WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 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, Chris Kielblock, Dennis Weber, Mike Kuhle, Amy Ernst.

Staff present: Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Deb Olsen, Finance Director; Cristina Adame, Community Relations and Communications; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Chloe Farnsworth, *Daily Globe;* Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works; Bradley Petersen, Coalition of Greater MN Cities; Cheryl Avenel- Navarra, Pete Navarra, Mike Petersen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS/CHANGES

The Mayor stated *Items J.8. Renewal of Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance and J.9. Professional Services Agreement for City Hall Programming and Concept Design* would be added to the agenda. He also noted the Application for Exemption from Lawful Gambling Permit – Pheasants Forever Nobles County Chapter #14 noted the wrong date on the application and should be changed to March 19, 2027.

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

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-63 ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 123 – CHURCH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing on proposed assessments for Church Avenue Street Improvement.

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

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, presented the proposed assessment roll for the Church Avenue Street Improvement project.

The recommended terms for the proposed assessments are listed below.

PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 123
> CHURCH AVENUE STREET RECONSTRUCTION
4.00%[2]; 15 years
[2] Based on interest rate on PIR bonds.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony. None was received.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-63

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 123 – CHURCH AVENUE STREET RECONSTRUCTION

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-64 ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 124 – RAY DRIVE NORTH EXTENSION

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing on proposed assessments for the Ray Drive North Extension.

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

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, presented the proposed assessment roll for the Ray Drive North Extension project.

The recommended terms for the proposed assessments are listed below.

PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 124
> RAY DRIVE NORTH EXTENSION
4.00%[2]; 15 years
[2] Based on interest rate on PIR bonds.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony. None was received.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-64

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 124 – RAY DRIVE NORTH EXTENSION

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-65 ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 122 – SHELL STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing on proposed assessments for the Shell Street Reconstruction.

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 the proposed assessment roll for the Shell Street Reconstruction.

The recommended terms for the proposed assessments are listed below.

PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 122
> SHELL STREET RECONSTRUCTION
4.00%[2]; 15 years
[2] Based on interest rate on PIR bonds.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony. Cheryl Avenel-Navarra and Pete Navarra, 726 Shell Street asked if sidewalks would be added where they have not been previously located. Mr. Goo replied they are planned to be added in the City's long-term plan.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber 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. 2026-09-65

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 122 – SHELL STREET RECONSTRUCTION

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-66 ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 127 – SECOND AVENUE STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing on the Second Avenue Street Reconstruction.

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

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, presented the proposed assessment roll for the Second Avenue Street Reconstruction.

The recommended terms for the proposed assessments are listed below.

PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 127
> SECOND AVENUE STREET RECONSTRUCTION
4.00%[2]; 15 years
[2] Based on interest rate on PIR bonds.

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony. None was received.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-66

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR PAVING IMPROVEMENT NO. 127 – SECOND AVENUE STREET RECONSTRUCTION

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-67 ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR 2026 MISCELLANEOUS UNPAID CHARGES

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public hearing on the 2026 Miscellaneous Unpaid Charges.

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

Hyunmyeong Goo, City Engineer, presented information on the proposed assessments. He noted the proposed assessment rolls were included in the packet.

The recommended terms for the proposed assessments are listed below.

2026 MISCELLANEOUS UNPAID CHARGES
> Removal of Ice and Snow
> Removal of Noxious Weed and Vegetation
4.00%1; 1 year

Mayor Von Holdt asked if there was any testimony. None was received.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-67

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR 2026 MISCELLANEOUS UNPAID CHARGES

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Special City Council Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2026
- Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2026
- Special City Council Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2026
- Water & Light Commission Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026
- Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2026
- Municipal Liquor Store Income Statement for the Period of January 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026
- Olson Park Statement of Revenue and Expenditures – Budget and Actual for the Period of January 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026
- Field House Statement of Revenue and Expenditures – Budget and Actual for Period of January 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026

- Application for Exemption from Gambling Permit –
  Organization: Pheasants Forever Nobles County Chapter #14
  Date: March 19, 2027
  Location: Worthington Event Center
  1447 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN
- Bills Payable Totaling $4,786,738.63

COALITION OF GREATER MINNESOTA CITIES UPDATE

Bradley Petersen, CGMC, provided an update to Council on the CGMC's priorities during the past legislative year. He said the CGMC represents over 100 cities throughout Minnesota.

Going into 2027 it is expected the top priorities will include protecting LGA and passing a Bonding Bill.

Council thanked Mr. Petersen for the update and Mr. Petersen thanked Council for the opportunity.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS

The Nominating Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, September 24, 2026 and made the following recommendations for the following appointments / reappointments:

Planning Commission	Appoint Josh Jones to a first three-year term, term to expire March 31, 2029
Memorial Auditorium Advisory Board	Appoint Shirley Remple to a first three-year term, term to expire July 31, 2029

The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to approve the recommendations by the Nominating Committee.

THIRD READING AND ORDINANCE NO. 1224 ADOPTED AMENDING CHAPTER 111 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES ON THE IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTIES FOR LIQUOR LICENSE VIOLATIONS

Pursuant to published notice this is the time and date set for the third reading of a proposed ordinance Amending Chapter 111 of the code of Ordinances on the Imposition of Civil Penalties for Liquor License Violations.

A complete copy of the ordinance was provided in the August 24, 2026 Council Agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Woitalewicz, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to give a third reading and subsequently adopt the proposed ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 1224

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 111 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES ON THE IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTIES FOR LIQUOR LICENSE VIOLATIONS

(Refer to Ordinance File for complete copy of Ordinance)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09-68 AND WORTHINGTON HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09-69 ADOPTED APPROVING THE PROPOSED 2026 TAX LEVIES COLLECTIBLE IN 2027

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said the Proposed City of Worthington Tax Levy for 2027 is $10,327,116. The amount is a break-down of the operating levy of $8,688,818 and Special Tax levies of $1,638,298. The proposed levy represents a 14.00% increase over 2026. The proposed levy is an amount not to exceed and may be lowered, but not raised for the final levy certification in December.

The Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing will be held on December 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers to discuss the final 2027 budget and levy.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09-68

A RESOLUTION APPROVING 2026 TAX LEVIES COLLECTIBLE IN 2027

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09-69

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2026 TAX LEVY COLLECTIBLE IN 2027 - WORTHINGTON HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(Refer to Resolution File for complete copy of Resolution)

LETTER OF INTENT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY – 1010 SECOND AVENUE, PARCEL NO. 31-0018-000

Mr. Robinson said a Letter of Intent was received from the Owner of Parcel#31-0018-000 to sell the property to the City of Worthington. The agreed upon sale price is $800,000.00, with a

$40,000.00 deposit of earnest money. The earnest money shall be returned to the City if the City terminates the sale agreement prior to the expiration of the December 4, 2026 Inspection Period. The earnest money along with liquidated damages of $40,000.00 shall be returned to the City if the Seller

fails to close as the City's exclusive remedy. The city is granted exclusive dealings during the inspection period.

He noted the Letter of Intent was reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to approve and authorize execution of the Letter of Intent by the Mayor and Clerk.

CITY OF WORTHINGTON AND MNDOT HIGHWAY 59 RECONSTRUCTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT APPROVED

The cooperative agreement between the City of Worthington and MnDOT for the reconstruction and turnback of State Highway 59 was received. The project includes North Humiston Avenue from Interstate 90 to Oxford Street and Oxford Street from Humiston Avenue to Highway 60.

The City's share of this project is estimated to be $2,332,393.16 for water main and sanitary sewer construction. Worthington Public Utilities is responsible for the funding these projects. The first half of funding to MnDOT is due upon the award of the construction contract in November 2026 with the second half due on March 1, 2027. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027 and continue through 2028.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the cooperative agreement and authorize execution by the Mayor and Clerk.

RENEWAL OF PAID FAMILY LEAVE GROUP INSURANCE APPROVED

Mr. Robinson reported the City's Paid Family Leave Group Insurance renews on January 1, 2027. The renewal rate for 2027 from Madison National Life Insurance Co. is 0.83% of gross wages, which is a slight increase of our current rate of 0.78%. The current insurance rate through the State of Minnesota is 0.88%.

The motion was made by Council Member Kuhle, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to renew the Paid Family Leave coverage with Madison National Life.

RENEWAL OF BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD HEALTH INSURANCE APPROVED

Mr. Robinson said the 2027 renewal rates for health insurance have been received from Blue Cross Blue Shield. The City's experience rating for 2026 resulted in an increase of 14.75%. However, the renewal rates are similar to the rates that the city had in 2025. The proposed 2027 rates for various classes of coverage are as follows:

• Single, Full Time Employees	Single, ¾ Employees
o Employee: $-0-	Employee: $229.50
o Employer: $918.00	Employer: $688.50
o Total: $918.00	Total: $918.00
• Single + 1, Full Time Employees	Single + 1, ¾ Employees
o Employee: $367.20	Employee: $734.40
o Employer: $1,468.80	Employer: $1,101.60
o Total: $1836.00	Total: $1,836.00
• Family, Full Time Employees	Family, ¾ Employees
o Employee: $504.90	Employee: $1,009.80
o Employer: $2,019.60	Employer: $1,514.70
o Total: $2,524.50	Total: $2,524.50

The information was reviewed by the Compensation Committee.

The motion was made by Council Member Woitalewicz, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance coverage for 2027.

APPROVED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR CITY HALL PROGRAMMING AND CONCEPT DESIGN

Staff requested a proposal from SEH for architecture and engineering services for programming, conceptual design and estimate of project cost of renovating the existing building at 1010 Second Avenue to serve as the new city hall. The proposed work would include the following:

A Space Needs Analysis will be done to accommodate City Administration, Finance, Engineering, Community Development departments, Council Chambers as well as Worthington Public Utilities offices. Included in this analysis are:

- Staff offices, work and meeting spaces,
- Restrooms
- Public lobby,
- Storage,
- HVAC, plumbing and electrical services,

- Parking and vehicle access,
- Security and technology needs, and
- Future growth.

A Concept Design using the information gathered from the space needs analysis to develop building and site layout plans.

Providing Budget Development of the preliminary estimate to guide future planning and funding discussions.

The deadline for the work to be completed is no later than December 1, 2026.

The professional services work will be performed for a lump sum fee of $26,500.00 plus reimbursables.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to approve the agreement and authorize execution by the Mayor and Clerk.

APPROVED DISTRICT 518 ICE ARENA AGREEMENT

Todd Wietzema, reported the City of Worthington was informed this summer that School District 518 and the Worthington Hockey Association would not be renewing their existing Ice Hockey User Agreement.

In previous years, the Worthington Hockey Association covered the ice time used by District 518 High School Hockey. Beginning this year, each organization will be responsible for paying for its own individual ice time.

As a result of this new arrangement, the City will need to enter into a separate User Agreement with School District 518 for the ice time used by the high school hockey program.

The following terms of the agreement include:

1. Term – A one year agreement between District 518 and the City of Worthington, commencing on October 1st and running through the end of the High School Hockey season.
2. The City of Worthington's responsibilities include:
    a) The inside and outside maintenance of the facilities.
    b) Work in cooperation with District 518 in scheduling of any events.
    c) Manage and staff the arena for ice maintenance and facility supervision.
3. District 518 shall:
    a) Provide arena management with game and practice schedules
    b) Provide all hockey related staff for district 518 events.

c) Pay the City a rate of $115/per hour of ice time used by the district.

The motion was made by Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to approve the proposed 2026/27 user agreement with District 518.

APPROVED EHLERS BOAT LANDING PROPOSAL

Mr. Wietzema said the existing boat landing at Ehlers Park is in disrepair and needs to be reconstructed. Staff has reached out to Short Elliott Hendrickson for a proposal to provide plans and permitting for the boat landing construction project. He explained the existing landing is a concrete landing with two ramps and a floating dock between the two. This proposal is based on an hourly rate not to exceed $24,500.00.

In 2024, the City of Worthington, in partnership with the Lake Okabena Improvement Association, completed a similar project at the Sunset Park boat ramp. Staff is proposing a similar project at the Ehlers boat ramp in the near future. Staff noted that having a civil engineer prepare construction plans and specifications for the Sunset Park project was beneficial and helped streamline the DNR permitting process.

This SEH proposal includes the following:

- Design Survey
- Plan sheets for construction
- Cost estimate
- Permitting

Currently, staff is just getting the plans and permits in place for a future project. The construction project was not included in the 2027 budget so a spending plan will be put together and presented to council at a later date. However, there are available funds in the 2026 budget to cover the cost of the proposal.

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to approve the proposal with Short Elliott Hendrickson.

CAUSEWAY TRAFFIC STUDY UPDATE

At the previous City Council meeting, staff presented a task order with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for the Causeway Study, which included the installation of a traffic camera to monitor vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Following further discussions with Bolton & Menk, staff recommended postponing the traffic monitoring period until next summer, when traffic volumes are typically at their highest. Conducting

the study during the summer months is expected to provide a more accurate representation of peak vehicle and pedestrian traffic conditions along the Causeway.

Additionally, at the request of the City Council, the Whiskey Ditch Pedestrian Bridge and Olson Park Trail will be included in the traffic monitoring scope of the revised task order.

The task order approved at the previous City Council meeting will be voided, and staff will prepare an updated task order for Council consideration in the spring.

No Council action is required at this time.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rick Von Holdt – No report.
Council Member Ernst – No report.
Council Member Weber - No report.
Council Member Woitalewicz – Attended a YMCA Board meeting, the budget timeline has been adjusted, the organization is still running in the red but changes are continuing to be implemented.
Council Member Kuhle – No report.
Council Member Kielblock – No report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Robinson reported the turf is going down at the softball complex along with the scoreboard. Meetings have been scheduled with the architect tomorrow to start the process on the new location.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Mindy Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk