City Council Minutes
Tuesday, June 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER
This meeting is officially called to order at 5:30 pm on June 17, 2025. This meeting is being presided over by Mayor Mike Lorenson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL
The following Councilmembers were present: Lorenson, McCraw, Aarestad, Pream, Bolduc, Langness, and Narverud. Absent: Arlt. Mayor Lorenson chaired the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Drone Program - Public Comment

> Mike Roff, Deputy Police Chief, provided a brief overview of the drone program. Lorenson called for any public comment; no one was in attendance. Mike and Jason noted their support for the program.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS
Jason noted the County Public Hearing tonight at 6pm at the Justice Center (boardroom) regarding the future of the Auditorium building.

APPROVE AGENDA
Councilmember Scott Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember Langness to approve the agenda with the removal of 8.8.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 06.141.25: Approval of June 3, 2025 Council Proceedings

> Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced RESOLUTION 06.141.25, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:
>
> THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the June 3, 2025 Council Proceedings.
>
> On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.142.25: Approval of Bills and Disbursements

> Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced RESOLUTION 06.142.25, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize payment of bills and disbursements in the total amount of 1,795,401.79. A printout of the approved payments and disbursements are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

On vote being taken, the resolution passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 06.143.25: Approve Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce River Fest 2025

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 06.143.25, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

WHEREAS, The Chamber of Commerce has submitted a Temporary Intoxicating Liquor License application for their music festival - River Fest 2025. The festival will be at the Pennington County Fairgrounds August 1-2, 1015 from 4pm -1 am.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve the Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce Temp Intoxicating Liquor License application for River Fest 2025.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.144.25: Approval of American Legion Post 117 Parking Lot Band

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 06.144.25, being seconded by Councilmember Jason Aarestad, that:

WHEREAS, The American Legion Post 117 has submitted a Temporary Intoxicating Liquor License Application for their parking lot adjacent to their facility July 18 & 19, 2025 from 9pm-1am.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve the Ecklund-Holmstrom American Legion Post 117's Temp Intoxicating Liquor License application.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.145.25: To approve County Resolution

Following discussion, Councilmember Jason Aarestad introduced Resolution 06.145.25, being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream, that:

WHEREAS, Pennington County acquired property from the State of Minnesota on October 31, 2003 pursuant to conveyance of forfeited lands recorded as Document #171647 in the Office of the Pennington County Recorder. The County was able to be released from restrictions and the possibility of reversion after 20+ years of ownership.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve the resolution that was passed at the

Pennington County Board on June 10, 2025.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.146.25: Implementation of a Passwordless Login Solution

Following discussion, Councilmember Kelly Langness introduced Resolution 06.146.25, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

WHEREAS, As part of the City's ongoing cybersecurity initiatives, the City would like to implement a passwordless login solution to eliminate vulnerabilities associated with traditional password-based authentication. The initial rollout will serve 25 users.

WHEREAS, **Credential-Based Threat Exposure -** Existing systems depend on outdated password-based authentication, which leaves the City vulnerable to phishing, credential stuffing, and brute-force attacks.

Enterprise Grade Security and Compliance - This solution offers industry-standard protection including phishing-resistant multi-factor authentication (MFA), hardware-backed credential storage, and compliance with FIPS 140-3 standards.

Legacy and Fragmented Identity Tools

User Experience and IT Overhead - The new system reduces frequent password issues for users and support demands for IT.

Zero Trust Identity Protection - Ensures that only verified users with secure credentials can access sensitive City systems.

Seamless Password Experience - By introducing hardware authenticators and mobile passkeys, the City can offer a secure, efficient, and intuitive login process across devices and applications.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve for the City of Thief River Falls to purchase a passwordless login solution to serve 25 users, supporting improved identity protection, operational efficiency, and compliance with cybersecurity best practices.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.147.25: Approval of the MN State Joint Powers Agreement with the MN Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

Following discussion, Councilmember Jason Aarestad introduced Resolution 06.147.25, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

WHEREAS, The Thief River Falls Police Department has worked in conjunction with the ICAC Task Force and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to investigate and prosecute crimes against children and exploitation of children since 2016. This agreement is imperative to keep up the important work of protecting children in our community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve the renewal of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Joint Powers Agreement with the ICAC Task force and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.148.25: Approve the Employment of Sadie Anderson as Patrol Officer

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 06.148.25, being seconded by Councilmember Jason Aarestad, that:

WHEREAS, Anderson is from Goodridge, MN and attended Northland Community College in Thief River Falls. Anderson will be the 17th officer bringing our department to full staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve the employment of Sadie Anderson for the position of Patrol Officer. Anderson will be hired for the position of Patrol Officer. Anderson will be hired at a grade 6 step 1 for $33.38 per hour. This is an LELS Union non-exempt position. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.149.25: Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump for the Power Plant Office

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 06.149.25, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

WHEREAS, The office at the power Plant is currently being cooled by a “Window Unit” air conditioner. This AC unit has been in service for quite some time and is in need of repair. The Chief Power Plant operator has been able to repair the unit to keep it working, but it is at the end of it’s life and should be replaced by a much more efficient unit. It is important to keep the Switchgear in the office cool and the new heat Pump would be much more efficient at that. The office is heated by 2 - 5kw heaters and the new Heat pump would be able to handle most of the heating of the office much more efficiently also.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve the purchase of a 2.5 Ton, Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump for the Power Plant Office for approximately $2838.00. This will come out of the Power Plant Maintenance budget. There will be no installation labor costs as the Chief Power Plant Operator will install the new unit.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

Establishment of TIF District 1-16

Item was removed from the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.150.25: Variance Request - Nexus Church

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 06.150.25, being seconded by Councilmember Julie Bolduc, that:

WHEREAS, City Code, Sec. 152.025.5.a, General Yard Requirements for R-2 General Residential District requires a 5-foot setback for detached accessory buildings on interior side yards. The request meets all three criteria (Reasonableness, Uniqueness, Essential Character) for granting of variances.

Nexus Church needs a handicapped ramp. ADA requirements are a 1:12 ratio, or there is an exception which allows for steeper slopes (up to 1:10 or 1:8) for short distances in certain existing or altered facilities where space constraints exist, but these are not permitted in new construction. The front steps measure approximately 42-1/2 inches high, which means at minimum a 48-foot ramp plus a 5-foot landing midway, for a total length of 53 feet. There is not enough room in the front of the church and the sidewalk to install the ramp without providing for a switchback, which the design of the front steps doesn’t adequately allow for. Building a switchback ramp on the front of the church is not very aesthetic and is difficult with the location of the front steps. The north side would require a switchback and contending with MNDOT regulations as that is Highway 59. The east side has the AC units and is too close to the alley to allow for a ramp.

The distance between the building and the approximate location of the lot line is 7 feet which is an adequately wide enough space to erect a handicapped ramp.

This location allows for a ramp that meets ADA requirements and funnels traffic to and from the parking lot.

WHEREAS, Due to church design, location along Hwy 59 (Third Street), and close proximity to the alley, the best location, and really the only location, for a handicapped ramp is along the south side of the building sloping eastwardly towards the alley and parking lot.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve a Variance Request Application for Nexus Church, 246 Kendall Ave. N, for a 5-foot variance to City Code, Sec. 152.025.5.a, General Yard Requirements for R-2 General Residential District, which would allow for a zero setback from the property line, for the installation of an ADA compliant handicap access ramp on the south side of the building.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- City Council July 1 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers
- Public Utility Committee July 7 at 7 am in Room 101
- Public Safety Committee July 7 at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- Administrative Services Committee July 8 at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- Public Works Committee July 9 at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- City Council July 15 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Investment Summary

Other:

- City Offices are closed Thursday, June 19 for Juneteenth. There will be no garbage pickup
- City Surplus Auction ends June 24, 2025. Items on auction can be found at trfmn.gov
- Committee of the Whole meeting planned for August 19th and will be after the City Council Meeting
- The city Facebook page will go live next week_

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness to adjourn at 6:04 pm. ON vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion unanimously carried.