

January 20, 2026

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Bobby Schmiedeberg called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. City Council members present: Pattijo Shablow, Tatum Carlson, Clarence Strom, Brian Undeberg. City employee present: Sandy Lund. Public presents were Ronnie Austad, Kittson County Enterprise reporter Anna Jauhola, Patti Krininger, Cindy Adams, North Star News reporter Krista Pietruszewski.

The pledge to the American flag was given.

The minutes were reviewed by council members prior to the meeting as presented in the city council packets. Undeberg made a motion, seconded by Carlson to approve the December 15, 2025, meeting. Approved with all members in favor.

The mayor asked for citizen concerns. Adams approached the council about having the first annual fish house festival. The event would include fish houses being brought in and parked on main street to be camped in for the night. Schmiedeberg stated that it would also be possible to have barrels available for fires. During the event, the museum plans to hold a vintage snowmobile show. Other possibilities would include having cornhole, the fire department or Lions serve a meal for dinner/supper, and maybe a DJ at the legion that night. Council members all expressed that it was a good idea. Adams also stated that Bronson Fest will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 2, 2026.

Krininger read a letter she had written to the council. Her concerns include her words at meetings being summarized and out of context, a peer citizens water meter and the management of that person's water meter replacement and water leak. Krininger believes water line was broken during water meter replacement as water appeared to be leaking only after replacement. Strom gave his statement on the event and details of situation while he changed the meter. Currently, it seems everything is working as it should with the new meter. Homeowner had leak repaired. Krininger wants the meter readings from the old and the new meter.

Schmiedeberg stated he feels the city should change the current city water policy to include protocol on water leaks. He feels that if there is a leak in a homeowner's pipes, it should be mandatory for the city to shut water off until the consumer gets the leak fixed.

Austad wanted to know why the council refused to pay the bill for the rocks he had put in front of his shop on West River Street in the ditch. Schmiedeberg explained that after discussing with mayor Rector, the mayor at the time of initial rock placement and Anderson Bros, it was reported that he was happy with the rock. The city paid for the first placement, which was accepted at the time. Within the 2 years, no complaints were reported, replacement was not discussed or approved by the council prior to being done. Austad feels he has helped the city, volunteered and done jobs for below cost saving the city money. He did not think it would be an issue to replace rock and submit bill.

With no further citizens' concerns, the council moved on to old business. Schmiedeberg said the trailer house on East Main Street was scheduled to be moved on January 16<sup>th</sup>, but Jon's Auto felt that it was too windy that day, and the insulation would blow off the trailer. Jon's auto also felt this week was too cold for such work and plan to move the trailer house next week in the warmer temperatures.

The council moved on to new business. Kittson Marshall Water 5% Rate Increase was discussed. After some discussion, the council increased the monthly residential water rates to \$54.16 and raised the monthly commercial water rate to \$60.00. This is reflected and approved in the appointments, fees and rates below.

The bulk water rates were discussed. A sign will be posted in the city shop that the minimum charge for bulk water will be \$10.00.

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The 2026 Appointments, Fees and Rates were discussed at length, Shablow made a motion, Strom seconded, to approve the appointments, fees and rates. Motion passed.

The Interim Financial Report was reviewed by the council. Carlson asked a question about the fire department expenses. Schmiedeberg and the clerk agreed that it was because the firemen went to 2 different training programs in 2025. Carlson made a motion, Undeberg seconded, to approve the Interim Report. The motion passed.

Worker's Compensation options were discussed. Mayor Schmiedeberg signed the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust paper to keep the worker's compensation the same as previous years.

All city council members filled out and signed the Disclosure of Financial Interests by a Public Official form and returned the form to the clerk.

The clerk requested that if the council members want their council paychecks directly deposited into their personal bank accounts, they will need to fill out the direct deposit form and return it to the clerk.

The council reviewed the 2026 Safety training schedule. Schmiedeberg noted that Lake Bronson is not on the list to host a meeting in 2026.

The clerk stated that council member Carlson helped pick out the new office computer tower and it cost \$727.80.

The clerk stated that the city received money from Small Cities Assist in the amount of \$3,429.00 and it will cover the cost of the snow pusher attachment for the loader.

Effective Jan1, 2026 MN Department of Health increased the yearly connection fee to \$15.22 per household for all Minnesotan's. The clerk sent out notices on last month's water billing and posted it in the city community center window.

Schmiedeberg said there was not much to report for maintenance other than the Christmas streetlight decorations have been taken down. Adams said there was a streetlight not working by Eschler's house. The clerk said she had reported it to Ottertail Power Company over a week ago.

Schmiedeberg said Wyatt Rudnik has applied to the fire department. Shablow made a motion, Strom seconded to approve the application. Motion passed.

The city claims were reviewed and approved on a motion by Shablow and seconded by Strom with all members in favor.

The fire department claims were reviewed and approved on a motion by Undeberg and seconded by Carlson with all members in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40pm on a motion by Strom and seconded by Shablow with all members in favor.

The next scheduled regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 17, at 5:30 pm.

Kringer gave the council a piece of paper that she had written up about what she talked about at the meeting.

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Sandra Lund, City Clerk