

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Rick Von Holdt with the following Council Members present: Chris Kielblock, Dennis Weber, Mike Kuhle, Amy Woitalewicz, Amy Ernst.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Troy Appel, Public Safety Director; Nate Grimmius, Deputy Chief; Cristina Adame, Community Relations & Communication; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Chloe Farnsworth, *The Globe*; Oscar Martinez, Cable 3 TV; Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works; Tim Gaul, Leah Gaul, Eli Gaul, Hilary Gaul, Josh Miller, Joel Heitkamp, ISD 518 Superintendent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Mayor Von Holdt stated Item *F.4. Approval of Joinder Agreement for Long-Term Disability Insurance* and Item *F.5. Approval of Joinder Agreement for Group Term Life Insurance* would be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the noted additions.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- City Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2025
- LEC Joint Powers Board Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2025
- Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2025
- Heron Lake Watershed Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2025
- Public Arts Commission Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025
- Okabena-Ocheda Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2024
- Municipal Liquor Store Income Statement for the Period of January 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025
- Olson Park Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Budget and Actual for the Period of January 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025
- Field House Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Budget and Actual for the Period of January 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025

- Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling - Worthington Hockey Association, Inc.
 - Type of Event: Raffle
 - Date & Location of Events: December 5, 2025 - December 7, 2025
 - December 19, 2025 - December 21, 2025
 - January 2, 2026 - January 4, 2026
 - January 17, 2026 - January 17, 2025
 - January 23, 2026 - January 25, 2026
 - January 30, 2026 - February 1, 2026
 - At the Worthington Hockey Arena, 1600 Stower Drive
- Bills Payable Totaling \$1,054,764.30

INTRO AND OATH OF OFFICER TATE GAUL

The City welcomed Officer Tate Gaul, who recently joined the Worthington Police Department. Officer Gaul is a Worthington native with strong family ties to local law enforcement; his father, Tim Gaul, served as a Worthington Police Officer for more than 30 years. He graduated from Worthington High School in 2021, attended Minnesota West, and later earned a football scholarship to Southwest Minnesota State University, where he received his bachelor's degree in Justice Administration in 2025.

Officer Gaul began full-time employment with the department in August. This evening, he took the official Police Officer's Oath of Office and was formally welcomed to the department.

Following the administration of the oath by the City Clerk, the Council congratulated Officer Gaul and welcomed him to the Worthington Police Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11-81 ADOPTED ACCEPTING A DONATION OF FUNDS

Troy Appel, Public Safety Director, said the Early-Riser KIWANIS members generously donated \$150 to the Worthington Police Department as a contribution to the DARE program. The funds will be used to purchase supplies related to DARE programming.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11-81

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION OF FUNDS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED DETECTIVE POSITION GUIDELINES APPROVED

Mr. Appel reported the Worthington Police Department Detective position guidelines were reviewed and updated. Assignment details, job requirements and other minor details were added, removed, or adjusted within the position guidelines for clarification and consistency.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to approve the updated Position Guidelines for Detective.

CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED DRUG AND GENERAL INVESTIGATOR POSITION GUIDELINES APPROVED

Mr. Appel reported that the Worthington Police Department's Drug and General Investigator position guidelines have been reviewed and updated. Assignment details, job requirements, and other minor elements were added, removed, or revised to improve clarity and ensure consistency.

The motion was made by Council Member Woitalewicz, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the updated Position Guidelines for Drug and General Investigator.

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSIDERATION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON AND ISD #518 APPROVED

Mr. Appel stated since 2000, the City of Worthington and ISD 518 have maintained an agreement authorizing School Resource Officer participation during the school year. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and written agreement were originally approved in October 2000, and the agreement, along with subsequent amendments, has remained in effect since that time.

Updated versions of the MOU and agreement have now been prepared to reflect new statutory requirements and have been reviewed and signed by representatives of ISD 518.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to approve the updated MOU and agreement and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the documents.

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE RELATING TO STORMWATER UTILITY RATES

Pursuant to published notice this is the time and date set for the second reading of a proposed ordinance Relating to Stormwater Utility Rates.

A complete copy of the ordinance was provided in your November 10, 2025, Council agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to give a second reading to the proposed ordinance.

APPROVED TRANSFER OF EXCESS FUNDS FROM WORTHINGTON PUBLIC UTILITIES TO THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON GENERAL FUND

Mr. Robinson said Section 6.5, Utility Funds, of the City of Worthington Charter and the Water and Light Commission Bylaws states that any surplus in a utility fund may be transferred to the City's general fund upon a joint resolution of the Commission and City Council.

Council Member Kuhle stated that the community is living on borrowed time with the current arena facility and that establishing a budget amount is necessary to move forward with a renovation project. He noted that, based on the funding earmarked to date, a minimum contribution of 3 million from Worthington Utilities would be required to proceed with any project. No further discussion was held.

A motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to approve making a formal request to Worthington Utilities for 3 million dollars.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11-82 ADOPTED APPROVAL OF MINNESOTA PAID LEAVE POLICY FOR EQUIVALENT PLAN

The Minnesota Legislature approved Paid Leave legislation during the 2023 session, which was subsequently signed into law by Governor Walz. The Paid Leave program will take effect on January 1, 2026. Employers may comply either through the State program or by offering an approved equivalent plan that provides equal or greater benefits, protections, and payments. The City of Worthington will meet this requirement through an equivalent plan administered by Alera, the City's designated insurance carrier for the paid leave benefit.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11-82

A RESOLUTION APPROVAL OF MINNESOTA PAID LEAVE POLICY FOR EQUIVALENT PLAN

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

APPROVED JOINDER AGREEMENT FOR LONG-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

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Mr. Robinson reported the City of Worthington has applied to participate in the National Insurance Services of Wisconsin Insurance Trust for group long-term disability coverage under a master policy underwritten by Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. As in previous years, the City pays

the full premium, and all eligible employees (those working a minimum of 30 hours per week) are automatically covered. The policy provides long-term disability benefits equal to 66.67% of an employee's gross monthly wages, up to a maximum monthly benefit of \$9,500.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to approve the agreement with Joinder for the long-term disability insurance and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute.

APPROVED JOINDER AGREEMENT FOR GROUP TERM LIFE INSURANCE

Steve Robinson reported that the City of Worthington has applied to participate in the National Insurance Services of Wisconsin Insurance Trust for group term life insurance, underwritten by Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. As in previous years, the City will pay the full premium, and all eligible employees (those working a minimum of 30 hours per week) will be covered. The policy provides a guaranteed issue amount of \$25,000 until the employee reaches age 65, at which time age-based reductions apply, and includes \$2,000 in coverage for a spouse and dependent children.

The motion was made by Council Member Woitalewicz, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the agreement with Joinder for the group term life insurance and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute.

APPROVED PLANS FOR STORMWATER LIFT STATION AND AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, reported the stormwater lift station building has deteriorated, lacking access for future motor replacement and featuring an outdated electrical system that cannot support larger pumps for future upgrades. City staff has prepared plans and specifications for the Stormwater Lift Station Rehabilitation project, which was included and approved in the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan.

Staff recommended that Council approve the plans and specifications shown in Exhibit 1, authorize the project to be advertised for bids to be received by 2:00 p.m. on December 17, 2025, and consider award at the December 22, 2025, City Council meeting.

APPROVED TASK ORDER 34 WITH BOLTON & MENK TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICE FOR PLANNING GRANTS FOR STORMWATER, WASTEWATER, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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Mr Goo stated staff is requesting Council approval of Task Order No. 34 with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for professional engineering services to support the City's applications for planning grants related to stormwater, wastewater, and community resilience. The scope includes collecting and organizing

the information necessary to complete the grant applications. The task order amount shall not exceed \$5,000.

In recent years, the Engineering Department and Worthington Public Utilities have invested significant time and resources in developing accurate GIS-based utility data. Additional field data collection is planned over the next three to five years to further enhance this dataset. As part of the planning grant application, the City anticipates requesting approximately \$200,000 to support ongoing utility data collection. The MnDOT Planning Grant requires a 10% local match.

MnDOT is offering planning grant opportunities of up to \$1.6 million for projects of this type, and staff intends to pursue this funding. Completion of the project will result in a more comprehensive utility dataset, improve future design processes, enhance the City's ability to respond to stormwater events, and support long-term cost efficiencies.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve Task Order No. 34 with Bolton & Menk, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, to assist with the grant application process.

APPROVED AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN PETITION FOR VACATION OF ONE BLOCK OF TOWER STREET

Matt Selof, Community Development Director, explained as part of planned improvements to Centennial Park and the school district's proposed softball field, the section of Tower Street between Clary Street and 11th Avenue, is proposed for removal to accommodate parking, concessions, restrooms, and improved connectivity between the school site and Centennial Park.

To close and remove this segment of roadway, the right-of-way must be vacated. In accordance with City Charter requirements, the City must initiate a petition to begin the vacation process. The petition must be signed by more than 50% of property owners abutting the affected roadway, as well as more than 50% of property owners within 300 feet of each end of the proposed vacation area.

He noted a public hearing and first reading of an ordinance is planned for the December 22, 2025, Council meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to authorize the Mayor to sign the petition on behalf of the City as a property owner.

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rick Von Holdt - Attended the CGMC Conference in Grand Rapids, MN and gave an update.

Council Member Ernst - No report.

Council Member Weber - No report.

Council Member Woitalewicz - Attended the Public Arts Commission meeting, where the Commission noted the need for a grant writer. Also attended the Okabena–Ocheda–Bella Watershed Clean Water Partnership Board meeting, which is planning a joint meeting with the City Council.

Council Member Kuhle - Reported that, of the two recently acquired properties, the home at 1203 Apel Avenue was awarded to Doug Nau Construction for demolition. Work is expected to begin next week and be completed by May 31, 2026. The HRA Board also set the proposed 2026 Flat Rate Housing amounts for the Section 8 program. It was noted that the Cecilee/Grand Avenue duplex is nearing completion, and both units have been committed to eligible households. An RFQ has been issued for the new office renovation project.

Council Member Kielblock - No report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Robinson reminded Council City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC

City Clerk