



Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes

City Hall ~ February 12, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ernie Valenzuela; Council members Joe Benda, Michael Brunkhorst and Chris Schmit

Absent: Jeannine Nagel

Guests: Lori Luhman, Jason Mandelkow, Todd Kieffer, McCrae Olson, Lisa Redepenning, Attorney Vose, Katie Kurtti, Calvin Ryan, Deputy Becklund GCSO, Corporal Justin Wallerich GCSO, Jon Huneke GCSO

Call EDA to Order

Mayor Valenzuela called the EDA meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

New EDA members that were present were introduced. The Commission members are Katie Kurtti, Calvin Ryan and Sarah Bien. The council appointed EDA members are Mayor Valenzuela and Council Member Nagel. Now that the EDA has a commission, the next step is to coordinate their meeting dates.

Motion to close the EDA meeting was made by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

Call City Council Meeting to Order

Mayor Valenzuela called the regular meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

Approve or Amend Agenda

Motion to approve agenda was made by Benda, seconded by Schmit, motion carried 4-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 22, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

New Business

Public Works Director informed the council on the notification for nitrate levels. At the next meeting there will be a public informational meeting with Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Rural Water, and the City's Engineering firm, ISG, to respond to any public questions. This is something that needs to be done every ten years. The City worked with the Soil & Water Conservation Service to help landowners to participate in the cover crop and minimum till program for nitrate reduction. There was approximately 90% participation in the program. The City of Goodhue will be recognized at the conference in St. Cloud this year for its community efforts in nitrate reduction.

Council agreed that the 2024 Cash Control Report can be placed on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Council discussed the raffle for the Rail Riders and agreed to place it on consent agenda for the next meeting.

During extreme weather events the City has been asked to help assist in applying sand and salt on the parking lots and sidewalks for the School District. With no current agreement, this is a liability for the City. To release us from that liability and to ensure that our community is safe, the City Council must have a General Release of Liability Agreement with the Goodhue School District. A motion was made by Brunkhorst, seconded by Schmit to place agreement on the consent agenda for approval at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Brunkhorst, to appoint Council Member Jeannine Nagel to EDA Commission as council representative, seconded by Schmit, motion carried 4-0-0.

After discussion of the importance of records retention and disposal of government documents, emails and text messages, the council agreed it is necessary to adopt Resolution 25-04 – A resolution adopting the Minnesota City General Records Retention Schedule. A motion was made by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst, to add Resolution 25-04 to the consent agenda for approval at the next meeting, motion carried 4-0-0.

The Goodhue School District is requesting a road closure of 6th Street from 4th Ave to Heritage Park on April 12, 2025, for their annual FFA Ag Day/Career Day for parade and display of machinery. A motion was made by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst to place the street closure on the consent agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Council discussed setting up a meeting with the Lions Club to update the agreement between the Club and the City. Attorney Vose requested the City meet with the Gas Commission on a Wednesday as well. A date was suggested for March 26 before the regular meeting and Council Member Benda will check to see if that works for the Lions Club.

Public Works Report

The snowplow money that has been set aside is all money returned from the closed TIF and other refunds. This fund will be called the Capital Equipment Plan. Staff discussed the criteria for quotes and state bids on snowplow trucks. Well #1 piping needs replacing. The plastic fence protector will get installed after the weather is warmer, so it doesn't break. There are 10 galvanized lines that we are aware of in town and still waiting to hear about funding. Some potholing will be done to determine if there are more galvanized lines. Some street signs are being updated, and two more trees will be taken down.

Council Comments

The Gas Commission was informed they need to get a Tax ID number and insurance. With no agreement with the City, the Gas Commission and City staff will need to document who does what for each entity and to move forward with an agreement.

Council questioned why work meetings are not livestream like the regular meetings. There is no requirement for livestreaming meetings. The minutes are your permanent record, and livestreaming is an option for the public to attend. The work meeting was created to allow council members to get more discussion time on agenda items, and if items are ready for a motion, they get moved to the consent for the next meeting. The consent agenda is a bundle of action items that can be approved with a single motion. To achieve this, it was recommended to have one work meeting with more open discussion and one official meeting where a motion is made to approve those action items.

The Ordinance enforcement process was briefly reviewed with some concerns of how to follow through on enforcing the new Zoning Ordinance.

Council is open to new ideas for Cranston Heights Park.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made to approve the bills by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:12 p.m. by Council Member Brunkhorst, seconded by Schmit 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk