CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Tuesday, January 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting is officially called to order at 5:30 pm on January 6, 2026. This meeting is being presided over by Mayor Mike Lorenson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Scott Fricke (Frika Properties) address the Council regarding continued concerns about property taxes. He stated, 'It's a knife to the heart of the city." He noted the Council needs to do something now and he would like to be involved. He would like to see a 20% decrease next year offsetting the 20% increase this year.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Scott Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness to approve the agenda.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 01.1.26: Approval of December 16, 2025 Council Proceedings

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced RESOLUTION 1.1.26, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council to approve the December 16, 2025 council proceedings.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

City of Thief River Falls Bills, Disbursements and Council Per Diems

Removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion by Councilmember Mike Lorenson.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 01.2.26: City of Thief River Falls Bills, Disbursements and Council Per Diems

Following discussion, Councilmember Steve Narverud introduced Resolution 1.2.26, being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council to approve the City of Thief River Falls Bills, Disbursements and Council per Diems.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.3.26: Approve the Northland Securities resolution establishing procedures relating to compliance with reimbursement bond regulations under the Internal Revenue Code.

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 1.3.26, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

WHEREAS, The reimbursement resolution, certification, and declaration of official intent relate to the City Hall Geothermal heating and cooling system updates and improvements. This allows the City to reimburse ourselves for certain costs of the project with the proceeds on the bond issue. The maximum principal amount would be up to $500,000.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to authorize the City Administrator to sign the Northland Securities resolution establishing procedures relating to compliance with reimbursement bond regulations under the Internal Revenue Code.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.4.26: Resolution Authorizing Issuance, Awarding Sale, Prescribing the Form and Details and Providing For The Payment of $260,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026A

Following discussion, Councilmember Steve Narverud introduced Resolution 1.4.26, being seconded by Councilmember Megan Arlt, that:

WHEREAS, The Council approved on November 18, 2025 the Plan, the issuance of CIP Bonds, and the Tax Abatement, and authorized issuance of it's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026A in the approximate principal amount of $260,000. The CIP Bonds will be issued in the principal amount of $101,000 and the Abatement Bonds will be issued in the principal amount of $159,000.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to approve authorizing the City Administrator to sign the resolution authorizing issuance, awarding sale, prescribing the form and details and providing for the payment of $260,000 general obligation bonds, series 2026A.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.5.26: Approve Electric Rate Increase

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 1.5.26,

being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve correction to Geothermal rates customer charge per month of $8.79 (2026), $9.08 (2027), $9.41 (2028), $9.75 (2029) and add Solar rate fixed monthly charge of $3.35 per kW over 3 kW.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.6.26: 517 Crocker Ave S - Buyer Update

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 1.6.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, Council approved the sale of the property on 10/7/2025. During closing it was requested the buyer's name be amended from Bray Construction - David Bray to 110th LLC.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve the amendment to purchase agreement for the buyer of 517 Crocker Ave S., Thief River Falls, MN.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.7.26: Reaffirming the City's Decision not to Waive the Monetary Limit of Municipal Tort Liability Established by MN Statute

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 1.7.26, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

WHEREAS, Because the City of Thief River Falls obtains it liability coverage from the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, the City must decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council to reaffirm and inform the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust that the City of Thief River Falls does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statute 466.04 and authorizes the City Administrator to execute any and all documents relating to the action.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.8.26: Approval of Appointment of Councilmember Steve Narverud as Acting Mayor in Absence of Mayor Lorenson for Calendar year 2026

Following discussion, Councilmember Jason Aarestad introduced Resolution 1.8.26, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the City Council, to appoint Councilmember Steve Narverud as the acting mayor in the absence of Mayor Lorenson for calendar year 2026.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.9.26: Approval to Designate *The Times Newspaper* as the Official Newspaper

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 1.9.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the City Council, to designate *The Times* as the official newspaper of the City of Thief River Falls for calendar year 2026.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.10.26: Approval of Northern State Bank Collateral in Excess of FDIC Insurance for 2026

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 1.10.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, to authorize the City Administrator to execute any and all documents necessary relating to this agreement

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the City Council, to approve an agreement with Northern State Bank for collateral in excess of the FCIA Insurance of $250,000 per account for 2026.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.11.26: Approval of City Council Committee Assignments for Calendar Year 2026

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 1.11.26, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

WHEREAS, By the City Council, to appoint the following City Council Committees and Committee Members for calendar year 2026:

Functional Standing Committees

Utilities
McCraw*
Lorenson
Langness
Pream

Public Works
Narverud*
Pream
McCraw
Julie Bolduc

Public Safety/Liquor
Aarestad*
Narverud
Arlt
Julie Bolduc

Administrative Services
Lorenson*
Langness
Arlt
Aarestad

*Designates Committee Chair

Crosscutting Ad Hoc Committees

Budget/Finance (ad hoc)
Steve Narverud
Mike Lorenson
Michele McCraw

Long Range Planning/Annexation (ad hoc)
Mike Lorenson
Michele McCraw
Steve Narverud

Personnel/Labor (ad hoc)
Steve Narverud
Mike Lorenson
Jason Aarestad

Strategic Planning Workgroup
Michele McCraw
Angela Philipp
Mike Lorenson
Steve Narverud

Building Workgroup
Jason Aarestad
Steve Narverud
Mike Lorenson

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.12.26: Approval of "Schedule of Council Member Meetings" Authorized to Charge a Per Diem

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 1.12.26, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, to approve the following "Schedule of Council Member Meetings" list as meetings authorized to charge a per diem of attending on behalf of the City of Thief River Falls:

Schedule of Council Member Meetings
Administrative Services Committee
Airport Zoning Board
Airport Authority Commission
Budget/Finance Ad Hoc Committee
Building Workgroup
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities
Employee Safety Committee
Community Development Advisory Board
Community Education Advisory Board
Convention and Visitors Bureau Board
Advance TRF
Joint City/County Meetings
League of Minnesota Cities
Legislative Lobbying Meetings

Long Range Planning/Annexation Ad Hoc Committee
MEC Joint Powers Board
Northwest Regional Development Commission
Northwest Regional Library Board
Pennington County Solid Waste Committee
Personnel/Labor Ad Hoc Committee
Planning Commission
Public Safety/Liquor Committee
Public Utilities Committee
Red Lake River Corridor Joint Board
Strategic Planning Workgroup
TRF Area Community Fund Advisory Committee
TRF Chamber of Commerce
TRF Day at the Capitol
TRF Library Board
Tri-Cities Joint Meeting
Bike Thief River Falls
Pennington County Historical Society

Also including, any of Committees that are established by the City Council or appointments made or meetings attended while representing the City of Thief River Falls.

Per diem shall be paid retroactively each month upon submission of documentation approved by the City Administrator.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.13.26: Approval of Official Depositories for City Funds

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 1.13.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the City Council, to appoint the following institutions as official depositories for City funds for calendar year 2026:

Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund
c/o PMA Financial Network, Inc.
2135 City Gate Lane 7th Floor
Naperville, IL 60563

Wells Fargo Advisors LLC
222 West Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802

RBA Capital Markets LLC
60 South Sixth St.
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Border Bank
1528 Highway 59 S.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Northern State Bank
201 Third St. E.
Thief River Falls MN 56701

Wells Fargo Bank West, NA
208 Main Ave N.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Piper Jaffray
800 Nicollet Mall, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55402-7020

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.14.26: 2026 Mileage and Meal Reimbursement

Following discussion, Councilmember Kelly Langness introduced Resolution 1.14.26, being seconded by Councilmember Megan Arlt, that:

WHEREAS, The 2026 Government Services Administration meals reimbursement schedule for reimbursement for travel outside of Pennington County is meals would be reimbursed at $22.00 for Breakfast, $23.00 for lunch and $36.00 for dinner. No reimbursement on alcohol or tips. The City of Thief River Falls has in the past followed the federal reimbursement rate for mileage and in 2026 is 72.5 cents per mile.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To adopt the Northern Minnesota (Duluth) meal reimbursement schedule and the 2026 federal mileage rate as on file in the City Administrator's Office.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.15.26: Approval to Write-off Falls Liquor Store NSF Checks

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 1.15.26, being seconded by Councilmember Megan Arlt, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the City Council, to accept a Public Safety/Liquor Committee recommendation to write off Falls Liquor Store NSF checks totaling $77.29 to bad debt expense. Efforts will continue to collect on the outstanding accounts.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01.16.26: Reappoint Chad Broadwell to Community Development Advisory Board

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 1.16.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, Chad's current term expires on 1/31/2026 and he has agreed to serve another term. This is a three-year term.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Reappoint Chad Broadwell to the Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB).

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Public Utilities Committee 1/12 at 7:00 am
- Public Safety Committee 1/12 at 4:30 pm
- Administrative Committee 1/13 at 4:30 pm
- Public Works Committee 1/14 at 4:30 pm
- City Council 1/20 at 5:30 pm
- Committee of the Whole 1/20 following City Council

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Mayoral Update
- City Offices will be closed January 19, 2026 for Martin Luther King Day. No garbage pickup.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember Langness to adjourn at 6:20 pm. On vote being taken, the chair declared the motion unanimously carried.

_____ Mayor Mike Lorenson

Attest: City Administrator Angela Philipp _____