

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
June 3, 2025**

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, Engineer Bunders, Attorney Couri, Deputy Rob Theisen, and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Voigt, Isaac Meemken, Patti Kronenberg, Michael Stotko, Dorothy Stotko, Jim Honer, Janelle Honer, Paul Shea, Amy Brand, Brent Ahmann, Jason Miller, Paul Reinert, Aaron Blumke

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe indicated the updated packets include the state demographer's population estimate.

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

The following items were approved with the consent agenda:

City Council Minutes, May 6, 2025.
City Council Agenda, June 3, 2025.
Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated June 3, 2025
and for ePayments #25295e – 25311e and Checks
#24606– 24670.
City Council Workshop Minutes, May 13, 2025.
Liquor Licenses – St. Augusta Legion On Sale, Sunday
BP St. Augusta – Off Sale
Delux Liquors – Off Sale
Hayloft – On Sale, Off Sale and Sunday
Club Almar – On Sale, Off Sale and Sunday
Extend Liquor Licenses Outdoors The Hayloft June 13
Mayor Schmitz's attendance at the CGMC Annual Conference

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Deputy Theisen was in attendance to present the Sheriff's Department monthly report. He reported 44 hours were spent on the contract, reviewed some of the calls and answered questions from the Council.

A motion was made to approve the Sheriff's Report by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S
REPORT:**

Mr. McCabe presented the monthly building report stating there were 23 permits issued during the month including two new single-family houses.

A motion was made to approve the building inspector's report as presented by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the April monthly report indicating there were 12 calls for the month bringing the total to 63 for the year as compared to 50 at this time in 2024. Monthly training was in house pump training, the burn at the Lutgen property on State Highway and wild land search and rescue.

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

Chief Kramer stated the hiring committee is recommending hiring Jes Naber as a new firefighter.

A motion was made to hire Jes Naber as a new fire fighter by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Kramer recommended we take Shane Howard and Ryan Blake off probationary status.

A motion was made to remove Shane Howard and Ryan Blake from probationary status by Mr. Skaalerud, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Kramer presented a quote for lettering and graphics for the new truck indicating it will match the other new trucks.

A motion was made to approve the quote for the graphics by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM:

Aaron Blumke was in attendance and indicated he has heard rumor the city was considering a fence along the pond that is behind houses on 17th Avenue. He indicated he would like to work with the City to not put up a fence and help facilitate making sure the area isn't abused by those in the neighborhood. Mr. McCabe stated there has been initial discussion but it has not been brought to the Council. He thanked Mr. Blumke and suggested he bring a plan on how to mitigate the abuses and said we could hold off on looking for additional quotes on the fence.

Mike Stotko was in attendance and inquired about the status of Gaberdine Road. He was told we are in initial Capital Improvement planning and are planning on Gaberdine Road to be the next road completed. Mr. Stotko also asked if the City could fill in pot holes along Gaberdine Road. Mr. McCabe indicated we could have the staff come out and fill those in once the material is acquired.

**2024 AUDIT
PRESENTATION:**

Jason Miller with Smith Schafer and Associates was in attendance to present the 2024 Financial Statement and letters. He started with the management letter and control letter and then moved to a power point presentation highlighting the financial statement.

A motion was made to accept the 2024 Audit report and approve the 2024 Financial Statement by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Bunders presented a memorandum addressing the 2024 Street Project shouldering work. He indicated there were three options to consider prior to making the final decision on payment. He reviewed the options indicated the residents are satisfied. Mr. Genereux wondered if it is common to not have measured quantities. Mr. Bunders responded with what is typically done.

A motion was made to accept the contract as a lump sum and pay the remaining \$80,005 to Steve's Excavating by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

**HONER PIT
IUP AMENDMENT:**

Mr. McCabe reported the planning commission held the hearing on amending the IUP to adjust the hours of operation to match the ordinance. He indicated they unanimously recommended denial of the amendment. Mr. Couri stated any reasoning should be included in the resolution. Mr. Genereaux wondered about why Knife River was named and the new contractor isn't. Mr. Couri explained typically what is done. Mr. Backes indicated initially was to identify the reason as the proximity to the residential homes in the area. Mr. Honer explained the reason he asked for the amendment and the compromise he offered at the public hearing of simply no processing after 5pm. Mr. Genereux indicated he is willing to reconsider after a season is under the belt.

A motion was made approve the amended Resolution #2025-08, denying the IUP amendment by Mr. Skaalerud, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

**HONER PIT
COMPLAINT:**

Mr. Couri summarized a complaint that was received leaving the complainant out as that is private data. He clarified the difference between mining activities and construction activities, stating construction activities can take place during our construction hours, not the mining hours. Mr. Hommerding wondered about maintenance of the haul road and Mr. Couri stated that is part of the mining operation. Mr. Meemken stated he was the complainant and it is okay to use his name. He stated he called the City on Wednesday, when the construction started. Mr. Couri stated the best way to settle this is to visit with your neighbor. Mr. Hommerding wondered who was responsible and Mr. McCabe stated Mr. Honer.

A motion was made to purchase of the service box from KA Truck Equipment by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

BEAVER LAKE ROAD

OVERLAY QUOTES: Four quotes were presented to put a 2" overlay on Beaver Lake Road. Mr. Hommerding asked....

A motion was made to approve the quote from Astech by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEMBER

PURVIEW:

Mr. Hommerding asked about mowing the dog park and requested we do not spray around the fence.

Mr. Hommerding asked that we look at all the park parking lots and try and spruce them up.

Mr. Hommerding wondered about the crack fill on 245th Street.

Mr. Hommerding inquired about the dust coating and gravel roads.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

REPORT:

Mr. McCabe reported the State Demographer's population estimate was included in the updated packets. He stated the estimate is as of April 1, 2024 and only becomes final when they are released to the MN Department of Revenue in July.

ADJOURMENT: **A motion was made to adjourn at 8:55 pm by Mr. Skaalerud seconded by Mr. Backes.**

Approved this 1st day of July, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator