COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

CALL TO ORDER
This meeting is officially called to order at 5:30 pm on August 19, 2025. This meeting is being presided over by Mayor Mike Lorenson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL
The following Council Members were preset: Lorenson, McCraw, Aarestad, Pream, Bolduc, Langness and Narverud. Absent: Arlt. Mayhor Lorenson chaired the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLUTION NO. : Elizabeth Wilde (Visit TRF) - 2026 Budget Changes

> Elizabeth reviewed the 2025 Budget Changes with the Council. The decrease in visitors (Express employees for DigiKey) at the Tourist Park (Lodging Tax payment), increased professional fees and a decrease in Digital Marketing were key points. With no questions from the Council, Mayor Lorenson thanked them for their presentation and advised the Council would review the changes.

APPROVE AGENDA
Councilmember Jason Aarestad motioned being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream to approve the a genda.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. : Approval of August 5, 2025 Council Proceedings and August 6 Discovery Place Proceedings

> Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced RESOLUTION 08.175.25 , being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:
>
> THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the August 5, 2025 Council Proceedings.
>
> On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. : Approval of City of Thief River Falls Bills and Disbursements

> Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced

RESOLUTION 08.176.25, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize payment of bills and disbursements in the total amount of $742,025.54. 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. : Switchgear Testing at the Power Plant

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 08.177.25, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, It is recommended that this maintenance on the Switchgear at the Power Plant be carried out every 5 years. This includes testing the Relays and Breakers on the Main Switchgear. These Relays and Breakers are the devices that tie the power generated by the Hydro Turbines and Diesel Generators to the electrical grid. This testing was last done in 2019.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve Revolt Electrical Services to test the Breakers and Relays at the Power Plant.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. : Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Requested Studies

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 08.188.25, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, The City of Thief River Falls (TRF) is currently in the process of relicensing the Thief River Falls Municipal Power Dam Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No: P-11546. This is a 30-year license. The City of TRF filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) with FERC on August 31, 2023 and the MnDNR provided comments and study requests on the PAD. In response to the MnDNR comments, TRF distributed three additional study plans to stakeholders on March 18,2025.

These study plans include:
1. An Upstream Fish Passage Feasibility Study
2. Fish Passage Protection Measures Feasibility Study
3. Recreation Enhancement Study

In a letter dated April 9, 2025, MnDNR accepted the proposed study plans. HDR will perform the Scope of Work to support these studies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) to complete the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) requested studies in order to facilitate the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the City’s Municipal Power Dam Hydroelectric Project.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. : Remove and Replace Sidewalk in Front of the Fire Hall and Liquor Store

Following discussion, Councilmember Jason Aarestad introduced Resolution 08.179.25, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

WHEREAS, Concrete repair sections are in the main entrance walkways of both the fire hall and liquor store.

WHEREAS, Repair sections are non-compliant walkways and present potential tripping hazards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve the purchase sidewalk replacement in front of the fire hall and liquor store with Fynboh Construction at the cost of 19.50/square ft.
Estimate of Fire Hall: $6,825.00
Estimate of Liquor Store: $1,560.00

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. : Three -Year Storm Water Utility Rate Increase (for calendar years 2026-2028)

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 08.180.25, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

WHEREAS, The previous storm water utility rate was approved in sept. 2023 for the calendar year 2024, and followed consistent incremental increases in years 2021, 2022, 2023,2024 and 2025. The proposed rate increase would be approved for three years, and is consistent with previous increases. The Residential monthly rates would increase $.50/month and Commercial/Multi-family/Industrial rates would increase $1.00/acre/month, based on applicable formula. The current residential rate and commercial rates are lower than similar comparable sized cities.

WHEREAS, The City adopted a storm water utility in 2004 to fund the cost of installing, operating, and maintaining the city's storm sewer system. It also funds related operations such as street sweeping to prevent debris from entering the storm sewer system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve a Three-year Storm Water Utility Rate Increase. The new rate proposal would be $1.00/month/year increase for residential properties and apartment buildings, and commercial properties would have an increase of $1.00/acre/year increase applied to the applicable formula.
Residential monthly rates: 2026= $7.50, 2027= $8.00, 2028 = $8.50
Apartments and commercial property rate: 2026=$17.50/acre(formula), 2027=$18.50/acre(formula), 2028=$19.50/acre(formula).

*Example of 2025 year rate: $16.50/acre x 2.5 x impervious area of property or for apartment buildings and commercial properties, and $16.50/acre x 1.5 x entire area of property for any properties that had previously been calculated with that method.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

RESOLUTION NO. :

- City Council - Tuesday, September 2 at 5:30 pm
- Public Utilities Committee Meeting - Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm
- Public Safety Committee Meeting - Monday, September 8 at 4:30 pm
- Administrative Committee Meeting - Tuesday, September 9 at 4:30 pm
- Public Works Committee Meeting - Wednesday, September 10 at 4:30 pm
- City Council - Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30 pm

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

RESOLUTION NO. : Investment Summary

RESOLUTION NO. : Mayoral Update

Lorenson reviewed highlights from his update including blocked crossings with CP Rail and the successful ribbon cutting ceremonies at Discovery Place and First St.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Mike Lorenson adjourned to the Committee of the Whole at 5:54 pm.

Mayor Mike Loreson ____

Attest: Angela Philipp, City Administrator

____