



**Regular City Council Minutes
Tuesday, June 10, 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. May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting
 - b. June 2, 2025, Special Meeting

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

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-28: Motion approving Turn In Poachers Ottertail Chapter Inc, gambling site permit at Sonny's Bar & Restaurant, 114 Jefferson St S.

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

Memo 25-A: Discussions were held and will continue regarding a regional demolition landfill site location inquiry to include the closed city landfill.

In anticipation of new waste disposal requirements, a nine-county grant has been approved from the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to develop a regional solid waste management plan for demolition waste. If new rules are approved, the economics of landfilling is anticipated to change with most of the 11 current demolition landfills closing. As part of the project, it will be decided which of the eleven will continue to exist and are suitable for future use as regional landfill(s). Preliminary review shows the Wadena County landfill as a disadvantage unless more developable land can be obtained.

The consortium group is in the preliminary stage. Ideally there would be two landfills in the nine county region.

One concept is acquiring the adjacent 125 acre city landfill, parcel no. R0503030020. The city landfill is in a 1996 MPCA agreement placing the property into the Closed Landfill Cleanup Program with restrictions on the use of the property.

At this time, the regional consortium, administered by Otter Tail County Solid Waste is requesting a response from the City to the following questions:

1. Would the City be willing to sell land? Many details remain to be answered, but the response would be assumed to remain good for five years and would include a price for the entire 125 acre parcel.
2. Would the City, on behalf of the Project, submit a letter to the MPCA requesting permission for the landfill to be developed for a regional landfill?

Administrator Schroeder contacted MPCA. The City is able to sell the land provided an application is sent and approved by MPCA.

If the City and MPCA approve sale of the land there's no purchase price considered by the consortium group at this time.

Council Member Lunde requests the consortium to put together a pros and cons list for review.

The consensus of the city council was to continue to look into the possibility to sell the land. No other action taken.

Action 25-33: Motion approving to proceed with Minn. Stat. §463.16, Order of Removal notice and action at 1028 2nd Street SE, Wadena.

The property has been abandoned since a fire in 2022, violating city nuisance codes and creating a hazardous and uninhabitable property.

As required by Minn. Stat. §463.16 the city must provide orders giving the property owner the ability to remedy the situation, twenty-one (21) days of the date of service of the order. If no action is taken, the city will file and record requirements for abandonment and continue with cleanup proceedings assessable to the property.

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

Action 25-34: Motion to temporarily close Aldrich Ave, September 20th for Salsa Fest.

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

Action 25-35: Motion approving to apply for a DEED MIF loan and setting the public hearing for July 8th at 5:00 pm.

A local manufacturing business is looking to expand. A DEED MIF loan will be applied for to assist with gap financing. The expansion has a potential to add up to 50 jobs with benefits and added real estate tax base. If awarded, the city retains the first 40% of the loan repayment, up to \$100,000, to support future local MIF loan funds.

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

Action 25-36: Motion approving a \$110,000 FAA entitlement transfer of funds to Cook Airport.

The City has federal FAA funds that will not be used for any projects in the near future. The money will transfer to Cook 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 25-37: Motion approving Bolton & Menk \$250,000 estimated professional services proposal for MnDOT led Hwy 10 & 71 utility improvements.

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

Action 25-38: Motion to temporarily close Aldrich Ave SE from 1st St SE to 3rd St SE starting 4:00 pm Friday June 13th and run concurrent with a previously approved closure through midnight June 14th.

A corvette car show was added to Friday night's June Jubilee lineup. It is uncertain how many will be in attendance. The request is to prepare for a larger turnout if necessary.

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

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 5:36PM

Pioneer Journal journalist Nicole Stracek updated the council that efforts will continue to have a baby naming contest for the birth of the newest baby buffalo.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Department – Dan Kovar

- An adopt-a-park program was established with three parks already adopted. One each at Tapley Park, BN Park, and 2nd & Irving's park.

Utilities Department - Superintendent David Evans

- The utility work on Hwy 10 has many utility companies vying for space and has become crowded. A couple utility companies used the city's easement area, which was not part of the original specifications and plans. Things seem to be working out overall, however, the city's engineers are discussing agreements with the utilities in regard to future easement and maintenance matters.

Authority and Planning & Zoning – Dean Uselman

- Reported that Roach Development has begun construction [today] with the equipment and job shack on sight near the Pinewood Estates residential development.

Police Department – Naomi Plautz Nothing to report.

Fire Department – Cody Yglesias Not Present.

Wadena Liquor Store – Tim Booth Nothing to report.

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

Whitetail Run Golf Course – Kevin Ross Not Present.

City Administrator – Kim Schroeder Nothing to report.

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: Encouraged everyone to stop, eat, and drink locally and attend June Jubilee as much as possible.

Action Motion: Motion to adjourn at 5:43pm.

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



George Deiss, Mayor

Attest: 

Kim Schroeder, City Administrator