

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting is officially called to order at 5:30 pm on March 17, 2026. This meeting is being presided over by Mayor Mike Lorenson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC FORUM

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember McCraw to approve the agenda.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 03.56.26: Approve City of Thief River Falls Bills and Disbursements

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced RESOLUTION 03.56.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve March 3, 2026 Council Proceedings.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 03.57.26: Approval of March 3, 2026 Council Proceedings

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Michelle McCraw introduced RESOLUTION 03.57.26, 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 \$662,090.55. 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. 03.58.26: Authorize the advertising of filling an additional position for Police Officer

Following discussion, Councilmember Megan Arlt introduced Resolution 03.58.26, being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream, that:

WHEREAS, This was brought up for discussion in budget meetings and will be filled with a September start date.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To authorize the advertising of filling the position of Patrol Officer. This position would be the 17th officer. The position is a LELS Union Grade Level 6 non-exempt position. The Patrol Officer vacancy will be opened to the public for filling.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 03.59.26: Approve promotion of Patrol Officer Jamison Steer to Sergeant

Following discussion, Councilmember Julie Bolduc introduced Resolution 03.59.26, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

WHEREAS, As a result of the retirement of Sergeant Chuck Lindgren, we put out an internal application process to fill his position. Through this process and the interviews, we would like to proceed with the promotion of Patrol Officer Jamison Steer to Sergeant. His position will become effective immediately following the council's decision on the above date.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve the promotion of Patrol Officer Jamison Steer to Sergeant.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 03.60.26: Approval of TRF Police Department to purchase 2021 Chevy Traverse Investigator squad, including the upfitting of Emergency Vehicle equipment.

Following discussion, Councilmember Kelly Langness introduced Resolution 03.60.26, being seconded by Councilmember Megan Arlt, that:

WHEREAS, This purchase request was submitted to the safety committee. This vehicle will be the primary vehicle for the General Investigator. This will be an unmarked vehicle with a covert emergency lights and siren package.

WHEREAS, The current vehicle being used by the general investigator is a jeep Cherokee co-owned by the Thief River Falls Police Department and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office. The current Jeep is a task force vehicle and will be reassigned to the new task force officer at the end of 2026, leaving us without a viable option for the investigator.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approval of TRF Police Department to purchase the 2021 Chevy Traverse and upfitting for \$30,000.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 03.61.26: Approve the Establishment of the City of Thief River Falls Adopt-a-Garden Program

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 03.61.26, being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream, that:

WHEREAS, The City of Thief River Falls maintains numerous flower beds, planters, and landscaped public areas that contribute to the visual appeal, environmental quality and community identity of the City. The proposed Adopt-a-Garden program invites residents, families, organizations, schools, and businesses to voluntarily plant and maintain designated public garden sites under City oversight, using City-provided plant materials and following approved maintenance standards.

WHEREAS, The program would not confer a private benefit to participants, as all work performed is on public land for public use and enjoyment, and optional recognition signage will be non-advertising in nature.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to approve the establishment of the City of Thief River Falls Adopt-a-Garden Program to promote civic pride, support seasonal maintenance and enhance overall beautification of municipal properties.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 03.62.26: Approve the increase of excess liability coverage to the LMCIT Insurance Policy

Following discussion, Councilmember Jason Aarestad introduced Resolution 03.62.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, Excess liability insurance covers damages that exceed the statutory caps on municipal tort liability. The increase allows the city of Thief River Falls to manage our risk effectively and maintain public services without the threat of overwhelming financial liabilities in the event of a claim. Currently, the city carries \$1 million in excess liability coverage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED authorize the City Administrator to work with North Risk Partners to increase option coverage on excess liability offered on our League of Minnesota Cities insurance policy to \$2 million.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

Mayor Lorenson noted calendar parking has ended effective March 15, 2026 however, a snow emergency can be declared if there are snow removal needs from additional snow fall. Steve thanked the Public Works crew for their cleanup efforts after the last snow event.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- City/County/School Joint Meeting 3/30 at 6 pm HWY Joint Use Facility
- City Council 4/7 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers
- Planning Commission 4/8 at 5 pm in Council Chambers
- Public Utility Committee 4/13 at 7 am in Room 101
- Public Safety Committee 4/13 at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- Administrative Committee 4/14 at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- Public Works Committee 4/15 at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- City Council 4/21 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Investment Summary
- City offices closed Friday, April 3 (Good Friday). No garbage pickup.
- Mayoral Update
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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember Langness to adjourn at 5:48 pm. On vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion unanimously carried.

_____ Mayor Mike Lorenson

Attest: Angela Philipp, City Administrator _____