

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 22, 2025
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Laura Helle (appearing remotely using ZOOM interactive technology), Michael Postma, Oballa Oballa, Jason Baskin, and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Planning and Zoning Director Holly Wallace, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Parks and Recreation Director Jason Sehon, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, Assistant City Clerk Kellie Humphress, Street Department Employees Mike Loucks and Tony Hill, Library Employee Sara Steinhoff, and Parks and Recreation Employee Lynn Thompson

APPEARING IN PERSON: Community Members

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council discussed the proposed tax levy and budget that was approved at the September 15 Council meeting that has now been submitted to Mower County. Based on this action, Council needs to determine where the additional \$273,000 of reductions would need to come from.

Council Member Baskin noted he had three options to review, as follows:

1. Staff reduction through attrition.
2. Early retirement incentive.
3. Elimination of 2-3 positions.

Council Member Helle noted the city is already understaffed, and that the city has a revenue problem, not an expense problem.

Council debated the different options available, noting staff does a great job for us but unfortunately the state forecast does not look favorable in the next few years.

After further discussion, motion by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Oballa to have Human Resources outline the options for an early retirement incentive that would reduce staff 2-3 people for positions that would not be replaced, and with any staff reductions be treated with dignity, respect, and appreciation. This action will be time limited to have the policy approved

at the October 6 Council Meeting (not to be taken to a work session first) with the expectation that by the October 20 meeting we will know if anybody is interested in this. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:03 p.m.

Approved: October 6, 2025

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____