

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINTUES**

**Tuesday, June 16, 2026**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

This meeting is officially called to order at 5:30 pm on June 16, 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**

- Ryan Schartz (611 Riverside Ave, TRF) - addressed the council with concerns for the safety of his wife and daughter as well as the neighborhood with the proposed location of the cannabis business in the old DQ building. He noted the area is used by children and is staple of our community and the council needs to stop "the madness."
- Ken Asp (524 Duluth Ave S) - addressed the council with similar concerns regarding safety for surrounding amenities used frequently by children. He said the council created an ordinance that was intentional and less restrictive. He said if the city wanted to protect the park they would've followed state statute.
- Rod Shand (Fargo, ND) - Rod noted concerns with the dispensary as he's currently building a home in TRF and is worried about its location. He noted it starts with weed then continues to other drugs. He noted when it becomes a problem, the city will need more money and police officers. He asked if the council is looking at the welfare of the community or just the economics.
- Brittany Liedberg (521 Arnold Ave S) - Brittany addressed the council asking whether the location was chosen with the best intentions with our community in mind. She noted the neighborhood has seen a significant reinvestment by homeowners. She noted these homeowners were not given a chance to voice concerns as limited people received notice of the rezoning. What concerns her the most is pedestrian safety; she noted (with pictures) the crosswalks that are not visible anymore and desperately need new paint.
- Krin Dargus (515 Arnold Ave S) - recently purchased and remodeled the home in this neighborhood. She noted she's a NP and has seen the affects of narcotics and noted the problem starts somewhere. Her grandchildren live in the same neighborhood and asked the Council "we cannot do better than this?" She noted there are several other places in town that this dispensary could go.
- Carol Krogstad (517 Riverside S) - Carol has lived in her home for a long time and raised her children here and never had to worry about "shop that would sell marijuana out grandma's backdoor." She urged the council to find a way to not have this happen; she noted there are empty buildings all over where this can go.
- After the public forum, Mayor Lorenson noted he'd like an emergency Planning and Zoning meeting next week to discuss this further.

### **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Jamie Bakken - Pioneer Village Addition**

Jamie Bakken (Pioneer Village) reviewed plans for an addition at Pioneer Village to store the Arctic Cat memorabilia on display. She noted the new building will take design inspiration from the original Arctic Cat building that burned down in the 80's. The new building will be 5000 square feet and has currently raised \$48,000. Although there is not a definitive timeline, Jamie is actively seeking donations, holding fundraisers and talking with architects and City reps during the planning process.

## **APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Jason Aarestad motioned being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream to approve the agenda with the addition of addendum 8.14.

ON vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 06.114.26: Approval of June 2, 2026 Council Proceedings**

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced RESOLUTION 06.114.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council to approve the June 2, 2026 Council Proceedings.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 06.115.26: City of Thief River Falls Bills and Disbursements**

Presented as part of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced RESOLUTION 06.115.26, 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 \$766,531.87. 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. 06.116.26: Assistant Fire Chief - Anthony Horachek**

Following discussion, Councilmember Jason Aarestad introduced Resolution 06.116.26, being seconded by Councilmember Megan Arlt, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, approve the hiring of Anthony Horachek in the Assistant Fire Chief position effective June 17, 2026. Mr. Horachek's starting wage would be \$38.19 per hour. This is Grade 7, step 1.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.117.26: ESG Contract Discussion and Approval- Gavin

Following discussion, Councilmember Julie Bolduc, introduced Resolution 06.117.26, being seconded by Councilmember Scott Pream to table Agenda item 8.2 to the July 7, 2026 Council meeting.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.118.26: Approve special duty of the School Resource Officer (SRO) to Patrol Officer Tiffany Tureson

Following discussion, Councilmember Megan Arlt introduced Resolution 06.118.26, being seconded by Councilmember Julie Bolduc, that:

WHEREAS, As a result of the opening of our Juvenile Investigator position at the end 2025, SRO Dusty Arlt was promoted to the Juvenile Investigator Position in early 2026. This left us with no SRO in the school district for the starting school year of 2026-2027. In May 2026, we held an internal process to fill this position. Patrol Officer Tiffany Tureson was approved to fill the SRO position starting the school year of 2026-2027.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve the special duty of SRO to Patrol Officer Tiffany Tureson.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.119.26: Extending the existing Building Official Contract to December 31, 2026

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 06.119.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, During contract negotiations it was recommended to extend our existing contract due to the proposed changes in the new contract. This would allow the new contract to start with a new budget year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED approve the extension of the Building Official contract that was set to expire June 30, 2026 to the end of the year December 31, 2026.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.120.26: Approving a 3-year Building Official contract effective January 1, 2027

Following discussion, Councilmember Julie Bolduc tabled Resolution 06.120.26, being seconded by Councilmember Jason Aarestad.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.121.26: Special Legal Counsel Report Regarding Oak View Group Management Agreement (Flaherty & Hood via Teams)

Following discussion, Councilmember Steve Narverud introduced Resolution 06.121.26, being seconded by Councilmember Jason Aarestad, that:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED direct the City's special legal counsel to draft a superseding notice to Oak View Group clarifying the City's concerns with and expectations for OVG's performance under the Management Agreement.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.122.26: First Reading - Deer Management Ordinance

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 06.122.26, being seconded by Councilmember Julie Bolduc, that:

WHEREAS, The purpose of this section is to discourage high white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) densities in the City. The deer population in the City has likely exceeded natural or pre-settlement deer densities as natural predators have been displaced from the City and there are few natural restrictions on the deer population. High deer densities pose a hazard to motorists, cause a reduction in natural plant life and habitat for other animals and cause damage to landscaping installed by residents and commercial landowners. The feeding of deer in the City has been shown to attract deer in residential areas causing increased damage to vegetation and landscaping to neighboring properties. High deer densities also contribute to the spread of chronic diseases among deer populations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To conduct a First Reading summary to adopt a Deer Management ordinance for the City of Thief River Falls.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed. Nathan Haase read the first reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.123.26: First Reading - Food Truck Ordinance

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 06.123.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, This ordinance is for the purpose of authorizing the city to permit mobile business/food carts and mobile business/food vehicles for four (4) designated spots within park parking lots. This does not regulate locations on private property. However does prohibit some locations within the city.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To conduct a First Reading summary to adopt a Mobile Food Cart or Mobile Food Vehicle Ordinance for the City of Thief River Falls.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed. Nathan Haase read the first reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.124.26: Snowbird Policy

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 06.124.26, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness , that:

WHEREAS, Residents leave for the winter months (Snowbirds) usually September through May and are not currently charged based rates for water, sewer and sanitation. The following Snowbird Policy is recommended:

Residents planning on leaving for the winter should contact the Utility Billing office to make them aware and to leave any local contact information in case of an emergency.

1. Starting September 1, 2026, the monthly base charges will continue to be applied to monthly bills for Water, Sewer and Sanitation after services have been temporarily turned off.
2. The City Water Dept. can shut off water at the curb stop for a fee of \$50.
3. If the water is shut off in the street, then the house must be inspected by City personnel to verify the water is off.
4. Garbage bags will no longer be reduced for Snowbirds.

WHEREAS, Base charges are billed to offset infrastructure costs related to those Departments. Notification of the new Snowbird Policy will be noted on utility bills prior to September 2026.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To approve revisions to the City of Thief River Falls Snowbird Policy.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.125.26: Vulnerability Management

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 06.125.26, being seconded by Councilmember Megan Arlt, that:

WHEREAS, As our IT environment grows more complex and cyber threats continue to increase, the city needs a modern, comprehensive vulnerability management solution that provides continuous visibility, advanced threat intelligence, and centralized reporting.

Vulnerability Management offers cloud based, enterprise level scanning and risk prioritization across on premises, cloud, and mobile environments, providing capabilities that our existing tools do not currently deliver.

WHEREAS, 1. Continuous, Real Time Visibility-Provides unified, always on visibility across all City assets, helping eliminate blind spots.

2. Risk Based Prioritization-Uses built in threat intelligence and data science to identify which vulnerabilities present the greatest risk and should be addressed first.
3. Improved Productivity and Reporting-SLA tracking, dashboards, and automated reporting streamline IT operations and improve clarity for leadership.
4. Broad Asset and Scan Coverage-Utilizes agents, scanners, cloud connectors, and passive monitoring to accurately detect vulnerabilities across all device types and environments.
5. AI Aware Security Monitoring-Identifies unauthorized AI usage and AI related vulnerabilities, a growing cybersecurity concern.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve the purchase of Vulnerability Management for the City of Thief River Falls to strengthen the City's cybersecurity posture and improve vulnerability detection, prioritization, and remediation.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.126.26: Approve the first amendment to the Sensus software as a service agreement

Following discussion, Councilmember Michele McCraw introduced Resolution 06.126.26, being seconded by Councilmember Megan Arlt, that:

WHEREAS, On February 17th, 2026 the Thief River Falls Council approved the removal of the Harris Smartworks software from our current process for reading and calculating utility bills. Sensus has to recreate the reading file to be sent to Tyler Technologies instead of Harris Smartworks. This Analytic software is a managed service in which Sensus will be responsible for the monitoring, maintenance, management and supporting water meter files.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City of Thief River Falls utilizing the Sensus Analytics software and Xylem Data Lake to monitor and maintain the water department meter files.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 06.127.26: 2026 Water Treatment Plant PAC and Raw Water Intake Improvements

Following discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream introduced Resolution 06.127.26, being seconded by Councilmember Steve Narverud, that:

WHEREAS, The City of Thief River Falls Water Systems Department has had the PAC and Intake rehabilitation projects in the CIP for several years. The Raw Water Intake was last upgraded in 1972, and the PAC feed room in 1983.

WHEREAS, Currently, the WTP receives Powder Activated Carbon in 50# bags, which are getting difficult to get bids on. The new system will accommodate the industry standard one ton super sacks. The Raw Water Intake pumps are Jacuzzi brand that are no longer manufactured or supported, and the ventilation system is also outdated and inoperable. There is asbestos insulation on the interior walls that is deteriorating and

need to be abated. The new electrical controls will be moved to an above ground precast building next to the intake structure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Approve Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services recommendation to award the lowest responsible bid to American General Contractors INC for the 2026 Water Treatment Plant Improvement projects in the amount of \$1,958,916.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 06.128.26: Federal Force Account Participation in Force Account**

Following discussion, Councilmember Steve Narverud introduced Resolution 06.128.26, being seconded by Councilmember Julie Bolduc, that:

WHEREAS, A carbon reduction grant was awarded to the City of Thief River Falls for \$135,000 in the fiscal year 2026, and the ability to participate in the force account would maximize the impact of the funds received by the City.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED To authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agency agreement with the State of Minnesota to participate in Federal Force Account Participation allowing the City to be reimbursed for installation of LED street light heads.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 06.129.26: Accept Resignation of LeeAnn Nelson from the Planning and Zoning Commission**

Following discussion, Councilmember Kelly Langness introduced Resolution 06.129.26, being seconded by Councilmember Megan Arlt, that:

WHEREAS, Leann Nelson has served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for 21 years. Due to the recent change in the meeting schedule from Tuesday to Wednesdays, LeeAnn is no longer able to attend meetings consistently.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Accept the resignation of LeeAnn Nelson from the Planning and Zoning Commission and to have the Mayor appoint a replacement to finish Leann's term which expires on January 31, 2028.

On vote being taken, the resolution was unanimously passed.

**COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- The Edge groundbreaking ceremony 6/17 at 12:30 pm
- 7/7 - City Council at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers

- 7/8 - Planning & Zoning at 5 pm in Council Chambers
- 7/13 - Public Utilities Committee at 7 am in Room 101
- 7/13 - Public Safety Committee at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- 7/14 - Administrative Committee at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- 7/15 - Public Works Committee at 4:30 pm in Room 101
- 7/21 - City Council at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- Investment Summary
- Mayoral Update
- Government buildings are closed 6/19/2026 for Juneteenth. No garbage pickup.
- Reminder - *LaFave Beach Bash* is June 25th from 5pm-9pm. Enjoy live music, food, games, vendors and more.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Councilmember Scott Pream motioned, being seconded by Councilmember Kelly Langness to adjourn at 7:52 pm. On vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion unanimously carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Mike Lorenson

Attest: Angela Philipp, City Administrator  
\_\_\_\_\_