222 2nd Street SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Regular City Council Minutes
Tuesday, May 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the City Council, the meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm with the following council members present: Mayor George Deiss, Council Members Duke Harrison, Mark Lunde, Wade Miller and Mac Nelson.
Staff present: City Administrator Kim Schroeder, Police Chief Naomi Plautz, WDA Director Dean Uselman, Public Works Director Dan Kovar, Utilities Director Dave Evans, Liquor Store Manager Tim Booth, and Wellness Director Lisa Anderson.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion approving the consent calendar items.

A. Claims Register Summary
B. Monthly Financial Reports
C. City Council Meeting Minutes:
   a. April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting
D. Action 26-35: Request to Close Municipal Parking Lot by VFW
E. Action 26-36: Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Wadena Ag Society
F. Action 26-37: Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Brewed by Two
G. Action 26-38: Taxicab License
H. Action 26-39: June Jubilee, Street Closures Request

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Nelson
Roll call vote:	Deiss, Harrison, Lunde, Miller, Nelson		

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 262: First reading to amend city code, Chapter 124 Cannabis, Section 124.03 Regulating Cannabis Businesses.

Language regarding lower potency hemp edibles was unintentionally omitted from the final draft approved and uploaded to the website. The proposed amendment amends Section 5, allowing the sale of lower potency hemp edibles by registered retailers and within the municipal liquor store.
Council discussed the state-regulated hours of sale. Current ordinance is 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Review is needed to accommodate municipal liquor store operating hours. This will be brought to the second reading in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Action 26-40: Motion approving to pause the Highway 10 & 71 intersection digital sign project.

Kent Sheer addressed the council for the second month emphasizing the importance of honoring community-led planning efforts associated with the past known Gateway Project at this intersection. Expressing concern that moving forward without further collaboration could discourage future community involvement, requesting the Council to pause the project. Council and public discussion followed regarding community participation, economic development, tourism promotion, and the balance between preserving green space. Chamber Director Tina Barthels and Chamber Vice President and involved community member Kelly Wong were present and expressed support for the sign as a tool to promote local events and attract visitors, while also supporting additional collaboration for greenspace and the historic planning.
Staff provided an update on MnDOT appraisal and potential property acquisition timelines. The pause will allow discussion and collaboration with Gateway Project representatives and interested community members to develop a mutually agreeable final plan, allowing 90 days. Meanwhile continuing related background processes to acquire the SW intersecting corner.

Moved by:	Nelson	Seconded by:	Lunde
Roll Call Vote:	Harrison, Lunde, Miller, Nelson		
Opposed:	Deiss		

Resolution 2026-23: Motion approving WAPA renewable energy certificates to be managed by Missouri River Energy Services.

Due to changes in federal regulations, Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) generated from hydropower are now permitted and available to participating utilities. The City intends to retain the RECs to support its carbon-free energy portfolio. Future decisions to sell or market the RECs would remain under the city's control.

Moved by:	Harrison	Seconded by:	Miller
Roll Call Vote:	Deiss, Harrison, Lunde, Miller, Nelson		

Resolution 2026-24: Motion approving acceptance of donations and grants.

Moved by:	Miller	Seconded by:	Nelson
Roll Call Vote:	Deiss, Harrison, Lunde, Miller, Nelson		

Action 26-41: Motion approving a land purchase from parcel R220063090 for $1 and Deed acquisition from the Wadena Hockey Association and moving forward with a pickleball court project.

Council was presented with the proposed acquisition of a portion of parcel R22063-090 from the Wadena Hockey Association for $1 to support the Pickleball Court Project. Staff noted the deed had been received and distributed to Council. As part of the agreement, the City would cover survey, recording, and related fees, with the survey totaling approximately $2,000. Staff and Council discussed the positive momentum surrounding the project and noted the Park Board had reviewed and recommended moving forward.

Moved by:	Lunde	Seconded by:	Harrison
Roll Call Vote:	Deiss, Harrison, Lunde, Miller		
Abstained:	Nelson		

Action 26-42: Motion approving the sale of the Lot 6, Block 5, Golf Course Addition for $14,000.

Tanner and Kelsey Budke offered $10,000 for Lot 6, Block 5, Golf Course Addition, parcel R228950330. This lot is adjacent to their newly constructed home on Lot 7. The lot has been for sale since 1994 and contains significant lowland requiring substantial fill. The listed sale

price is $14,000. Uselman counter offered and recommends to the city council a sale price of $12,500.
The Council discussed the county's estimated land value of $26,400, the lot's development potential and limitations, the city's low-cost acquisition history of the property, and the benefit of returning the parcel to the tax roll. It was decided to continue with the original sale price.

Moved by:	Harrison	Seconded by:	Lunde
Roll Call Vote:	Harrison, Lunde, Miller, Nelson		
No Vote:	Deiss (requested no vote on record at June 9, 2026 meeting.)		

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 5:56pm No one present

DEPARTMENT REPORTS
Public Works Department – Dan Kovar
- Swing at Tapley park should be fixed.
- Preparing for the June 20th Fly In at the airport.

Utilities Department - Superintendent David Evans
- The Hwy 10/71/29 project naturally brings more work for the crew with a lot of time devoted to locating.
- Attended the MRES annual meeting, was informative and provided information obtained. He encourages council members to attend if they can in coming years.

Wadena Development Authority and Planning & Zoning – Dean Uselman
- WDA board meeting is Thursday and has a CVB conference Friday.

Police Department – Naomi Plautz
- Provided an anecdote from a case last Friday in which Sergeants and Investigators did a good job solving the important, high-risk case.

Fire Department – Cody Yglesias Fire Chief
- Although the chief was absent, Schroeder updated that a meeting is set soon with a company that builds and supplies fire trucks. The tanker is failing and the dept. is working to figure out costs and financing. A committee will be created to discuss options.

Wadena Liquor Store – Tim Booth Nothing to add
Maslowski Wellness and Research Center – Lisa Anderson Nothing to add
Whitetail Run Golf Course – Kevin Ross - Not present
City Administrator – Kim Schroeder
- Noted that she appreciates the council and staff; Wadena is a wonderful place to work with the staff and team doing a great job.
- The Quiet Zone engineering review is underway to determine the minimum improvements required by BNSF at each crossing, additional options to be considered later if funding allows. Approximately $250,000 is set aside for the project, though preliminary discussions indicate total costs may exceed that amount.

COUNCIL REPORTS
Duke Harrison: Thanked Kim for giving a presentation to the Wadena Lions Club regarding city business and projects.
Mark Lunde: Noted the Fly In is scheduled June 20th at the Airport.
Mac Nelson: Nothing to add.
Wade Miller: Would like to see all City properties listed with an MLS realtor to expand visibility.
Mayor George Deiss: Change is inevitable, people said Wadena would never have a four-lane highway; happy to report it's close to completion. Has responsibility to constituents and the community to listen and complete projects even when it's not accepted by all.

Action Motion: Motion to close the meeting at 6:21 pm pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(d) for the purpose of attorney-client privilege.

Moved by:	Miller	Seconded by:	Harrison
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Harrison, Lunde, Miller, Nelson		

Action Motion: Motion to reopen the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Moved by:	Miller	Seconded by:	Harrison
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Harrison, Lunde, Miller, Nelson		

Action Motion: Motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Moved by:	Miller	Seconded by:	Lunde
Vote in favor:	Deiss, Harrison, Lunde, Miller, Nelson		

George Deiss, Mayor

Attest: Kim Schroeder

Kim Schroeder, City Administrator