



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Sutton, Caceres Aranda

Absent:

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk

MICROPHONE CHECK

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Greg Salyers, 3980 Lake Curve, inquired about the projected costs for the Sanborn Park project.

City Manager Sandvik noted the Parks Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) earmarks certain funds for this project and anticipated costs have been built into the CIP.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, MEETING AGENDA

City Clerk Peterson-Etem noted the addition of Other Business Item 11B, Voucher Disbursement Request.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the February 17, 2026, City Council agenda, as amended. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

- A. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2026, City Council Meeting Agenda, February 17, 2026, Page 2
- B. Approve City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2026
- C. Approve Special City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2026
- D. Hennepin County Grant for Community Gardens
- E. Recommendation for Charter Commission Reappointment
- F. Investment Report
- G. Bond Reimbursement Resolution

- H. Quarterly Financial Information for General, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Solid Waste
- I. Approval of Licenses
- J. Approve Purchase of Solar Trail Lights and Poles
- K. Reappointment of Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner to the Shingle Creek Watershed Commission
- L. Firefighter Forcible Entry Training Prop
- M. Hennepin County IGNITE Grant
- N. Appoint Council Member Greenberg and Council Member Caceres Aranda (alternate) to the Blue Line LRT Coordinator Management Committee (CMC)

PRESENTATIONS

- A. None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consider an Ordinance Adding New Language Relating to Administration and Employee Authority in Immigration Matters

City Manager Sandvik provided an overview of the item, detailed the history of conversations pertaining to the item, discussed Staff concerns, and discussed expectations of the Council moving forward.

Member Greenberg expressed gratitude towards the Staff for their work in sharing resources with the community. He highlighted his belief in City Staffing not being utilized to carry out immigration activity and noted that this is the majority of feedback received from residents. Member Greenberg discussed what was previously noted in the work session and shared concerns about the new Ordinance language and timeline. Therefore, he made a suggestion to remove the additional language and focus on the original draft language of the Separation Ordinance, and move it to be an Emergency Ordinance so it would go into effect on March 17.

Member Caceres Aranda asked for clarification from Member Greenberg on what he is proposing.

Member Greenberg stated clarified that he would like to move the entire conversation to an Emergency Ordinance focused on the original draft language that the Council received. He reiterated concern from Staff regarding the new language they received, but is still open to further conversation about it.

Member Parisian asked what Member Greenberg thinks about the amendments, and whether Member Greenberg is risk-averse enough to remove them. Member Greenberg stated the feedback expressing concern from the Staff and the residents' concerns not aligning with what the amendments address. He continued that he

doesn't think amendments are inherently bad, but they are not his focus, and noted they do not need to happen immediately.

Member Parisian voiced support for keeping the amendments in and shared why she feels the amendments are important. She noted that litigation risk alone should not deter the City from adopting policies that protect constitutional values.

Member Greenberg commented on the importance of listening to feedback from community members and noted that he had not heard the concerns addressed in the amendments from residents. He then highlighted the difference in timelines by adding the amendments.

Member Blackledge thanked the Staff for their time in creating the original draft and amendments. He voiced support for keeping the amendments as he views them as a way to intentionally support the community and potentially address concerns that haven't yet been raised.

Member Greenberg asked if Member Blackledge would be open to additional amendments.

Member Blackledge noted that he views the amendments as an extra layer of protection to ensure the City is not utilized for ICE activity.

Member Greenberg again asked if Member Blackledge would be open to additional amendments. Member Blackledge stated that if Member Greenberg feels there are additional amendments that need to be made, they can be discussed.

Member Greenberg noted that if the Council is leaning towards adopting the amendments, then the Council should look at other hypothetical scenarios as well. Member Blackledge stated that he feels the Council was thoughtful in creating this Ordinance and the amendments, noting the time constraints.

Member Greenberg commented that the Council received the amendment language before the last work session, whereas the Council had been discussing the Separation Ordinance for over a month. He noted that if the Council desires to keep the amendments, they should have further discussion surrounding other hypothetical community concerns related to ICE. He highlighted that his highest priority is to address what the community feels is most important.

Member Caceres Aranda noted the upcoming town hall and discussed what other cities are doing in terms of reporting. He commented that the feedback he has heard from residents is that they are in favor of a Separation Ordinance, and they don't want to prolong it.

Member Parisian stated that the Council did hear community feedback about the Separation Ordinance at the work session last week, but the amendments were discussed after. Member Parisian proposed opening a public comment section for feedback specifically related to the amendments.

Mayor Sutton stated he would like to put a four-minute feedback parameter in place.

Mayor Sutton opened the floor for public comment.

Carissa Wyant, 4503 York Avenue North, thanked the Council for the opportunity to address them. She stated that she wrote an email to the Council a month ago and continues to see City residents traumatized. She expressed that the City needs to take action, but should do so thoughtfully and correctly. She stated that residents are looking to the City for protection and guidance and urged the Council to act expeditiously.

Greg Salyers, 3980 Lake Curve Avenue, encouraged the Council to read his letter, noting that he is not a strong public speaker.

Nick Heid, 3931 Perry, urged the Council to pass the ordinance immediately, stating that it may already be too late. He emphasized the importance of acting quickly.

Roselyn Lawrence, 3717 Orchard Avenue, stated that she wants to feel safe and wants the community to feel safe attending meetings. She asked the Council to help ensure community safety.

Julie Ralston Aoki, 3615 Abbott Avenue North, expressed confusion regarding the discussion of amendments. She voiced concern about conduct involving City Staff in addition to Police and stated that it would make sense for the Policy to address more than just Police conduct. She questioned why the discussion was opening the door to additional changes and possible delays. She emphasized that while expediency is important, it is also important to do the work well. She noted that there is a process to amend an Ordinance if needed and described the work as a marathon rather than a sprint. She stated that the Policy is necessary.

Mayor Sutton closed the public comment section.

Member Greenberg asked why there was no feedback related to new data that would be created from the original draft Ordinance.

Sandvik responded that three areas of data are addressed in the Ordinance, including data sharing, reporting requirements, and the no-consent provision. He discussed the risk profile, statutory guidance, hypothetical scenarios, and the distinction between public and private data.

Mayor Sutton commented that if the goal is to pass the Ordinance expediently, the Council should consider reducing complexity and building onto it in the future if necessary. He also noted additional provisions could increase legal risk and asked for clarification regarding what the Council was currently approving.

Sandvik clarified that the item before the Council was the first reading of the original Ordinance as drafted during the work session and that amendments could be considered at a later time.

Member Parisian stated that an Emergency Ordinance requires a higher threshold for passage and that she was not confident a consensus existed to pass it under that standard. She stated that she would prefer to proceed with the draft as written and follow the standard Ordinance procedure.

Member Greenberg stated he believed there would be five votes in favor of the original drafted language and asked Member Parisian if she didn't have an interest in approving. Member Parisian stated that it was correct.

Mayor Sutton stated that he had heard from many residents and that relatively few expressed what was in the letter received today. He expressed his desire to listen to residents and stated that he had not heard significant opposition to the Separation Ordinance itself.

Member Caceres Aranda stated that time is of the essence, but that he also believes Member Parisian's amendments are worthwhile. He stated that if there is reassurance that the Council will continue working on the Ordinance after passage, he would be open to moving forward. He noted that many conversations, while door-knocking and through email, have focused on ICE and that this issue is a top priority for him.

Member Greenberg asked Member Caceres Aranda whether he was suggesting moving forward with an Emergency Ordinance and addressing amendments afterward.

Sandvik stated that the Council could hold the first reading while directing Staff to bring the Ordinance back at the March 10 work session if desired as part of the motion. He also noted they could include it as an Emergency Ordinance.

Member Blackledge stated that he appreciates Member Parisian's emphasis on strong language and the importance of acting promptly. He expressed willingness to support an Emergency Ordinance if the Council commits to revisiting and adjusting the language later.

Mayor Sutton asked the City Manager what he needed to hear. Sandvik stated that the Council could hold the first reading while directing Staff to bring the emergency ordinance back at the March 10 work session if desired as part of the motion.

Member Greenberg MOVED to hold the first reading with direction to Staff to consider an Emergency Ordinance at the next work session that would be based on the original draft language discussed before the amendments.

Member Blackledge asked if that included the amendments that were in the packet.

Sandvik recommended rescinding the motion and making two separate motions to hold the first reading of the Ordinance in front of you and another to direct Staff to bring back language for an Emergency Ordinance on March 10.

Member Greenberg withdrew the motion.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to waive the first reading of the Ordinance to Consider Adding New Language Relating to Administration and Employee Authority in Immigration Matters. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Sutton, to direct Staff to prepare an Emergency Ordinance for the March 10 Work Session using the Language from the Original Draft Ordinance. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

A. Authorize City Manager to execute an agreement with Cities for Safe and Stable Communities.

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and explained that a coalition of cities is coming together to address concerns regarding governance and resource sharing.

Mayor Sutton provided additional context regarding participation in the coalition.

Member Parisian stated that she is fully supportive of joining and expressed gratitude to the Mayor and staff for initiating the conversation.

Member Caceres Aranda voiced his support.

Member Blackledge stated that any opportunity to use a collective voice is important.

Member Greenberg also expressed support.

Mayor Sutton thanked staff for their work on the matter.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Cities for Safe and Stable Communities. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Set February 23, 2026, Special Work Session for Community Town Hall

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and stated that Staff was seeking direction on the format of the town hall.

Member Parisian asked whether the Police Chief had been invited. Sandvik stated that the Police Chief and Captain Elder had prior engagements.

Member Parisian proposed having a sign-up sheet and not requiring public addresses during testimony for privacy reasons, while still verifying residency for ward purposes. She suggested implementing time parameters for speakers and providing options for residents who are unable or unwilling to attend in person, such as email or phone submissions if feasible. She stated that the immediate goal is to ensure residents are heard and that testimony should be documented in a way that extends beyond standard meeting minutes. She expressed hope that the testimony could be analyzed for themes and compiled into an aggregate report.

Member Greenberg agreed with those suggestions and asked whether Council Members could serve as contact points for ward residents. He suggested sharing an aggregate report with the Attorney General and allowing advance sign-ups in addition to on-site sign-ups, with a cutoff time for participation.

Member Caceres Aranda agreed with the suggestions and emphasized additional protective measures for residents. He suggested using a Google Form or end-of-town-hall survey to collect information, such as asking what brought attendees to the meeting.

Member Blackledge stated that he supported the ideas shared. He did not express a strong preference regarding time limits, but emphasized the importance of ensuring that people feel heard.

Member Greenberg noted that time limits during a prior work session were effective.

Mayor Sutton stated that time limits are important to respect everyone's time.

Member Blackledge suggested establishing community agreements encouraging speakers to be concise and mindful of others who wish to speak.

Mayor Sutton stated that while he appreciated that approach, he believed clear guidelines would still be necessary so that speakers would not need to be interrupted abruptly.

Sandvik noted that the rules of quorum include language allowing four minutes per speaker.

Member Parisian observed that a member of the public wished to speak, and the Council reached consensus to open the floor for brief feedback.

Julie Ralston Aoki, 3615 Abbott Avenue North, expressed appreciation for the town hall and suggested ensuring that Police representation and as many City Staff members as possible attend. She recommended being prepared for questions and following up when answers are not immediately available.

Jess Lewis, a resident and candidate for State House, shared her experience at a town hall in Golden Valley. She described opening remarks from the Mayor and Council Members summarizing the City's position and actions, followed by a legal summary from the City Attorney and updates from the City Manager and Police Chief. She

explained that volunteers distributed notecards for written questions, consolidated duplicate questions, and directed them to appropriate officials for response. She stated that this approach reduced vulnerability concerns and focused the forum on City actions rather than personal testimony.

Greg Salyers, 3980 Lake Curve Avenue, asked whether attendees would be asked to confirm that they are residents and noted that many residents may not yet be aware of the town hall. Mayor Sutton responded that the event had been mentioned in the Mayor's Minutes and that Staff were continuing outreach efforts.

Mayor Sutton summarized the proposed structure, including opening remarks with contextual updates, an explanation of proposed actions, structured public commentary, a two-and-a-half-hour meeting length, no public address requirement with residency verification, and a follow-up process for unanswered questions. He asked whether someone from the police department could attend.

Sandvik stated that Staff would reach out to police leadership, noting the tight turnaround time.

Member Greenberg stated that many residents are scared and angry and are seeking an opportunity to provide testimony. He emphasized focusing on testimony, given the limited preparation time, and noted that this does not need to be the only forum for discussion.

Mayor Sutton agreed.

Member Parisian suggested collecting questions with the intention of providing additional information later and enhancing the frequently asked questions resources.

Sandvik stated that Staff would continue outreach efforts.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to set the February 23, 2026, Special Work Session for a Community Town Hall. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve voucher disbursement requests for the period ending February 17, 2026. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

City Manager Sandvik noted that the recreation newsletter will arrive during the first week of March. He stated that the native plant sale and tree sale will begin at the start of March. He thanked participants in the Plastic Free Challenge for their involvement. He also reminded the community about the upcoming town hall and noted that the Council and leadership will hold a discussion next Thursday regarding top goals and priorities.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Parisian stated that she was impressed with this week's Birdtown Brief and appreciated the sustainability information included. She highlighted the movie night at Elim scheduled for the following evening and reminded residents about the upcoming town hall.

Member Blackledge commented on the pleasant weather and encouraged residents to say hello to their neighbors. He thanked the Council for a meaningful and thoughtful discussion and thanked members of the public for attending the meeting.


Member Greenberg thanked the Council for working collaboratively on an important topic. He noted that his home backs up to Lakeview Terrace Park and shared that the recently installed electric vehicle charger at the park is being used daily.


Member Caceres Aranda thanked members of the community for attending the meeting and stated that he hopes to see them at the town hall.

Mayor Sutton thanked the Council for the discussion that evening. He extended well wishes to those observing Ramadan and the Lunar New Year. He also noted that it was National Random Acts of Kindness Day and encouraged residents to do something kind for someone.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Signed by:

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Chase Peterson-Em, City Clerk

Signed by:

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Bradley Sutton, Mayor