

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
January 12, 2025
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Ressler, Council members Newman, Johnson and Clark

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Martens, Deputy City Clerk/Finance Director Zwiener, City Attorney Iacovino, Fire Chief Dean Naatz, Ambulance Director Karissa Fawver, EMT Kathy Piller, EMT Jessica Kremer, Kay Fate of the Steele County Times and Officer Peach

Absent: Council member Sundine

Mayor Ressler called the Regular City Council Meeting to order on January 12, 2026, 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 were the following:

1. Approval of Agenda of January 12, 2026, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes of December 8th, 2025 – Public Hearing
3. Approval of Minutes of December 8th, 2025 – Regular City Council Meeting
4. Approval of Resolution 26-01-01 Accepting Donation from the Claremont Area Chamber of Commerce to help pay for Park Equipment in Central Park
5. Approval of Resolution 26-01-02 Accepting Donation from Leo Agusta to the Ambulance for Equipment
6. Approval of Resolution 26-01-03 Accepting Donation from Kristin Fiebiger for the Library
7. Approval of Gambling Permit Request – Blooming Prairie Cancer Group
8. Approval of Temporary Liquor License – Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club
9. Approve Updated City Fee Schedule for 2026

The Council made the following motion:

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Motion by: NEWMAN Seconded by: JOHNSON

For: ALL Against: NONE

Motion approving the Consent Agenda as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented for the Council’s review Accounts Payable and Financial Reports. City Administrator Martens reviewed with the Council the larger bills. After review, the following action was taken:

Motion by: JOHNSON Seconded by: CLARK

For: ALL Against: NONE

Motion approving the Accounts Payable and Financial Reports as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called for the Committee Reports. Minutes of the Planning & Zoning Board held on December 2, 2025; the Blooming Prairie Public Utilities Commission Meeting held on December 9, 2025; The Blooming Prairie Economic Development Authority held on December 10, 2025, and the Blooming Prairie Fire Commission held on December 9, 2025, were presented. The following action was taken:

Motion by: CLARK Seconded by: NEWMAN

For: ALL Against: NONE

Motion accepting the Committee Reports as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented the Official Appointments, Official Depositories and Official City Newspaper for the Councils’ consideration. The Council took the following action:

Motion by: NEWMAN Seconded by: JOHNSON

For: ALL Against: NONE

Motion approving Resolution 26-01-04 identifying the Official Appointments, Official Depositories, Official City Newspaper and Authorized Signors as presented by Mayor Ressler was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented the following changes to the 2026 Meeting schedule:

1. The June 2026 City Council meeting regularly scheduled for June 8th, 2026, be moved to the following Monday, June 15th, 2026.
2. The June 2026 BPPU Commission meeting regularly scheduled for June 9th, 2026, be moved to the following Tuesday, June 16th, 2026.
3. The June 2026 Fire Commission meeting regularly scheduled for June 9th, 2026, be moved to the following Tuesday, June 16th, 2026.
4. All Ambulance Commission Meetings be moved to the 1st Tuesday of each Month at 5:15pm going forward until otherwise noticed or changed.

The Council made the following motion:

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

Motion approving the meeting schedule changes as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called on City Administrator Martens for information about the request for a parcel combination/split. City Administrator Martens presented a request from the owner of parcel 14-103-0410 to combine parcel 14-103-0409 and parcel 14-103-0407, then split the parcels east and west so that they would line up with parcels 14-103-0412 and 14-103-0410. The Council made the following motion:

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

Motion to approve the combination and splitting of parcel #14-103-0409 and parcel #14-103-0407 in the City of Blooming Prairie as approved by the Planning & Zoning Board and presented.

Mayor Ressler called on City Administrator Martens for additional information about the Federal Grants Policy. City Administrator Martens informed the Council that our Auditors have requested that we adopt a Federal Grant Policy in anticipation of funding for the Highway 218 project. City Administrator Martens informed the Council that he, Finance Director Zwiener and Engineer Grabau have all reviewed the policy and agree with it. The Council took the following action:

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

Motion to approve and adopt the Federal Grant Policy as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called for Public Comments. There was no public requesting to be heard.

Mayor Ressler called on Fire Chief Naatz for the departmental update. Chief Naatz informed the Council that the Fire Department currently has 30 members. The newest members are approximately 20% through their training. The most recent hiring group consisted of three members; however, one has since moved and resigned. The remaining two members are expected to complete their probationary period in March.

Fire Chief Naatz informed the Council that they have received a turnout gear grant from the Hanson Family Foundation in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Fire Chief Naatz informed the Council that the Annual Township meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2026, and all Council members are invited.

Chief Naatz informed the Council that the Fire Department responded to 101 calls in 2025. This includes the Fire Department being called for an ambulance run.

Mayor Ressler called on Ambulance President Karissa Fawver for the Ambulance update. Director Fawver informed the Council that she was the Vice President of the Association and with President Tyler Wilson's resignation, she has taken over as the President.

Ambulance Association President Fawver reported that there are currently 13 ambulance volunteers on staff. The service has been advertising for additional volunteers through visits to

the high school, word of mouth and social media. The service has 5 interviews for volunteers next week.

Ambulance Association President Fawver informed the Council that there were 311 calls for service in 2025 of which 165 of those were daytime calls.

Ambulance Association President Fawver informed the Council that the two new rig computers are in pace and working well.

Ambulance Association President Fawver informed the Council that the service has a new billing company.

Ambulance Association President Fawver informed the Council that the service needs new CPR materials for their classes, radios and a full-time ambulance director. No quotes have been submitted for any of these.

Ambulance Association President Fawver informed the Council that there has been talk of Steele County switching from e-Dispatches to a different service.

Mayor Ressler called on City Administrator Martens for the Administrator's Report. City Administrator Martens informed the Council of what he has accomplished this month along with recognizing employee birthdays and employment anniversaries.

Mayor Ressler called on City Attorney Iacovino for the City Attorney's report. Attorney Iacovino informed the Council of some of the things completed this month.

City Attorney Iacovino presented his 2025 overview of criminal cases handled in his office.

Mayor Ressler called for Council Member's Reports. There were none.

Mayor Ressler closed the meeting citing MN Statute 13D.05, sub. 3(a) – Performance Evaluations – Travis Belich – David Hoffman – Dan Peach – Laura Larson – Brad Busho – Brandon Holevoet – Steven Krell

Mayor Ressler closed the meeting citing MN Statute 13D.03 to discuss the City's labor negotiations strategy with the LELS Local #606 Police Officers Union.

The City Council meeting was reopened at 8:17 P.M.

Mayor Ressler summarized that the seven employees received favorable performance evaluations.

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

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

Motion adjourning the Meeting was duly carried.



Anthony Martens
City Administrator