



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES March 02, 2026, ~ 7:00 PM

Council Present: Stephen A. Condon, Andrea Monson, Heather Hussong-Reasoner, Jeff Paplow, and Brent Pavelko.

Council Absent:

Others Present: Holly Rademacher – City Clerk and Shelley Pohlman – online.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Stephen A. Condon.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVE AGENDA- A motion to approve the agenda as presented, made by **Paplow/Hussong-Reasoner**. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- A motion to approve minutes from February 17, 2026, as presented, made by **Hussong-Reasoner/Paplow**. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT – A motion to approve the financial report totaling \$290,934.38 made by **Hussong-Reasoner/Monson**. All in favor. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Department Reports were presented, Paplow questioned if one of the calls for service (open door) was at the multipurpose. The address is the multipurpose, Rademacher explained that she and Schensted have made contact with all key holds and LSS to state if the doors continue to be unlocked at night the building will have to be either re-keyed, have a card to access or striker. Rademacher is waiting on quotes for the various options. No questions and/or concerns were noted.

SCHEDULED/UNSCHEDULED GUESTS (limit 5 minutes each) –

AGENDA

1. Letter of Support for electric system upgrades- Rademacher has applied for community project funding grant through commissioner Finstad’s office. With the application it was recommended to provide letters of support to back up the project. Rademacher, with the revisions from Pavelko, provided the letter of support from the council, stated how crucial the upgrades are for the substation and powerplant. The current infrastructure at the Lakefield substation and powerplant is outdated and is quickly becoming unable to meet the modern energy demands of the city. Upgrading these systems, including needed overhead to underground conversions to our distribution system, is a critical need. As part of these vital conversions, modern dual voltage transformers will also need to be installed.

The project proposal also includes the replacement of a failing emergency generator for the city, which is past its reliable service lifespan. The generator is currently not in use due to needed repairs, and the city is reliant upon a second generator, only able to supply power to approximately half of the city. The replacement of this generator will also include installation of new 15 kV cable and switch gear necessary for operation.

Rademacher stated the project in total will cost 20 million dollars and she has requested the full amount.

Mayor Condon thanked Pavelko for the suggested revisions to the letter and hopes for a letter of reward for the grant funding. A motion to approve the support letter for LPU electric system upgrade and for the 2026 street and utility improvements for request of funding from community project fund through Finsted office made by **Hussong-Reasoner**. All in favor. Motion carried. Pavelko suggested sending the letter to Klobuchar and Smith also to MRES and DGR. He stated the more support the LPU can get for the project the better.

Hussong-Reasoner would also recommend sending letters to local representatives, because it doesn’t hurt to try. Rademacher will revise the letter to address the representatives and get sent out. Pavelko would like to amend his motion. The amended motion to approve the support letter for LPU electric system upgrade and for the 2026 street and utility improvements for request of funding from community project fund through Finsted

office and to send letter of request to local representatives Smith and Klobuchar made by **Pavelko/Hussong-Reasoner**. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Letter of Support for 2026 Street & Utility Improvement- Rademacher stated this letter of support is for the 2026 street & utility improvements project, she is also preparing the grant application through community project funding from Finsted office. The letter stated the funding would support the street and underground infrastructure upgrades within our city, specifically within the areas of Snure Street from First Avenue South to Seventh Avenue South, Griffin Street from 820th Street (Mill Road) to Eighth Avenue South, Fifth Avenue South from Griffin Street to Belmont Street, Third Avenue South from Griffin Street to Belmont Street and First Avenue South from Griffin Street to Summer Lane (sidewalk only). These areas have experienced significant degradation due to aging and use, undersized water lines, deteriorated pavement and curbing, inadequate drainage, antiquated clay tile sanitary and stormwater sewer lines, and excess erosion. These conditions have led to traffic safety concerns, infrastructure failures, reduced property values, and frequent emergency repairs. Funding for a comprehensive project is desperately needed within these areas for road surface and curb/gutter replacement, potable water and sanitary/storm sewer utility upgrades, and other related subsurface system improvements. Completion of these necessary upgrades will enhance public safety, maintain reliable service, improve traffic flow, increase system efficiencies, and modernize a failing aged system. Motion was made to approve letter support on agenda item one.

3. Resolution 26-10 Accepting donation- Resolution 26-10 states acceptance of \$700 Remick Foundation Grant for Bicycle Safety. Chief Pohlman stated on November 17, 2025, the Lakefield City Council authorized him to apply for a Remick Foundation grant in the amount of \$700.00 for traffic signs, flags, cones, worksheets, pencils, bike voucher and four bicycle headlights for course materials (that can be used annual at the LPD Bike Rodeo), educational materials and door prizes. February 12, 2026, the Lakefield Police Department received a letter from the Remick Foundation along with a check for \$700.00 for bike safety education. LPD request that the Lakefield City Council accept the grant to be utilized by the Lakefield Police Department via the application. A motion to approve resolution 26-10 acceptance of \$700 from Remick Foundation to the Lakefield Police Department made by **Paplow/Hussong-Reasoner**, voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mayor Condon asked if there was an update on the south side sidewalk for city hall and police station. Rademacher stated that funding is the hold up, SEH is looking for grants and Rademacher/Kruger have reached out to USDA Rural Development for finance guidance. Pavelko would like to see what funding or financial burden the city will have before planning for the city would be able to go a different route than concrete.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. **Other Board and Committee Reports**
 - a. **EDA Update –**
 - i. Next meeting March 6th at 12:00 pm
 - b. **LPU Update**
 - i. Next meeting March 17th at 4:00 pm
 - c. **Park Update –**
 - i. Next meeting March 9th at 4:30 pm
 - d. **Planning & Zoning Update -**
 - i. Next meeting March 30th at 4:30 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Next council meeting, Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall**

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn made by **Paplow/Pavelko** to adjourn at 7:24 pm, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted: Holly Rademacher

Attest:

Holly Rademacher- City Clerk