

Regular City Council Meeting

February 23, 2026

7:00 p.m.

City Hall

Members present were Thomas, Mueller, Sorensen, Winter, and Heaser.

Members absent were none.

City staff and consultants in attendance were Elizabeth Jackson, Mark Rahrlick, Craig Helgeson, and Brandon Theobald.

Others attending were Tom Harris, Marie Sexton, Nick Goodnature, Mark Ristau, Michael Prondzinski, Rick Hager, Eric Finholdt, Greg Sanborn, Brad Hager, Darren Hagen, Tim Amberg, John Anhorn, Karen Jorgensen, and Tim Auringer.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Concerns/Request from the General Public/Organizations- Tom Harris presented a typed statement about his opinions on the public works building and fire hall.

Agenda – Add Owatonna connection under City Engineer, add revised fire hall proposal under Fire Department, add CSAH 12 trail under City Engineer, add Nelson Development under City Attorney. Motion by Mueller, seconded by Winter to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted aye for approval. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda – agenda items are approved by one motion unless a Council member requests separate action.

Approval of the January 26, 2026 regular meeting minutes and the February 17, 2026, special council meeting minutes.

Approval of the January and February city and liquor store bills.

Approval of the January check register numbers E6003-E6042, 18491-18532, and 53788-53871.

Motion by Winter, seconded by Sorensen, to approve the consent agenda as presented. All members voted aye for approval. Motion carried.

Zoning Board – did not meet.

EDA Board – did not meet.

Fire Department –

Chief Helgeson presented a monthly recap memo.

Medford Senior Care – Darren Hagen stated he had spoken with Medford Senior Care about concerns with a new fire hall.

Revised Fire Hall Plan – Council consensus was to allow the fire department to start designing a potential fire hall.

City Attorney –

Nelson Development – Attorney Rahrck stated the 5th Ave access is part of phase three in the developer’s agreement.

Oleson & Hobbie Architects –

Maintenance Facility Project Manual – Tim Auringer from Oleson & Hobbie Architects presented the project manual.

Design Schedule – Architect Auringer stated a tentative design schedule.

Resolution 2026-02 Approving Final Plans & Specifications for Medford Maintenance Facility and Authorizing Bidding – motion by Heaser, seconded by Winter to approve Resolution 2026-02. Thomas voted aye, Heaser voted aye, Sorensen voted aye, Winter voted aye, Mueller voted nay. Motion carried.

Advertisement for Bids – the bid advertisement will be published in the Steele County times and posted by Architect Auringer on Qwest CDN.

Rise Structural Engineering Agreement – this agreement was determined to not be necessary at this time.

City Engineer –

CSAH 12 Trail – Engineer Theobald gave an update on the CSAH 12 trail.

WWTP Connection Update – Engineer Theobald stated the City of Medford had begun pumping wastewater to the City of Owatonna.

Mayor – none.

City Administrator –

Public Works/General Update memo – Administrator Jackson presented a memo.

Overtime Language – Administrator Jackson presented information from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry defining overtime rules and language.

Regular City Council Meeting – March 23, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Mueller, seconded by Sorensen to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:11 p.m. All members voted aye for approval. Motion carried.

Minutes approved at _____ meeting.

Submitted by _____ City Clerk.

Signed by _____ Mayor.