



222 2nd Street SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Regular City Council Minutes Tuesday, May 13, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 members present: Mayor George Deiss, Council Members Duke Harrison, Mark Lunde, Wade Miller, and Mac Nelson.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion approving the consent calendar items.

- A. Claims Register Summary
- B. Monthly Financial Reports
- C. City Council Meeting Minutes:
 - a. April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting
 - b. April 16, 2025, Special Meeting
 - c. April 21, 2025, Special Meeting
- D. Action 25-26: Motorcycle Awareness Proclamation
- E. Action 25-31: Massage License

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

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-26: Motion to approve calling for a public hearing on the intention to issue a general obligation street reconstruction plan bond and proposal to adopt a street reconstruction plan therefor.

A public hearing is required when issuing general obligated bond debt.

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

Action 25-27: Motion to temporarily close Aldrich Ave SW from Jefferson St to 2nd Street beginning midnight Thursday, June 12th through Saturday, June 14th, and Aldrich Ave SE from 1st St to 3rd St beginning midnight Friday, June 13th through Saturday, June 14th.

This is an annual request to close streets for June Jubilee events.

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

Action 25-28: Motion to approve \$150,000 FAA entitlement transfer of funds to Baudette Airport.

The City has federal FAA funds that will not be used for any projects in the near future. The money will transfer to Baudette Airport in 2025 and reimbursed to Wadena Airport in 2026.

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

Action 25-29: Motion to approve SEH \$85,400 engineering agreement for design only apron reconstruction plans.

The next item on the airport capital improvement plan is designing the apron reconstruction. Total engineering costs is \$85,400. Financing will be 95% FAA \$81,130, State 2.5% \$2,135, leaving the City cost participation at 2.5% \$2,135. The city's portion is in the airport capital outlay budget.

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

Action 25-30: Motion to approve the VFW request to close one-half of the municipal parking lot by VFW for a karaoke contest May 30, 2025.

VFW manager Cody Boyer requested the parking lot be closed for a karaoke event until midnight. The council did not have any objections. HRA Director Maria Marthaler was also contacted since HRA tenants use the lot, there were no objections, she will notify tenants.

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

Action 25-32: Motion to approve a request to the Friends of the Library to transfer eligible current and future library funds held at Initiative Foundation to the City to be invested in the BPS Capital, Schwab portfolio.

The library board and Friends of the Library held meetings earlier this year. During conversations and review of the funds held at the Initiative Foundation it was discovered interest earnings are low, and lower than if the funds were invested through the city or another financial advising group. The board and Friends researched their options and agreed to ask the city to request the funds and invest in the city's portfolio.

At this time the city's Schwab current rate of return as of 5-9-25 is approx. 4% with .10% fees making an overall rate of return 3.9%. The city will create a separate Schwab portfolio and fund in the city's software to keep the library funds separate from other city transactions and in the best interest of the library and taxpayers for financial gain and future payments towards the 20-year bond.

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

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 5:13PM

Police Chief Naomi Plautz presented drone footage of a recent SWAT training that the Wadena PD participated in. The video gave good insight into what they train on for on the scene scenarios.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Department – Dan Kovar

- The city-led utilities project at 9th Street and TH10 was slow but now making ground with utility construction meetings being held weekly.
- MnDOT's Hwy projects pre-construction meeting is set in the coming week.
- MnDOT required the city to remove and temporarily relocate all City entrance, campground, and Veterans park signs during the entire construction timeline. The entrance signs are being

stored behind the City shop. The campground and Veterans park signs were relocated in their same locations but out of MnDOT right-of-way.

Utilities Department - Superintendent David Evans

- Large scale water service leaks are continuing to surface, especially in the Southwest area near First and Second Streets. Gate valves are failing, and curb stops are unable to be shut off. Leaks are becoming more frequent with four occurring this past winter. There's discussion to complete the next city utilities replacement project in the SE section of town around year 2029. Some services still have old lead connections. Grant opportunities may be available through the Department of Health focused on lead and copper concerns with hopes funding could cover both mains and services.

Authority and Planning & Zoning – Dean Uselman

- Attended the annual Community Venture Network (CVN) event. Was a productive meeting with a residential developer with a meeting held again at the Otter Tail County Housing Summit [tomorrow] followed by a visit to Pinewood Estates in the afternoon. The developer is very interested in building in Pinewood Estates, which is an exciting opportunity.
- Council asked about the Buckwheat Growers demolition. Cleanup is delayed; the contractor's new timeline is to start in May and finish the end of June. Safety concerns remain due to unsecured structures. The property may go tax-forfeited next year. If forfeited, the City's Development Authority could acquire it and apply for DEED cleanup funds, since there are likely environmental issues from past industrial use.

Police Department – Naomi Plautz Nothing to report.

Fire Department – Cody Yglesias Not Present.

Wadena Liquor Store – Tim Booth Not Present.

Maslowski Wellness and Research Center – Lisa Anderson Nothing to report.

Whitetail Run Golf Course – Kevin Ross Not Present.

City Administrator – Kim Schroeder

- The city received a \$2.1 million MnDOT invoice for the municipal local share portion of the upcoming highway projects, due June 11. Meetings and email correspondences with MnDOT have been held to request payment extension, with a current suggestion of one-half of the \$2.1 million due June 11 and the other July 11. It was also asked what penalties may occur if the city were delay payment until bond proceeds are received. The state has not responded to date.
The city's bond funding process has been started, however, will not become available until August. Depending on the checking fund balances within the next couple of months, the city will have to draw down a short-term up to approx. \$4 million from the Schwab account to make city led and MnDOT project payments. The general fund interest allocated earnings will be the first to be depleted

COUNCIL REPORTS

Duke Harrison: Nothing to add.

Mark Lunde: Nothing to add.

Mac Nelson: Nothing to add.

Wade Miller: Nothing to add.

Mayor George Deiss:

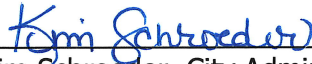
- Concern was raised about rising manganese levels in water systems, also highlighted in the news. Although Wadena has already removed manganese, it's noted that cities like Mounds, MN are requesting large sums to upgrade their treatment plants. With 53 cities seeking similar funding, there's concern this could exhaust available state funds for water system improvements.
- State legislators are looking

Action Motion: Motion to adjourn at 5:46pm.

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



George Deiss, Mayor

Attest: 

Kim Schroeder, City Administrator