit*

1. Any individual or organization seeking to host a parade within the City of La Crescent must apply for a parade permit no less than 30 days prior to the scheduled date of the parade.
2. The application must be submitted to the City Clerk and must include:
 - a. Proposed date, time, and route of the parade.
 - b. Estimated number of participants and vehicles.
 - c. Contact information of the responsible organizer(s).
 - d. Complete Safety Plan, as outlined in Section D.
 - e. Proof of insurance policy, as outlined in Section F.
3. The City reserves the right to deny or revoke a parade permit if the applicant fails to meet safety, timing, insurance requirements or procedural requirements, or if prior violations are on record.

D. *Safety Plan Requirement*

1. All parade organizers must submit a Safety Plan to the City as part of the parade permit application process. The plan must address:
 - a. Traffic control measures.
 - b. Security provisions.
 - c. Emergency vehicle access.
 - d. Open flames (e.g., torches or fire performances)
2. The Safety Plan must be reviewed and approved by the La Crescent Police Department and Public Works Department prior to the issuance of a parade permit.

3. Organizers must ensure clean-up of the parade route and surrounding areas following the event.

E. *Nighttime Parade Safety (Torchlight Parades)*

1. Parades occurring after sunset, including torchlight parades, must include additional safety measures in the submitted Safety Plan. These measures must address visibility and lighting concerns to protect both participants and spectators.
2. All floats, vehicles, and walking participants must be equipped with appropriate lighting such as LED lights, reflective materials, or other illumination devices that ensure visibility in low-light conditions.
3. Open flames (e.g., torches or fire performances) are prohibited unless specifically approved by the La Crescent Fire Department and included in the Safety Plan with detailed fire safety precautions.
4. Organizers must ensure adequate street lighting along the parade route and may be required to supplement with temporary lighting if existing infrastructure is insufficient.

D. *Insurance*

1. Prior to issuance of the permit by the City of La Crescent, each permittee shall furnish evidence of a liability insurance policy in amounts of not less than \$500,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate and shall be in force and effect at the time such usage is to take place. Said evidence of insurance shall include a certificate of insurance naming the City of La Crescent as additional insured in connection with said usage.
2. The parade permit holder is responsible for ensuring that all participating units are properly insured.

SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT

1. Any violation of the provisions of this ordinance may result in:

- a. Immediate suspension or termination of the parade permit.
 - b. Fines as established by the City’s fee schedule.
 - c. Denial of future parade permits for the violating organization or individual.
2. Enforcement of this ordinance shall be the responsibility of the La Crescent Police Department and other City-designated personnel.

SECTION 5. EXCEPTIONS

- 1. Emergency vehicles participating in parades may use sirens or loud horns as necessary for public safety purposes.
- 2. Military observances, including ceremonial gun salutes, are permitted.
- 3. Other exceptions may be granted by the City Council upon request and subject to conditions deemed appropriate to ensure public safety.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication as required by law.

PASSED AND ENACTED this ____ day of _____, 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 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 O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION THAT A PRÉCIS FORMAT OF SAID ORDINANCE 593 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 3.2 – PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING COMPLIANCE

Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager reviewed with City Council the La Crescent 2025 Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T) Compliance review. The P.O.S.T. compliance review was conducted on June 30th, 2025, in which the La Crescent Police Department successfully passed. This item was informational only, no action required.

ITEM 3.3 – PARADE PERMIT REQUEST-THRILLER DANCE

City Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager regarding a parade request for the 7th Annual Thriller Dance Performance to be held on Sunday, October 26th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The request includes temporary closure at the intersection of Main Street and Walnut Street during the event. The La Crescent Police Department will be responsible for setting up barricades and providing traffic control. It was recommended that City Council approve the request. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 7TH ANNUAL THRILLER DANCE PERFORMANCE TO BE

HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M. WITH THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE AT THE INTERSECTION OF WALNUT STREET AND MAIN STREET AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH SETTING UP BARACADES AND PROVIDING TRAFFIC CONTROL.

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 – WALNUT STREET PROJECT REVIEW

City Engineer Tim Hruska reviewed the 2026 Walnut Street Project with City Council. The reconstruction of Walnut Street will be between South 3rd Street and North 4th Street and includes a connection along Walnut Place to Veterans Park. Plans for the street project were included. This was informational only, no action required.

ITEM 3.5 – SOLAR ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AGREEMENT WITH SOLAR CONNECTION

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council the agreement between the City of La Crescent and Solar Connection for the solar PV project at the Stoney Point Well House. The City Council approved the proposal from Solar Connection at the April 28th City Council meeting. Attorney Wieser also included an addendum to the agreement that requires the contractor to have different levels of insurance and requirements regarding their obligations under the Data Privacy Act. It was recommended that City Council approve the agreement along with the addendum. Following discussion, Member Langen made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND SOLAR CONNECTION FOR THE SOLAR PV PROJECT AT THE STONEY POINT WELL HOUSE ALONG WITH THE ADDENDUM.

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 – TREE ORDINANCE

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed a new Tree Care Ordinance with City Council. It was recommended that City Council approve the ordinance. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner introduced the following ordinance and moved its passage and adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 591

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT REGULATING TREE CARE IN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA

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

SECTION I. FINDINGS. The La Crescent City Council hereby finds and declares as follows:

1. By taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, trees are important to improving air quality.

The planting of trees results in less runoff and erosion, which improves water quality. Trees recharge the ground water supply.

3. Trees planted in and around buildings can reduce heating and cooling costs. Trees also cool the city by breaking up urban "heat islands" and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves.

SECTION II. PURPOSE. La Crescent is fortunate to have a robust inventory of mature trees that form an integral part of the unique character and history of the city, and that contribute to the long-term aesthetic, environmental, and economic well-being of the city. The goal of this ordinance is to preserve La Crescent's high valued trees, while allowing reasonable development to take place and to limit interference with how existing property owners use their property. The purpose of the ordinance is to:

- a.** Establish, maintain, and grow La Crescent's tree canopy cover by protecting mature trees throughout the city; ensuring maximum tree cover.
- b.** Maintain trees in a healthy condition through best practices for tree care.
- c.** Promote conservation of tree resources.
- d.** Establish and maintain species diversity.

- e. Improve the quality of life for all stakeholders, including city residents, visitors and wildlife.
- f. Protect the environment by the filtering of air and soil pollutants, increasing oxygen levels and reducing CO₂; preventing and reducing erosion and stormwater by stabilizing soils; reducing heat convection; decreasing wind speeds; reducing noise pollution and decreasing the urban heat island effect.
- g. Enhance energy conservation through natural insulation and shading.
- h. Increase and maintain property values.

SECTION III. DEFINITIONS.

As used in the Article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated:

Damage – any injury to or destruction of a tree, including but not limited to: uprooting; severance of all or part of the root system or main trunk; storage of material on or compaction of surrounding soil; a substantial change in the natural grade above a root system or around a trunk; surrounding the tree with impervious paving materials; or any trauma caused by accident or collision.

Nuisance – any tree, or limb thereof, that has an infectious disease or insect; is dead or dying; obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or threatens public health, safety, and welfare.

Boulevard – the area along a public street between the curb and the sidewalk; or if there is no curb or sidewalk, the unpaved portion of the area between the street right-of-way line and the paved portion of the street or alley.

Public property – all grounds and rights-of-way (ROWs) owned or maintained by the City.

Public tree – any tree or woody vegetation on city-owned or city-maintained property or rights-of-way.

Top or Topping – the non-standard practice of cutting back of limbs to stubs within a tree’s crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

SECTION IV. AUTHORITY AND POWER.

a. Delegation of authority and responsibility. The Public Works Director, in consultation with the Natural Resources Advisory Group, and/or their designee, hereinafter referred to as the “Director”, shall have full authority to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees and woody plants growing in or upon all municipal streets, municipal rights-of-ways, city parks, and other public property. This shall include the removal of trees that may threaten electrical, telephone, gas, or any municipal water or sewer line, or any tree that is affected by fungus, insect, or other pest disease.

b. Coordination among city departments. All city departments will coordinate as necessary with the Director and will provide services as required to ensure compliance with this Ordinance as it relates to streets, alleys, rights-of-way, drainage, easements, and other public properties not under direct jurisdiction of the Director.

c. Interference. No person shall hinder, prevent, delay, or interfere with the Director or his agents while engaged in carrying out the execution or enforcement of this Ordinance.

SECTION V. TREE ADVISORY BOARD.

The City Council hereby creates a “Tree Advisory Board,” hereinafter referred to as the “Board.”

a. Duties. The Natural Resources Advisory Group shall constitute the “Tree Advisory Board”. The board shall act in an advisory capacity to the Director and shall:

1. Coordinate and promote Arbor Day activities;
2. Review and update a five-year plan to plant and maintain trees on city property;
3. Support public awareness and education programs relating to trees;
4. Review city department concerns relating to tree care;
5. Submit an annual report of its activities to the city council;
6. Assist with the annual application to renew the Tree City USA designation;
7. Recommend a list of tree species for planting on city property, and a list of prohibited species; and
8. Other duties that may be assigned by City Council.

b. Membership. The Board shall consist of members of the Natural Resource Advisory Group, appointed by the City Council. Members of the Board will serve without compensation.

c. Officers. The Board shall annually select one of the members to serve as chair, may appoint a second member to serve as vice-chair, and may appoint a third member to serve as secretary.

. Meetings. The Board shall meet a minimum of four times each year. All meetings shall be open to the public. The Board chair may schedule additional meetings as needed.

SECTION VI. TREE CARE AND PLANTING STANDARDS.

a. Standards. All planting and maintenance of public trees shall conform to the USDA Tree Owner’s Manual for the Northeastern and Midwestern United States.

b. Requirements of franchise utility companies: The maintenance of public trees for utility clearance shall conform to all applicable utility industry standards.

c. Species list. The Director shall maintain an official list of desirable tree species for planting on public property in three size classes: Small (approx. 25 feet or less in height at maturity), Medium (25-40 feet at maturity) and Large (greater than 40 feet at maturity). Trees from this approved list may be planted without special permission; other species may be planted with written approval from the Director.

The official tree list for La Crescent can be found in Appendix A.

d. No property owner shall plant a conifer tree in the boulevard.

e. Planting distances. The Director shall develop and maintain an official set of spacing requirements for the planting

of trees on public property.

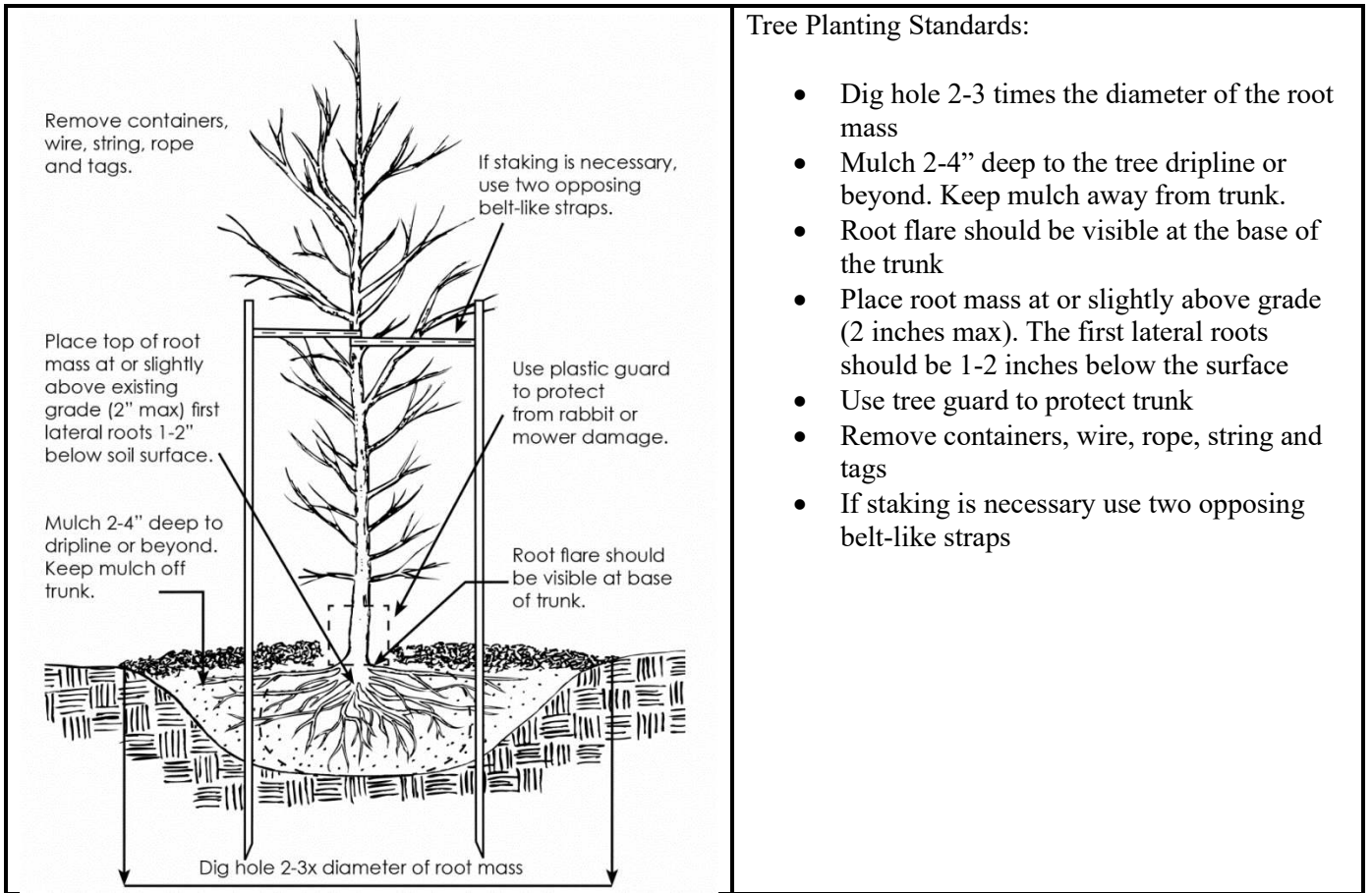
- No tree may be planted within the visibility triangle of a street intersection.
- Trees shall not be planted closer than: 25' from the curb line of an intersection, 25' from adjacent trees, or 25' from street lights.
- If a narrower-growing species of tree is selected, the distance may be reduced to 20' or more from adjacent trees. This is determined by the species of tree selected and the species of adjacent trees.
- Trees should be planted at least:
 - 20' from stop or yield signs.
 - 10' from fire hydrants and directional traffic signs.
 - 5' from alley margins, driveways, underground utilities, and utility poles.
 - 2' from property lines.

f. Planting trees under electric utility lines. Only trees listed as small trees on the official city tree species list may be planted under or within 15 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire.

g. Newly planted trees shall be watered regularly by the property owner for the first two to three years. During the summer dry season (roughly June to October), deep-root watering to a depth of 30" is recommended. Begin with 15 gallons of water per tree per week and adjust as needed. During the remaining months of the year, monitor the root zone for dryness and water as needed.

h. Newly planted trees shall be mulched by the property owner. Do not pile mulch up around the trunk of the tree. This creates an environment which can lead to trunk decay.

i. Trees planted in the central business mixed use district (CBD-1 and CBD-2) shall comply with section 12.21 of the city Zoning Code.



Tree Planting Standards:

- Dig hole 2-3 times the diameter of the root mass
- Mulch 2-4” deep to the tree dripline or beyond. Keep mulch away from trunk.
- Root flare should be visible at the base of the trunk
- Place root mass at or slightly above grade (2 inches max). The first lateral roots should be 1-2 inches below the surface
- Use tree guard to protect trunk
- Remove containers, wire, rope, string and tags
- If staking is necessary use two opposing belt-like straps

j. All stumps of boulevard trees shall be removed by the abutting property owner below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

SECTION VII. PROHIBITION AGAINST HARMING PUBLIC TREES.

- a. A property owner shall obtain written permission for the removal of a tree on public property from the Director.
- b. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to attach any cable, wire, sign, or any other object to any boulevard, park, or public tree, unless for the expressed purpose of staking or guying tree.
- c. It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person, firm, or city department to top any Boulevard Tree, Park Tree, or other tree on public property. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility

wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this ordinance at the determination of the Director.

e. Any person, firm, corporation, or city department performing construction near any public tree(s) shall consult with the Director and shall employ appropriate measures to protect the tree(s), according to procedures contained in the USDA Tree Owner's Manual for the Northeastern and Midwestern United States.

f. Each violation of this section as determined and notified by the Director shall constitute a separate violation, punishable by fines and penalties under Section X, in addition to mitigation values placed on the tree(s) removed or damaged in violation of this section.

SECTION VIII. BOULEVARD TREES AND ADJACENT OWNER RESPONSIBILITY.

a. The owner of land adjacent to any city street, when acting within the provisions of this Ordinance, may plant and maintain trees in the adjacent boulevard area. The owner shall contact utility locating services before any digging takes place.

b. Trees planted in the boulevard should be selected from the official species list for La Crescent. Trees in the boulevard should be maintained (mulched, watered, pruned, etc.) by the abutting property owner.

c. If the abutting property owner wishes to remove a boulevard tree they should consult with the Director.

d. No property owner shall allow a tree, or other plant growing on his or her property to obstruct or interfere with pedestrians or the view of drivers, thereby creating a hazard. If an obstruction persists, the Director, or staff under the direction of the Director, shall notify the property owner to prune or remove the tree. If the owner fails to comply with the notice, the City may undertake the necessary work and charge the cost to the property owner.

e. Where curb and sidewalks now exist, all trees shall be planted on the centerline between the curb and sidewalk edge line.

f. Tree trimming clearances shall meet the requirements found in Appendix B tree trimming.

SECTION IX. NUISANCE TREES.

a. Any tree, or limb thereof, on private property determined by the Director to have contracted a lethal, communicable disease or insect; to be dead or dying; to obstruct the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or that threatens public health, safety, and welfare is declared a nuisance and the city may require its treatment or removal.

SECTION X. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTY.

A violation of this ordinance is a petty misdemeanor subject to a penalty charge not to exceed \$300.00.

SECTION XI. APPEALS.

Appeals to decisions by the Director or to penalties imposed after violations of this ordinance, shall be heard by City Council.

SECTION XII. SAVINGS AND REPEAL.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Severability. Should any word, sentence, clause, paragraph, or provision of this Ordinance be held to be invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION XIII. PUBLIC TREE CARE

The city shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and public grounds, as may be necessary to ensure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds. This Section does not prohibit the planting of Boulevard Trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with Sections VI through X of this ordinance.

SECTION XIV. PRUNING, CORNER CLEARANCE

Trees overhanging any street or right-of-way within the City shall be pruned by the abutting property owner so that branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street inter- section and so that there shall be a clear space of thirteen feet, six inches (13' 6") above the surface of the street and eight feet (8') above the surface of the sidewalk. Said abutting property owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The City shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a street light or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign.

SECTION XV. REPEAL

Repeal Ordinance No. 105 of the City (formerly Village) of La Crescent is hereby repealed upon approval and publication.

SECTION XVI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective upon passage, adoption, and publication according to law.

PASSED AND ENACTED this ____ day of _____, 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 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 O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION THAT A PRÉCIS FORMAT OF SAID ORDINANCE 591 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 3.7 – SOLAR APP AGREEMENT

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council a professional services agreement with Schneider Geospatial. Custom consulting by Schneider Geospatial will be provided to set up the SolarApp+ with GeoPermits. The SolarApp+ software allows for automated permitting of residential solar PV systems. By adopting the SolarApp+ platform and integrating it with GeoPermits the City is eligible for the SolarApp+ Solar Permitting Software incentive funds. The incentive is to help streamline the residential solar permitting process by providing financial incentives and technical support for local governments adopting the SolarApp+ online solar permitting platform developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. It was recommended that City Council approve the agreement along with the addendum mentioned in item 3.5. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SCHNEIDER GEOSPATIAL FOR CUSTOM CONSULTING TO SET UP THE SOLARAPP+ WITH GEOPERMITS ALONG WITH THE ADDENDUM MENTIONED IN ITEM 3.5.

Upon a roll call vote taken and tallied by the City Clerk, the following Members voted in favored duly carried.

ITEM 3.8 – LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION GRANT AGREEMENT/PALEBLUEDOT

Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson reviewed with City Council the grant agreement between the City of La Crescent and paleBLUEdot LLC for consulting services to develop a Local Climate Action plan in 2025 and 2026. The FY25 Local Climate Action Planning Grant was awarded to the City of La Crescent for \$47,500.80. Prior to the meeting the following changes and additions were made to the agreement and presented to the City Council:

- paleBLUEdot LLC will make the City an additional insured with respect to the general liability policy at their cost.
- Paragraph 7 was deleted.
- Paragraph 15(A) was deleted.
- An addendum is attached here to and incorporated herein.
- The Owner will have no obligation under this Agreement if the Owner does not receive a Grant from the state of Minnesota or the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AS DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND PALEBLUEDOT LLC FOR CONSULTING SERVICES TO DEVELOP A LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IN 2025 AND 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 3.9 – AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL AUDITING SERVICE – AUDIT AGREEMENT

City Council reviewed for approval an audit agreement between the City of La Crescent and Smith Schafer for additional auditing services for the City for a three-year period for the financial years of 2024, 2025, and 2026 and authorization to amend the 2025 budget to include the expenditure. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT AND SMITH SCHAFFER FOR ADDITIONAL AUDITING SERVICES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2024-2026.

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.

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

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE AMENDING THE 2025 BUDGET TO INCLUDE THE ADDITIONAL AUDITING SERVICE EXPENDITURE.

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 – CANNABIS RELATED ITEMS

City Attorney Wieser reviewed the following Cannabis related items with City Council:

A. DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 270 STRUPP AVENUE

Communication was received from the developer to city staff prior to the council meeting requesting several proposed changes to the agreement. It was recommended that City Council continue the development agreement for 270 Strupp Avenue to the August 25th, 2025, City Council meeting. It was the consensus of the City Council to continue the development agreement to the August 25, 2025, Council meeting.

B. DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 350 STRUPP AVENUE

A development agreement for 350 Strupp Avenue was presented to City Council and it was recommended that City Council approve the agreement and authorize the Mayor, City Administrator, and City Clerk to sign the document. Following discussion, Member O'Donnell-Ebner made a motion, seconded by Member Williams as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH ABJKM HOLDINGS LLC AND TWIN PINES VENTURES LLC LOCATED AT 350 STRUPP AVENUE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT MAY BE PRESENTED AT A FUTURE DATE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, CITY ADMINISTRATOR, AND CITY CLERK TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT.

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.

C. CORRESPONDENCE – 100 TWILITE STREET

City Council reviewed correspondence received from Juan Aguirre regarding 270 Strupp Ave., Suite 103. This item was informational only; no action was required.

D. POLICY ON FUTURE CANNABIS APPLICATIONS

Attorney Wieser reviewed with City Council two options moving forward with cannabis applications received by the City:

1. Make it an action item under section three of the City Council Agenda.
2. Make it a consent agenda item denying the application based on the application exceeding what our local rules authorize.

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

MOTION TO MAKE ANY FURTHER CANNABIS APPLICATIONS AS PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM DENYING THE APPLICATION BASED ON THE APPLICATION EXCEEDING WHAT OUR LOCAL RULES AUTHORIZE.

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 - PETITION TO VACATE STREET-CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING

City Council reviewed for approval a Resolution calling for a public hearing for the vacation of Union Street in the City of La Crescent. Following discussion, Member Langen introduced the following Resolution and moved its passage and adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 08-25-26

A RESOLUTION DECLARING SUFFICIENCY OF PETITION AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED VACATION OF UNION STREET

WHEREAS, a petition signed by the majority of property owners abutting Union street in La Crescent city was received by the City Clerk on the 3rd day of August, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the petition requested that the City Council pursuant to Minnesota Statute §412.851 vacate Union street, adjacent to Sycamore street, legally described as:

Union Street as Platted in Gillett's Addition to Manton Plat, City of La Crescent,
Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the City Clerk has reviewed and examined the signatures on said petition and determined that such signatures constitute a majority of the landowners abutting upon the street to be vacated; and

WHEREAS, a copy of said petition is attached hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT, MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council will consider the vacation of such street and a public hearing shall be held on such proposed vacation on the 22nd day of September, 2025, in the La Crescent Community Building located at 336 S 1st Street, La Crescent, MN 55947 at 5:00 p.m. and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to give published, posted and mailed notice of such hearing as required by law.

Passed by the City Council of La Crescent, Minnesota this 11th day of August, 2025.

Mayor

Attested:

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.

ITEM 3.12 – IT CONTRACT RENEWAL-MORRIS ELECTRONICS

City Council reviewed a contract renewal with Morris Electronics, the City's IT support company. It was recommended that City Council approve the renewal contract. Following discussion, Member Jostad made a motion, seconded by Member O'Donnell-Ebner as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH MORRIS ELECTRONICS.

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 – GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION

City Council reviewed a letter from Administrative Assistant Chris Fortsch regarding a Gambling Permit Application for the La Crescent Montessori & STEM School for a raffle to be held on February 14, 2026, at the Wieser Park Pavilion. The application appears to be in order and it was recommended that City Council approve the application and authorize that it be forwarded to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board. Following discussion, Member Williams made a motion, seconded by Member Langen as follows:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GAMBLING PERMIT APPLICATION FROM THE LA CRESCENT MONTESSORI & STEM SCHOOL FOR A RAFFLE TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2026, AND AUTHORIZE THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO THE MINNESOTA GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD.

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 – DONATION RESOLUTION

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-25-27

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

WHEREAS, the following donations were made to the City of La Crescent in the month of July 2025:

1. Bauer's Market wishes to donate \$100.00 to the La Crescent Police Department/Neighbor's Night Out.
2. Pat's Insurance Agency wishes to donate \$500.00 to the La Crescent Police Department/Neighbor's Night Out.
3. Sons of Norway wishes to donate \$50.00 to the La Crescent Fire Department.
4. ESB Bank wishes to donate \$100.00 to the La Crescent Police Department/Neighbor's Night Out.
5. AcenTek wishes to donate \$100.00 to the La Crescent Police Department/Neighbor's Night Out.
6. Johnson Livings wishes to donate \$150.00 to the La Crescent Police Department/Neighbor's Night Out.

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

ADOPTED this 11th Day of August 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.

6. STAFF CORRESPONDENCE/COMMITTEE UPDATES:

6.1 – JUNE ENERGY REPORT

City Council reviewed the June Energy Report provided by Sustainability Coordinator Jason Ludwigson.

6.2 EXPLORE LA CROSSE

City Council reviewed the July 29, 2025, Explore La Crosse Board Meeting agenda and the June 17, 2025, Board Meeting minutes.

7. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce Representative Kim Siegersma was in attendance and provided an update.

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 6:14 P.M.

APPROVAL DATE: August 25, 2025

SIGNED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator