CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, May 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

Rhonda Lofberg (from Sister Sister Salon) addressed the council with concerns regarding garbage that gets blown into her yard and the river from the bins in the Hugo's parking lot. She requested the council to look into solutions as it's a nuisance to her and an eyesore for the community.

Bruce Holte (Rental property owner) asked about short-term rental public hearing. Council responded that will be held May 6th at the Planning& Zoning meeting at 5 pm in Council Chambers.

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Michele McCraw motioned being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream approved the agenda with the time correction to the Utility Committee meeting in the *Upcoming Meeting* section.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 05.88.26: Approval of April 21, 2026 Council Proceedings

Present as part of the Consent Agenda for discussion, Councilmember Steve Narverud, introduced Resolution 05.88.26, being seconded by Councilmember Julie Bolduc, that:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council to approve the 4/21/26 council proceedings.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 05.89.26: Approve Bills, Disbursements and Council Per Diems

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda for discussion, Councilmember Steve Narverud, introduced Resolution 05.89.26, being seconded by Councilmember Julie Bolduc, that:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council to authorize payment of bills and disbursements in the total amount of $502,185.64 and council per diems in the total amount of $910. A printout of the approve payments and disbursements are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

On vote being taken, the resolution passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 05.90.26 First Reading - Food Truck Ordinance

Councilmember Jason Aarestad, introduced Resolution 05.90.26 to table the First Reading of Food Truck Ordinance to a Committee of the Whole session, being seconded by Councilmember Julie Bolduc.

On vote being taken, the resolution passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 05.91.26: Trunk Highway #59 Corridor between 1st Street, south to 158th Street (city limits)

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 5.91.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, The City of Thief River Falls previously funded a preliminary corridor study of this section of town to review potential improvement areas for future construction. Based on feedback from that study, it was recommended that a more detailed study be conducted to identify specific design improvements with participation of MNDOT, as well as the residents of Thief River Falls, Mn. The original resolutions with HDR is 9.217.23, and 9.216.23with MNDOT occurred on 9/19/2023. A contract extension was approved in 2025 that included the City Financial commitment of an additional $3,473.16. The requested RCA will impact the City’s financial responsibilities on additional $3,280.73. The additional time resulted in community response requesting an additional roundabout be placed into the design for greater accessibility to businesses. The additional time will also include an updated video modeling output that will be used to build project awareness until the project is scheduled for construction.

WHEREAS, An additional agreement will be signed between the City of Thief River Falls and HDR Engineering. The contract with MNDOT and the City would be to continue to share 90% financial responsibility on MNDOT, and the remaining 10%, to the City of Thief River Falls. The anticipated additional cost share to the city would be an additional approximately $3,280.73. The additional cost of the total contract with HDR engineering is $32,807.29.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To allow the City Administrator to approve a Contract agreement extension with HDR engineering for final completion of a corridor study concerning and future improvements with roadway infrastructure on Trunk

Highway #59 Corridor between 1st Street, south to 158th Street (city limits), as well as an additional contract extension with MNDOT to receive reimbursement costs for financial commitments on their behalf.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 05.92.26: Amend Resolution No. 04.86.26 dated 4/21/2026

Following discussion, Councilmember Megan Arlt introduced Resolution 5.92.26, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

WHEREAS, Mayor Mike Lorenson verbally requested, via an added addendum item after the Council meeting began on April 21, 2026, for the Council to approve sending a 30-day written notice to Oak View Group on fails to perform or comply with any of the material terms, covenants, agreements or conditions of their contract.

WHEREAS, Councilmember Megan Arlt noted the work group has concerns that the management team hired to manage the Ralph (Oak View Group) is under performing in their contractual agreement with the City.

1. **Event Execution - High-Impact Event Failures** During events on or about March 27 and March 28, 2026, OVG failed to meet operational expectations:
   - Concessions inadequately prepared
   - Advertised items unavailable
   - Staff professionalism inconsistent
2. **Box Office Operations -** On March 13, 2026, the box office was not staffed, resulting in approximately one hour wait for tickets
3. **Facility Access -** On April 12, 2025, no staff were present to open the facility; a City Council member had to open the arena
4. **Contract Administration -** In January 2026, an inappropriate contract template was sent to a prospective partner, negatively impacting relationships

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to submit a 30-day written notice to Oak View Group listing such failures with ability to remedy in 30 days. If such failures cannot reasonably be cured within 30 days, then a longer period of time of up to 90 days shall be provided.

On vote being taken, the resolution was passed. Councilmember Scott Pream voted nay.

COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

- Steve noted leaf vac will begin this week. Reminder to not park vehicles in front of piles and to keep piles as close to curb as possible without being on the road.
- Mike and Steve thanks Les' Sanitation for the Spring Cleanup operation and STS for

their assistance during the event. They noted the day went well and served over 260 vehicles.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- May 6 - Planning & Zoning Commission at 5 pm Council Chambers
- May 7 - Agassiz Wildlife Refuge Tour
- May 11 - Public Utility Committee at 7:00 am Room 101
- May 11 - Public Safety Committee at 4:30 pm Room 101
- May 12 - Administrative Committee at 4:30 pm Room 101
- May 13 - Public Works Committee at 4:30 pm Room 101
- May 19 - City Council Meeting at 5:30 pm Council Chambers

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- City offices will be closed May 25 for Memorial Day. There will be no garbage pickup.
- City Hall offices begin summer hours week of May 25.
    - M-Th 7am - 4:30 pm
    - F 7 am - noon
- Reminder to community groups and business - add your upcoming summer events to Community Voice

- Mayoral Update

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream motioned being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness to adjourn at 5:57 pm. On vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion unanimously carried.

____________________________________ Mayor Mike Lorenson

Attest: City Administrator, Angela Philip ____