



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES April 20, 2026, ~ 7:00 PM

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

Council Absent:

Others Present: Holly Rademacher – City Clerk, Matt Aden- Public Works Foreman, Roger Pohlman – Chief of Police, Nathan Stender- Police Officer, Justin Lessman -Media online, Carol Schulz, Tony Minelli- T-10 construction, Alisha Paplow- Wild Compass online, Lakefield Resident- online and DT-online.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- A motion to approve minutes from April 6th, 2026, with the addition of Paplow seconding agenda item number five, made by **Monson/Pavelko**, all in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT – A motion to approve financial statements year to date as detailed in packet with variances noted revenue low due to timing of tax payments and government aid & grants, insurance renewals are upcoming and compensation expense low due to timing of seasonal wages made by **Hussong-Reasoner/Monson** all in favor, motion carried. Hussong-Reasoner would like to thank Kruger for all her hard work and providing the YTD finances.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Department Reports were presented no additional questions or concerns were noted.

SCHEDULED/UNSCHEDULED GUESTS (limit 5 minutes each) –

Alisha Paplow-Wild Compass- Alisha Paplow, director of Wild Compass explained the fire department conducted a controlled burn of prairie grass on the East side of the property due to mitigating wild parsnip and helping the growth of grasses. A controlled burn has not been completed in 16 years, Paplow stated. Paplow would like the council to consider a cost share for the bill the Lakefield Fire Department will be billing. With the current staff at Wild Compass they are not equipped to conduct the controlled burn. The council thanked Paplow for her time and will consider her request.

Tony Minelli- T10 Construction- Minelli explained he is with T-10 construction out of the twin cities area. T-10 is a family-owned business that has been in business for a decade. T-10 is always striving to improve the company. With tons of combined experience, this well-oiled machine is only getting better. These values and promises are what have set T-10 Construction apart from other construction companies and allow for those honest, fundamental relationships with clients. Their commitment extends beyond business; they are passionate about giving back to the community that supports them. Whether through local events or community service initiatives, T-10 Construction eagerly steps up, fostering genuine connections with clients and neighbors alike. With a family-like bond among team members, they share a unified vision: to make a great living by doing right by their customers and community. Minelli stated they work directly with insurance companies, the company is capable of completing 10 roofs a day and he completed a projection of damage within Lakefield (5 million dollars). He left a packet with the council, and the council thanked him for his time and providing information.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Consideration Waiving Fire Department Fee for Wild Compass-** The council discussed in detail how the burning is crucial to the land which is city owned and if Wild Compass was not leasing the land the city would have the expense. The council appricates Wild Compass up keeping the land and the programs they provide to not only the city but surrounding counties. Pavelko stated with the property being city owned and unique he would recommend the city agreeing to a 50/50 cost share. Mayor Condon stated the fire department needs to be compensated for the work completed. Rademacher informed the council there is a lease agreement

with Wild Compass stating they are responsible for land management. Fire chief Baumann stated via text that there was an agreement with pricing prior to the control burn. A motion to approve cost share of controlled burn with Wild Compass made by **Pavelko/Hussong-Reasoner**, all in favor, Paplow abstain, motion carried.

2. **Recommendation from Park Board for Hiring Manager**-The Recreation board is requesting the council's approval to hire a manager and assistant manager for the 2026 season. The candidates have great credentials that will enhance the aquatic center atmosphere! The manager they recommend is Eliza Liepold and assistant Ava Fisher, both from Lakefield area. Hiring a manager and assistant for a public pool serves the public purpose of ensuring a safe, well-run, and enjoyable recreational facility for residents and visitors. The assistant manager, alongside the pool manager, is responsible for various aspects of pool operations, including safety, staff supervision, scheduling, and maintenance, ultimately contributing to the well-being and enjoyment of the community. Rademacher noted to council wages for the two positions are \$20/hr. for manager and \$16/hr. for assistant. A motion to the hiring of Eliza Liepold as manager and Ava Fisher as assistant with wages as noted made by **Hussong-Reasoner/Paplow**, all in favor, motion carried.
3. **Computer Lodge Invoice**- Rademacher stated that the invoice from computer lodge is for the three new laptops in city hall. The invoice is \$409.43 more than the estimate due to extra on site work with transferring of Banyon and switching clerk laptop to street department. The city portion of the increase would be \$102.36. A motion to approve invoice from Computer Lodge in the amount of \$3,976.43 with splitting with utilities making city's portion \$1,988.22 made by **Monson/Hussong-Reasoner**, all in favor, motion carried.
4. **Computer Lodge Block Time Agreement**- This agreement is for contracted hours for IT support in the quantity of 40 hours in the amount of \$3,800 to be shared with utilities at 50 percent. Rademacher stated Computer Lodge continues to do an excellent job and reasonable. A motion to approve cost share of 50/50 with utilities for computer lodge invoice in the amount of \$3,800 (city's portion \$1,900) made by **Pavelko/Paplow**, all in favor, motion carried.
5. **CDS Invoice**- The invoice for CDS was presented for the 2025 audit in the amount of \$24,500. Rademacher stated the city's general account portion is \$14,000 which is the same as 2025, the remaining balance is split between all city departments. A motion to approve CDS invoice in the amount of \$24,500 made by **Monson/Hussong-Reasoner**, all in favor, motion carried.
6. **LMC Workers Compensation Invoice**- League of Minnesota Cities provided invoice for worker's compensation insurance in the amount of \$33,590 for the year 2026. This is coverage from April 1st, 2026, to April 1st, 2027. The limits of liability include bodily injury- each occurrence \$1,500,000 and bodily injury by disease- limit \$1,500,000. The premium is calculated by number of employees in each department which have different rates. A motion to approve the invoice from the LMC for workers compensation in the amount of \$33,590 for workers compensation made by **Pavelko/Hussong-Reasoner** all in favor, motion carried.
7. **LMC Insurance Renewal**- League of Minnesota Cities provided invoice for property/casualty coverage premium in the amount of \$112,298. The overall premium is down 0.68%-This is mainly due to not having any on-sale liquor receipts this year. The complete premium summary was provided in the packet for review. The average rate change for Lakefield in 2026 will be -2%, which includes auto physical damage 10% increase, excess liability 4% increase and property 5% decrease except for electric utility property. A motion to approve LMC property and casualty insurance coverage invoice in the amount of \$112,298 with splitting the premiums between departments made by **Hussong-Reasoner/Monson**, all in favor, motion carried.
8. **Transient Applications**- The Council reviewed ten transient/peddler license applications submitted by various contractors seeking approval to conduct business within the city following the recent hail damage event. Pavelko asked if there would be any reason not to approve one or all applications? Rademacher stated no, many of the companies that submitted applications have been called by a resident in town and they would like to make the trip worth their time and help other residents. A motion to approve all ten applications, allowing the contractors to operate in accordance with city ordinances and licensing requirements made by **Pavelko/Hussong-Reasoner**, all in favor, motion carried.
9. **Sale of Bulk Crushed Concrete Price**- Jim Hussong with Dudley's Garage is requesting to purchase over 1,000 tons of crushed concrete/asphalt for the parking lot on Main Street. He stated Dunnick's out of Milford is \$13.50/ton that includes delivery, the city sells crushed concrete/asphalt for \$15/ton plus loading. He would like the council to consider price matching the material at \$13.50/ton. Rademacher stated at the requested cost will cover crushing cost. Pavelko stated the city has a large quantity and if it overs the cost of crushing he would recommend selling that quantity at the asking price. A motion to approve the sale of crushed concrete/asphalt for \$13.50 a ton and includes loading time made by **Pavelko/Paplow**, all in favor, Hussong-Reasoner abstain, motion carried.

10. Resignation of Officer Stender- Chief Pohlman provided a resignation letter from officer Stender effective May 1st, 2026. Stender stated his 12 years with the department has shaped him both personally and professionally and will always carry respect for the work he has done with the city of Lakefield and Lakefield Police Department. The Mayor and Council expressed their sincere gratitude to Officer Stender for his 12 years of dedicated service to the Lakefield Police Department and the community. They thanked him for his commitment, professionalism, and contributions to the City of Lakefield, and wished him the best in his future endeavors. A motion to approve resignation of Officer Stender effective May 1st, 2026, made by **Hussong-Reasoner/Pavelko**, all in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Other Board and Committee Reports

- a. EDA Update –**
 - i.** Next meeting May 8th at 12:00 pm
- b. LPU Update-**
 - i.** Next meeting on May 19th at 4:00 pm
- c. Park Update –**
 - i.** Next meeting on May 11th at 4:30 pm
- d. Planning & Zoning Update -**
 - i.** Next meeting on April 27th 4:30 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Next Council Meeting, Monday, May 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall

Closed Session for Performance Evaluation of the city clerk 13D Sub 3(a)- Council went into closed session at 7:37 p.m. made by **Pavelko/Paplow** all yes, motion carried. A motion to close closed session at 8:18 p.m. made by Monson/Hussong-Reasoner all yes, motion carried. During the evaluation, the Council thanked Rademacher for her continued communication regarding City matters and the happenings in Lakefield. The Council stated that there were no performance issues requiring immediate attention. One resident continues to e-mail concerns, and the Council addressed the matter with Rademacher. She will work to ensure the concern is addressed within the department. The Council expressed that Rademacher is doing an excellent job and thanked her for her continued hard work and dedication to the city. No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn made by **Pavelko/Paplow** to adjourn at 8:18 p.m., all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted: Holly Rademacher

Attest:

Holly Rademacher- City Clerk