

May 18, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor B. Schmiedeberg called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. City Council members that were present were Pattijo Shablow, Clarence (Skip) Strom, Tatum Carlson and Brian Undeberg. Also present was city clerk Sandy Lund, Kittson County Enterprise reporter Anna Jauhola, North Star News reporter Krista Pietruszewski, Ronnie Austad

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. Carlson made a motion, seconded by Strom to approve the regular city council minutes of the April 20, 2026, meeting. All members were in favor.

The mayor asked for citizen comments.

Austad asked if letters have been sent to homeowners with messy yards, the council said not yet. Austad said it will become a problem soon. Austad also said there is actual trash in a yard by a house on Park Avenue and more trash at a house on River Street, both homes being owned by the same person. Austad thinks the council needs to send out letters for people to clean up their yards. Austad said the city put a meter on his property on River Street and he asked if the city would remove it when they shut the water off in the fall? Strom said he would. Austad said that the city needs to reinstall the meter in May of the following year and remove it again about September 30th.

Old business.

The pet clinic will be at the fire department on May 20th from 5pm to 7pm.

Mayor Schmiedeberg said a motion was omitted from last month's council meeting for the purchase of a fire vehicle. A motion was made by Strom, seconded by Carlson to purchase a 2006 Chevy pickup from the truck fund as well as a tank and fitting. All council members were in favor.

New business.

C. Strom volunteered to take the mosquito sprayer to Roseau to be calibrated. Strom was advised to buy 5 boxes of mosquito spray and mosquito pellets for ditches from when he has the sprayer calibrated. A new council meeting date schedule was given to the council to change the Nov. 2026 council meeting due to canvassing elections.

The clerk presented a building permit from Doug Turn requesting a permit to install a fence. The council will discuss this, and the mayor will find out exactly where the fence will be installed before the council will vote on approving it.

The clerks requested budget ideas from the council for the 2027 budget. She suggested new cameras because they are old and hard to find parts. Schmiedeberg gave reason for the city to buy a new sweeper, Undeberg asked if the city was looking at front wheel drive sweeper. Schmiedeberg said yes, because it is easier to get around poles and such on sidewalks. Schmiedeberg suggested barb wire fencing at the lagoon on the north side. Undeberg suggested garbage cans with tops for Main Street and the village square. Schmiedeberg suggested sprucing up the area at the north end of town where the new city sign will be placed and install lights and flagpoles. Shablow said the Lion's will help with the cost of this project.

The council discussed hiring a clerk to replace the current clerk when she retires. Carlson and Strom are on the employee committee, and they will conduct the interviews and report back to the council with their suggestions. If there is a conflict of interest with the interviewee, another council member will sit in for an interview. The last day to apply for the clerk position is June 15, 2026. Lund agreed to stay and train her replacement.

May 18, 2026

Strom made a motion, seconded by Undeberg with all members in favor, to set the new clerk with wages for between \$20.00 and \$25.00 per hour, depending upon experience, and they would work for 32 to 40 hours per week.

The maintenance report was given. Schmiedeberg said the plow pickup has been put away for the season, the loader is in the bus garage so the lawn mowers can be gone through for the summer season. The sweeper has been put in the gym. A curb stop broken behind the legion and Strom fixed it. Strom will talk to Mitch Hanson about trapping gophers at the lagoon. Schmiedeberg and Undeberg will put more gravel on the east end of West Main Street where a curb stop was dug up and repaired. Undeberg said there are overhang trees on West Main Street that need to be trimmed. Schmiedeberg will drive around and make a list and ask Ottertail to help trim some trees.

Council Roundtable. Schmiedeberg said that Wikstrom's and Todd's Electric were in to check what is wrong with the city siren. They had several issues and Ottertail will check what they found.

Schmiedeberg said the fire department burn off some of the city's ditches. They will be burning more if the wind settles down. Schmiedeberg said someone tried to hack (cyber-attack) into the city computer and the clerk contacted Wikstrom's for help, and the League of Minnesota city insurance and removed the computer from the office and had it sent to be analyzed and cleaned. The report came back that the computer that nothing was accessed from the compute. The insurance will reimburse the city the costs of this.

A motion made by Undeberg and seconded by Strom, to approve the city claims. All council members were in favor.

A motion made by Shablow and seconded by Carlson, to approve the city fire department claims. All council members were in favor.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:35pm on a motion by Undeberg and seconded by Strom with all members in favor.

The next scheduled regular City Council meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

Sandra Lund, City Clerk