

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ST. AUGUSTA, MINNESOTA
May 6, 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 Allseits, Deputy Shawn Widmer, Street Supervisor Kiffmeyer and Clerk/Administrator McCabe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sam Deleo, Amy Brand, Jim Honer, Brent Ahmann, Jill Shea,

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. McCabe indicated we needed to add another Gambling Permit, this one for Angle Reins Stable on July 26 at the St. Augusta American Legion.

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, April 1, 2025.

City Council Agenda, May 6, 2025.

Bill Payable, Receipts and Treasurer's Report dated May 6, 2025 and for ePayments #25276e – 25288e and Checks #24529 – 24582.

City Council Workshop Minutes, April 15, 2025.

Gambling Permits, Angel Reins Stable, July 26, St. Augusta Legion, St. Augusta Fire Relief, October 10, Club Almar and St. Augusta Sports, July 12, Club Almar

Extend Liquor Licenses Outdoors – St. Augusta Legion (May 17, June 21 and July 26) and The Hayloft (July 26 and Sept. 6)

Add Bank Vista as an Official Depository

Minutes of the April 1, Board of Appeal and Equalization.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sergeant Widmer was in attendance to present the Sheriff's Department monthly report. He indicated 40 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. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried 4-0.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S

REPORT: Mr. McCabe presented the monthly building report stating there were 31 permits issued during the month including three new single-family houses.

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

**FIRE DEPT.
REPORT:**

Chief Kramer presented the March monthly report indicating there were 21 calls for the month bringing the total to 51 for the year as compared to 34 at this time in 2024. Monthly training was house training at the Lutgen property on State Highway 15 in preparation for the burn. Training was also done with the annual Right to Know course and the 5th Monday EMR refresher.

A motion was made to approve the report by Mr. Hommerding, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried 4-0.

Chief Kramer presented a quote for a multi-unit charger pack, indicating they would like to get 2 this year and 2 in 2026.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of 2 multi-unit charger packs at a cost of \$1,227.74 each by Mr. Skaalerud, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried 4-0.

Chief Kramer presented an itemized list of tools and other miscellaneous items the Relief Association would like to donate to the city.

A motion was made to accept the donation from the St. Augusta Fire Relief Association by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried 4-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Jim Honer was in attendance to discuss his IUP for mining. He wants the Council to consider the restriction on the hours of operation. He indicated the potential operators and other users are balking at making investment because of the reduced hours of operation. Mr. Allseits indicated an application for an amendment would need to be filed to amend the IUP.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Bunders submitted an opinion of cost on completing an Otta Seal project on 28th Avenue from 200th Street to 210th Street. The estimated cost of \$293,000 was estimated to be conservative. Mayor Schmitz inquired about the tractor damage on Beaver Lake and Mr. Bunders stated it wasn't due to the Otta Seal, but the heavy tractor. He explained two options for repair and indicated either would be adequate. There was discussion on how to recover the cost and what the cost estimate would be. Mr. Allseits indicated Chapter 169 allows any damage to be caused by any vehicle to be assessed to the property that damaged it. Mr. Hommerding wondered about doing a patch job and how long that will last. Mr. Bunders stated the worst spots could be done with a patch, but the underlying issue wouldn't be addressed. Mr. Kiffmeyer suggested he would like to see it turned to gravel so it would be easier to be fixed. The Council asked for estimates on turning 28th to gravel in the short term.

***** Mr. Backes entered the meeting at 7:30pm. *****

**PUBLIC WORKS
UPDATE SALE OF OLD
STERLING DUMP
TRUCK:**

Mr. McCabe reported we had been utilizing the last remaining old Sterling dump truck for weed spraying and indicated we could move the tank into one of the other trucks.

A motion was made to list the truck and accept the best bid by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORKS
NEW PICKUP/PLOW/
SERVICE BOX
QUOTES:**

Mr. Kiffmeyer was in attendance and presented quotes for a new street department pickup and plow and a service box for the water and sewer pickup. He indicated one pickup had a lot of miles and has been giving us issues. Mr. Hommerding suggested we kick the can down the road a little and spend the funding on other issues. Mr. Genereux was wondering if we should really should just follow the budget. Mayor Schmitz suggested we order the service box now as it is going on one of the older trucks.

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

**PUBLIC WORKS
EYEWASH
STATION:**

Mr. Kiffmeyer stated we don't have an adequate eyewash station in the shop and presented a quote to have one installed. Mayor Schmitz questioned if our staff could install and was told none of them are licensed plumbers.

A motion was made to authorize the installation of the eyewash station by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORK
GRADING
QUOTES:**

Mr. McCabe stated the company that had been grading our gravel roads decided not to do it again this year and presented three quotes to do the work.

A motion was made to hire Rice Contracting at a rate of \$180/hour to grade the gravel roads by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously

**PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION,
LUTGEN COMPANIES
ADDITION PRELIMINARY**

AND FINAL PLAT: Mr. McCabe reported the planning commission held a public hearing and unanimously recommended approval of the preliminary and final plat with the conditions stipulated in Resolution #2025-06.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2025-06 by Mr. Backes seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

**PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION,
LUTGEN PROPERTIES
SITE PLAN:**

Mr. McCabe indicated again the planning commission unanimously recommended approval of the site plan with the conditions stipulated.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #2025-07 by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Skaalerud. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE
#2025-05, TRUCK
RESTRICTIONS:**

Mr. McCabe reported he and Mayor Schmitz talked about limiting truck traffic on Gaberdine Road and 238th Street because of the shape of the road. He presented a draft ordinance that designates and truck route throughout the city and limits trucks to that truck route with specific exemptions.

A motion was made to approve Ordinance #2025-05, Truck Restrictions by Mr. Genereux, seconded by Mr. Backes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made to publish in summary by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Hommerding. Motion carried unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO
DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT,
EMERALD PONDS:**

Mr. McCabe stated Arnie Esterbrooks, the developer of Emerald Ponds, has requested an amendment to the developer's agreement that would combine the remaining twin lot homes into single family lots.

A motion was made to approve the amendment to the Emerald Ponds Developer's Agreement by Mr. Backes, seconded by Mr. Genereux. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEMBER
PURVIEW:**

Mr. Genereux indicated there was a large pothole on 245th Street near County Road 7.

Mr. Hommerding inquired about the AED at Hidden Lake Park and was told it is done.

Mr. Skaalerud asked about restriping on 245th Street and was told we don't typically don't strip residential roads.

Mr. Skaalerud stated he had residents calling about a fence that may be proposed around the pond east of Blackberry Farms.

Mayor Schmitz asked if we can get a newsletter out and suggested we do it quarterly. There was discussion on communication in general and it turned to the website and where we are with the update. Mr. McCabe stated we finally got approved for our .gov website and will be building that with a goal to be live soon.

Mayor Schmitz indicated the League of MN Cities will have a member come out and train on roles and responsibilities.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

REPORT: Mr. McCabe reported the shouldering work was done on the 2024 Street Project and residents like what was done.

ADJOURMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:40 pm by Mr. Skaalerud seconded by Mr. Genereux.

Approved this 3rd day of June, 2025.

Jeff Schmitz, Mayor

Attest:

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator