

City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting is officially called to order at 5:30 pm on April 7, 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

Bjorn Solberg (Halstad) introduced himself to the council. He is the Senate District 1 Candidate and noted he is visiting towns in the district to learn more about the areas, challenges and progress being made.

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Zehlians - Flower Baskets

Carol Ihle, Pauline Gustafson and Faye Aughenbaugh (representing The Zehlians) addressed the council with an update on the hanging baskets.

- They noted they will be hanging 125 baskets this year (5 more than before) and have purchased new posts and hanging brackets. The new planters are 24" post with liners and water reservoirs that hold over a gallon of water with wick strips to help keep flowers watered longer; hoping to decrease the amount of time volunteers need to water during the week. The new pots have been delivered to Honkerflats who will plant three bunches of flowers in each planter and delivering to the Electrical Building around the end of May. The group hopes to start hanging the pots June 1. The Electrical Department will assist in hanging the baskets on light poles.
- Carol noted the Hartz Foundations generously funded a grant to purchase a new UTV from Arctic Cat.
- They will be looking at adding additional hanging locations around town including 1st street.
- The group noted they are looking for volunteers to help water the pots throughout the summer season.
- The group noted donation/sponsorship forms are available for pickup

Proclamation - National Public Health Week

Mayor Lorenson proclaimed this week to be National Public Health Week in Thief River Falls.

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Scott Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember Jason Aarestad to

approve the agenda.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 04.63.26: Approval of March 17, 2026 Council Proceedings

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Steve Narverud introduced RESOLUTION 04.63.26, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to approve the March 17, 2026 Council Proceedings.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 04.64.26: City of Thief River Falls Bills, Disbursements and Council Per Diems

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Steve Narverud introduced RESOLUTION 04.64.26, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, to authorize payment of bills and disbursements in th total amount of \$2,246,701.64 and Council Per Diem in the total amount of \$455.00. 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. 04.65.26: Parallel Parking Limits on 158th St from Kendall Ave to Hanson Drive

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 04.65.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, The County of Pennington has submitted to the Commissioner of Transportation the plans and specifications for the improvement of 158th Street from Kendall Avenue to Hanson Drive.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to approve the requirement that parking of all vehicles within the corporate limits of 158th St, State Aide Route No. 11, be parallel with the curb in accordance with the State Aid Standards.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 04.66.26: Approve promotion of School Resource Officer (SRO) Dusty Arlt to Juvenile Investigator

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 04.66.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, As a result of the opening of our Juvenile Investigator position at the end of 2025 we put out an internal application process to fill this position. Through the process of interviews we would like to proceed with the promotion of SRO Dusty Arlt to Juvenile Investigator. This position will be effective immediately following the councils decision on the above date. Please note that SRO Dusty Arlt will still fulfill the SRO duties until the end of the school year of 2026. If approved we will start the internal process of finding our next SRO.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve the promotion of SRO Dusty Arlt to Juvenile Investigator.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 04.67.26: Plastic Refuse Bags

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 04.67.26, being seconded by Councilmember Michele McCraw, that:

WHEREAS, The city of Thief River Falls purchases plastic refuse bags on an annual basis for distribution to the residents of the city. The city has historically used black garbage bags with "TRF" printed on them to indicate they are a sanitation customer of the City. Revolution Materials is the lowest bid and has supplied the city with sanitation bids since 2012. Bag features remain the same as the previous two years of 1.3 mil thickness with white printed "TRF" lettering, flat seal and no ties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve the purchase of plastic refuse bags from Revolution Materials, Inc. in the amount of \$39,441.25.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 04.68.26: 2026 Street and Utilities Improvements

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 04.68.26 , being seconded by Councilmember Jason Aarestad, that:

WHEREAS, Approving plans and specifications and calling for bids at the April 07th council meeting will allow for the state aid review and advertising time required for an anticipated project to be constructed in 2026.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Adopt a Resolution approving Plans and Specifications and Calling for Bids on the 2026 Street and Utilities Improvements as follows:

Federal Funded

- ☐ New storm sewer on 6th St. from RR tracks to Barzen Ave., replace storm sewer

and Curb and Gutter on Brooks Ave. from east entrance at REA to 6th St. storm sewer, reclamation and reconstruction of base, 4" bituminous surface, Curb and Gutter replacement, sidewalk replacement, turf establishment.

- ☐ Barzen multi-use trail includes road reconstruction on 1st street west of Barzen Ave. includes Storm sewer realignment, pedestrian ramps, mailbox relocation, tree removal, and turf establishment.
- ☐ Streetlamp LED replacement

The Estimated total project costs is \$2,420,692.35.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

- Mike asked when spring leaf pickup will begin. Steve and Travis noted its weather permitting, same with street sweeper. Travis noted spring leaf pickup is traditionally the 1st & 2nd week of May. The snow must be gone or it will be pushed to 2nd & 3rd week.
- Travis encouraged those that live by storm drains to help clear ice to help water move faster
- Julie noted the Public Works team did a great job this winter with snow removal and thanked them.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Planning Commission 4/8 at 5 pm - Council Chambers
- State of the City Address 4/10 at 11 am - Council Chambers (recorded)
- Public Utilities Committee 4/13 at 7 am - Room 101
- Public Safety Committee 4/13 at 4:30 pm - Room 101
- Administrative Committee 4/14 at 4:30 pm - Room 101
- Public Works Committee 4/15 at 4:30 pm - Room 101
- City Council 4/21 @5:30 pm - Council Chambers_

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Pennington County Clean Up Day May 2 from 8 am - 12 pm. Visit City website for more details or call 681-7312.
- Mayoral Update_

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember Langness to adjourn at 6:17 pm. On vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion unanimously carried.

_____ Mayor Mike Lorenson

Attest: City Administrator Angela Philipp _____