

MINUTES  
City Council Meeting  
July 14, 2025  
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Ressler, Council Members Sundine, Johnson and Clark

ALSO PRESENT: Interim City Administrator Zwiener, City Attorney Iacovino, Public Works Director Tony Motl, Police Chief Greg Skillestad, Karen Peterson and Kay Fate of the Steele County Times

Absent: Council Member Newman

Mayor Ressler called the Regular City Council Meeting to order on July 14, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Ressler led the Council and others present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ressler presented the Consent Agenda for the Council's approval. Included in the Consent Agenda was the following:

1. Approval of the Agenda for the July 14, 2025 Meeting
2. Approval of the Minutes of the June 9, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2025 - Special City Council Meeting
4. Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2025 – Special City Council Meeting
5. Approval of Resolution Accepting Donation – James Fiebiger for Pickleball Court
6. Approval of Resolution Accepting Donation – Cargill
7. Approval of Resolution Accepting Donation – Hansen Foundation
8. Request for Road Closure – August 7, 2025 BP Quarterback Club
9. Request for Road Closure – September 4-7, 2025 – BP Cancer Group
10. Approve Permit to Consume Liquor in Park – Family Reunion

The Council made the following motion:



Motion approving the offer of the City Administrator position to Anthony Martens as recommended by the Employee Replacement Committee, starting at Step 3, and approving the Employment Agreement as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented the first reading of the amended Fire Department Ordinance. After the reading the Council made the following motion:

Motion by:	SUNDINE	Seconded by:	JOHNSON
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion calling a Public Hearing to hear public input on the amendment to the Fire Department Ordinance for Monday, August 11, 2025 at 6:45 P.M. as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented Minnesota Department of Transportation proposed appraised values for acquisition of two small portions of two separate parcels. The two small tracts that MN DOT is proposing to acquire are needed for the Highway 218 project. The tracts include 18,659 square feet of the east portion of Fire Department Park. The Council made the following motion:

Motion by:	JOHNSON	Seconded by:	SUNDINE
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion to accept the proposed appraised values for the acquisition of two small tracts of land needed for the Highway 218 project as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented a proposal from Stantec in the amount of \$12,755.00 to assist with the Chloride Source Reduction Plan for the NPDES permit at the waste water treatment plant. The Council made the following motion:

Motion by:	SUNDINE	Seconded by:	CLARK
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion to approve the proposal from Stantec in the amount of \$12,755.00 to assist with the Chloride Source Reduction Plan for the NPDES permit at the waste water treatment plant as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called for Public Comments. Karen Peterson, the Executive Director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce thanked the City of Blooming Prairie's many departments that assisted the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce in holding a successful Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration.

Mayor Ressler called on Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad. Chief Skillestad gave the Council a report of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July incidents. Chief Skillestad informed the Council of the Garage Door Open/Business Open forms and of the Golden Tickets being handed out to children spotted doing good things.

Mayor Ressler called on Interim City Administrator Zwiener for the Administrator's Report. Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that digging for the Central Park bathroom to start Monday July 14, 2025

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that directional boring of the sewer for the Central Park bathroom is scheduled to take place on Thursday, July 17, 2025

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that Firemen's Park bathroom was vandalized on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. The officer that locked the bathroom up at dark noticed it, but did not communicate it to the Public Works Director. The vandalism was found then by Public Works Director Motl on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>, when unlocking the bathroom. The vandalism was then remediated.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that Brian Betlach has resigned as an Ambulance Commissioner. Please be thinking of someone who may want to serve on the Ambulance Commission.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that Dave Hoffman did not pass the B wastewater operator exam in June. The city will have to continue to pay Chas Schroht \$2,200.00 per month to be our operator. The next option to take the test is in September.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that Public Works Director Motl, Engineer Grabau and herself met with MN DOT Thursday, July 10, 2025. The proposed letting date for the Highway 218 project is November 18, 2026. They have added two bridge replacements (box culverts) south of Blooming Prairie to the project. These are just in the project to be let together and to share the detour. The city will meet with MN DOT again in October 2025.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that she received notice on June 30, 2025 that the Blooming Prairie Police Department are unionizing. Interim City Administrator Zwiener has received and posted the order of Maintenance of Status Quo

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that we have started to receive ambulance payments again with EMS/MC. We are starting a trial to see if we can process some of the old ones that were not processed by Expert Billing.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that next month the Council will decide on a COLA. This needs to be done in August so that the preliminary budget can be presented in September. She requested the Council to stop in with any thoughts they may have.

Mayor Ressler called on City Attorney Iacovino for the City Attorney's report. City Attorney Iacovino recapped his city business for the month.

Mayor Ressler called for Council Member's Reports.

Council Member Johnson informed the Council that the Tractor Pull that was canceled during the Fourth of July festivities is being proposed to be rescheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Clark presented his plight for a full-time weekday staff member at the Ambulance to aid with daytime ambulance calls.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Council took the following action:

Motion by:	SUNDINE	Seconded by:	JOHNSON
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion adjourning the Meeting was duly carried.

Terri S. Zwiener  
Interim City Administrator