

WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2026

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: Amy Woitalewicz, Mike Kuhle, Chris Kielblock, Amy Ernst, Dennis Weber.

Staff present: Steve Robsinson, City Administrator; Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Cristina Adame, Community Relations & Communications; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Oscar Martinez, Cable 3 TV; Chloe Farnsworth, *The Globe*; Bill Gordon, Worthington Tax & Accounting; Representative of SW Mental Health Center.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES

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

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-01 ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing ordering improvement and preparation of plans and specifications.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to open the hearing.

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, presented information on the proposed Third Avenue Street Reconstruction.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony.

A SW Mental Health Center representative asked if water will be provided during the construction. Mr. Goo replied that service would only be interrupted for short periods of time.

Bill Gordon, Worthington Tax & Accounting, asked if access will be provided during the construction. Mr. Goo replied that business access would be provided during the construction.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to close the hearing.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-01

A RESOLUTION ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO VACATE A SEGMENT OF TOWER STREET WITHIN THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON, NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Matt Selof, Community Development Director, reported that the City of Worthington has received a valid petition requesting the vacation of one block of Tower Street, between Clary Street and 11th Avenue. The proposed street vacation would allow the City to close and remove the existing roadway. The area is planned to be redeveloped with parking lots and a concession/restroom building to support a new softball field proposed by ISD 518 on the site of the former West Elementary School. Upon vacation, ownership of the property will remain with the City.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony, none was received.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to close the hearing.

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

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.

- Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2025
- Special City Council Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2025
- Audit Engagement Letter
- Annual Appointments
- Application from Exemption from Lawful Gambling-Pheasants Forever Nobles County Chapter 14
- 2026 License Renewals
- Bills Payable Totaling \$1,359,924.59

APPROVED APPOINTMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, reported, the Office of Woods Fuller notified City Administration that it would not seek reappointment as City Attorney for 2026. Staff has since met with Peter Mikhail of Kennedy & Graven about serving as the City Attorney.

Kennedy & Graven provides municipal legal services to multiple Minnesota communities.

The hourly rate for shareholder attorneys is \$230.00. The firm's legal services agreement and 2026 hourly billing rates were included in the packet for review.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Kihle and unanimously carried to appoint Peter Mikhail and Kennedy & Graven as City Attorney for the term January 12, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Section 2.02 of the Worthington City Charter states that at the Annual Meeting, City Council shall, from its number and by ballot, elect a Mayor Pro Tem who shall preside over the meetings of the City Council during the absence of the Mayor from the City, or upon the inability of the Mayor, from any cause, to discharge the duties of the office.

Following distribution of ballots and voting, the following votes were cast:

Council Member Woitalewicz - 0
Council Member Kielblock - 1
Council Member Kuhle - 0
Council Member Weber - 0
Council Member Ernst - 4

Following vote tabulation by the Clerk, Council Member Ernst was announced as Mayor Pro Tem for 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-02 ADOPTED ACCEPTING A DONATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, reported the Jason Vote State Farm Agency has donated \$1,500.00 for the purchase of flags for the Veterans Memorial. This donation will fund the replacement of all flags displayed at the memorial for the 2026 season.

Mr. Wietzema noted the donation complies with the requirements of the Park Donation Policy adopted by City Council.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-02

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

RECEIVED REPORTS AND ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-03 ORDERING HEARING ON TENTH AVENUE & TOWER STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, reported at the December 8, 2025, City Council meeting, the Council adopted a resolution ordering preparation of a feasibility report for the Tenth Avenue and Tower Street Reconstruction Project. Council is now requested to receive the feasibility report and order the improvement hearing required under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429, to proceed with the assessment process.

The feasibility report includes the proposed improvements to Tenth Avenue, from Park Avenue to Tower Street and to Tower Street, from Tenth Avenue to Clary Street. The report provides detailed information regarding project costs, funding sources, estimated assessment rates, and the City's share of the improvements. The proposed improvements will include road base and regrading, curb and gutter, sidewalks, concrete driveways, permanent pavement, storm sewer main, and sanitary services.

Assessments would not be levied until the full scope of work is completed.

The hearings are scheduled for the January 26, 2026, City Council meeting.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-03

A RESOLUTION ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

APPROVED TERMINATION OF WATER RIGHTS AGREEMENT

Mr. Selof reported Parcel 20-0217-000, located just outside the city limits at the southeast corner of 1st Avenue Southwest and Crailsheim Road, was recently sold. During the title review associated with the sale, a 1947 agreement was identified granting the City rights to drill wells for water

extraction. The agreement also granted the City rights to related infrastructure, including pump houses, and outlines certain obligations of the City to the landowner.

The agreement applies not only to Parcel 20-0217-000, but also to portions of two or three adjacent parcels. The City and Worthington Public Utilities no longer require these rights, and the current property owner has requested termination of the agreement. At the January 5, 2026, meeting, the Water and Light Commission voted to recommend that City Council approve termination of the agreement.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Woitalewicz and unanimously carried to approve the quit claim deed that will deed these rights back to the landowner and terminate the agreement recorded as Document No. 126589.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rick Von Holdt – Attended a SW Regional Development Meeting and provided an update on the happenings in Worthington.

Council Member Ernst – No report.

Council Member Weber - No report.

Council Member Kuhle – No report.

Council Member Kielblock – No report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Robinson reported that bus stop signs are being installed throughout the city. Interviews with two contractors for the Ice Arena project are scheduled for tomorrow.

CLOSED SESSION UNDER MINN. STA. 13D.05 , SUBD. 3 (C) – PURCHASE OR SALE OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Mayor Von Holdt stated that Council would be going into closed session under Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3 (C) - for the purpose of purchase or sale of real or personal property.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to close the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to re-open the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to purchase parcel # 20-0175-000 for \$625,000.00.

ADJOURNMENT

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The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk