

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
March 4, 2025**

**** Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Schmitz and the Council Members honored former Mayor Mike Zenzen by presenting a plaque, with the gavel he used as mayor thanking him for his almost 25 years of service to the City of St. Augusta.**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Schmitz at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Schmitz, Council Members Backes, Hommerding, Skaalerud and Genereux; Fire Chief Kramer, Fire Captain Voigt, Fire Captain Savage, Firefighter Alex Bahr, Firefighter Lauren Bahr, Attorney Couri, Engineer Hajicek, and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Stearns County Attorney Janell Kendall, Mike Zenzen, Paul Shea, Brent Ahmann,

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe indicated we would add temporary liquor licenses for the Luxemburg Recreation Club on July 11-13 and August 8-10 as item 3H.

A motion was made by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Hommerding to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried 4-0.

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, February 4, 2025.

City Council Agenda, March 4, 2025.

Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated March 4, 2025
and for ePayments #25229e – 25246e and Checks
#26376 – 26424.

City Council Workshop Minutes, February 4, 2025.

3.2 On Sale Liquor Licenses – St. Augusta Sports and Lux Rec Club
Liquor, Tobacco and THC License to SKGK Ventures, LLC
Gambling Permit, Angel Reins Stable, May 17, St. Augusta Legion
Temporary Liquor Licenses – Lux Rec Club (July 11-13 and August
8-10).

SHERIFF'S REPORT: No report was given.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the monthly building report stating there were seven permits issued during the month.

A motion was made to approve the building inspector's report as presented by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Backes entered the meeting at 7:03pm.

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the January monthly report indicating there were 14 calls for the month bringing the total to 14 for the year as compared to 12 at this time in 2024. Monthly training was fit testing and physicals. Fire Inc. also held an active shooter class.

A motion was made to approve the report by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Kramer presented quotes for a fire blanket and blanket cabinet indicating that this would be the only way they would be able to put out a fire on an electric vehicle. There was discussion on if one is enough as each blanket is a one time use.

A motion was made to authorize the purchase of the fire blanket and cabinet at a cost of \$1,804.95 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Kramer presented a quote for new computer software that he explained would better keep track of truck checks, inventory and anything else they might possibly need. They would like to try it for a year and see how it works. Mr. Couri indicated it isn't an issue as long as the city owns the data and the personal phones are only accessing the data.

A motion was made to approve the software at an initial cost of \$2,605 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM: No comments offered.

**STEARNS COUNTY
PROSECUTION CONTRACT
REVIEW:**

Stearns County Attorney, Janell Kendall, was in attendance to present a review of the prosecution contract. She provided information on the diversion program indicating things are trending down and diversion will also be in charge of truancy. She went through prosecution stuff and the felony charges. She indicated that St. Augusta had a pardon from a 2005 case.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Hajicek was in attendance and indicated there wasn't anything really to report. Chris will bring to next months meeting project close out on both the 2024 Street Project and the Otta Seal project.

Mr. Hommerding asked about the Terrace Hills shoulder restoration and if the price was still good. Mr. Voigt indicated

CIP QUOTES:

A letter submitted by Shannon Sweeny of David Drown and Associates was submitted quoting their cost to develop a financial capital

improvement plan (CIP) for the City of St. Augusta as discussed at the February 18 workshop meeting.

A motion was made to approve the CIP quotes by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

CRACK FILL

MACHINE QUOTE:

A quote for the purchase of a new crack fill machine was presented. Mr. McCabe explained a used compressor could be purchased separately for \$5,000 saving over \$22,000 on the quoted cost. There was discussion as to what has been done in the past. Mr. McCabe suggested we refer to an upcoming work session meeting. He also asked to approve \$5,000 to purchase a used air compressor.

A motion was made to approve purchasing a used \$5,000 air compressor by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #2025-05, AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH AN INTERESTED

OFFICER:

Mr. Couri explained how these contracts are allowed statutorily and how the vote would have to go forward. Mr. Skaalerud asked if there is a timeline. Mr. Couri stated it usually isn't but can have a timeline and if we do put a timeline on, we should do it annually.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2025-05, Authorizing a Contract with an Interested Officer by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Schmitz abstaining.

HIRE ACCOUNTING

TECH POSITION:

Mr. McCabe indicated the committee interviewed four individuals and he felt one candidate stood out from the rest. He reported a criminal background check was completed and there was nothing to indicate we shouldn't hire. He stated she asked to be at \$30/hour and Mr. McCabe wondered if she would take less if we got there within a couple of years. She countered that by stating she would like additional vacation.

A motion was made to offer Kim Claussen the position at \$30/hour with 2 weeks of vacation by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEMBER

PURVIEW:

Mr. Hommerding reported the stop sign was down at 238th Street and Gaelic Road.

Mr. Genereux asked about our plan for Gaberdine Road and Mr. McCabe indicated the feasibility report showed it wasn't feasible to do water and sewer at this time.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

REPORT: Mr. McCabe indicated our final 2025 tax rate was included with the packets for information.

ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:15 pm by Mr. Skaalerud seconded by Mr. Genereux.

Approved this 1st day of April, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator