

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Doug Schmitz at 5:00 p.m. The following City Council members were found to be present: Acting Mayor Doug Schmitz and Council Members Mike Fall, Ryan Hennen, and Fran Ramler. Absent: Dave Heinen. Others present: Kris Dockendorf, Sam Butler, Jason Blum, Jon Stueve, Dan Weber, Patrick Rausch, Greg Kiess and Joe Jelovnick.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Resident Kevin Heinen at 416 3rd Ave S requested assistance with a dog running at large in his neighborhood. He stated the owner of the property at 406 3rd Ave S, who is cleaning up his property as ordered by the City Council, brings his dog with him, and lets the dog have free range of the entire neighborhood. Heinen stated he has children who are afraid of the dog and can't go outside due to it roaming around in their yard. The Council advised Heinen that this is a police department matter and that he needs to call in when the dog is running at large so the police department can respond and deal with the matter.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE JULY 23, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – July 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

B. MDHA – Stickney Hill Big Horns Chapter – Application to Conduct a Raffle, Form LG220 – October 3, 2025 at The Great Blue Heron, 305 5th Ave S

C. Trunk or Treat Street Closure – Close a portion of 5th Ave S from Hwy 23 to 4th St S on October 26, 2025 from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE VARIANCE REQUEST – GRAFTON SCHOOL, INC.

Patrick Rausch from Grafton was present to explain the variance request to construct a 12' x 24' detached accessory structure in the side yard. Councilor Hennen explained that the Planning Commission was recommending approval since the lot has challenges of meeting the requirement for the accessory structure to be behind the building due to having a road on the front and rear sides of the building. The Council agreed that it was a reasonable request.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A VARIANCE TO ALLOW FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A DETACHED ACCESSORY STRUCTURE IN THE SIDE YARD. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

HANDICAP PARKING STALL BY HESS CHIROPRACTIC

Dockendorf explained that about a year ago a request was received from Hess Chiropractic for an on street handicap parking stall. At that time the Council had directed that the handicap stall on the south side of Main Street by Winners Bar should be removed and instead moved to the north side of the street in front of Hess Chiropractic. She stated that staff has been monitoring the handicap stall on the south side of Main St and it gets used frequently by customers at Winners Bar, which does not want to lose that designated parking space. Dockendorf proposed leaving the current handicap space on the south side and adding an additional handicap space for Hess Chiropractic. Greg Kiess who owns building that Hess Chiropractic is in, requested that the handicap space be located on 2nd Ave N as it would be closer to the entrance of the building and would provide better sight lines of the traffic on Main St. Acting Mayor Schmitz expressed his disappointment that this wasn't taken care of back when the Council gave an initial directive on the parking space. Stueve agreed that adding the space on 2nd Ave N would make more sense for the customers using that building. A motion was made by Fall to allow a handicap parking space on Main St in front of Hess Chiropractic. There was no second for the motion so it died. After additional discussion about the 2nd Ave N location there was a consensus that it would be best located there.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE ADDING AN ON-STREET HANDICAP PARKING STALL ON 2ND AVE N NEAR HESS CHIROPRACTIC. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

LANDSCAPING AT FIRE STATION

Chief Dan Weber explained that on the east side of the new Fire Hall, there are trees and branches that were destroyed due to digging for the new building. He stated that there is some granite outcropping in that same area that needs to be cleaned too and the Granite Landing Apartment complex was also in favor of the area being opened up at the top of the hill. Dockendorf explained that staff had obtained two quotes for the landscaping work and was recommending going with the low bid.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE HIRING KRAEMER TRUCKING AND EXCAVATING TO REMOVE TREES AND CLEAN GRANITE ON THE HILL, ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE FIRE STATION, AT A COST OF \$7,500. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 426 – REGULATING DRIVEWAY CURB WIDTHS

Dockendorf stated that the Planning Commission had revisited the curb width regulations for single family residential uses and recommended changing the widths to allow them to be wider. They stated that by allowing wider curb cuts residents would have greater use of their driveways and garages which would reduce the amount of vehicles being parked on the street. The change would allow for the width of a driveway at the curb to be 18 feet maximum for a single garage, 22 feet for a double garage, and 30 feet for a three-stall garage.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NUMBER 426, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGULATING DRIVEWAY CURB WIDTHS. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT**A. Approve Crack Sealing**

Stueve stated that the pricing obtained this year was better than it was in 2024, by yard and by pound.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE HIRING BERTRAM ASPHALT COMPANY TO PERFORM THE 2025 CRACK SEALING PROJECT, AT A COST OF \$20,250.00; TO BE PAID FROM STREET REPAIRS AND SEAL COATING, LINE ITEM #6611. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

B. Approve Seal Coating and Fog Seal

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE HIRING ASTECH CORPORATION TO PERFORM THE 2025 SEAL COAT AND FOG SEALING PROJECT, AT A COST OF \$51,250.00; TO BE PAID FROM STREET REPAIRS AND SEAL COATING, LINE ITEM #6611. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

C. Other

Stueve reported that Stearns County Highway Dept. has agreed to put oil in the transition joints in the roundabout on Co Rd 2. He also stated that staff would be touching up the alleyways with class 5 and helping set up the Hometown Pride event tents. Councilor Fall inquired about the mold on the concrete surface of the skating rink and about woodchips in the Pioneer Park playground area. Stueve stated that he also has noticed the water issue in the skating rink and will talk to the contractor about drains. He stated that the playground area in Pioneer Park has always been sand.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT**A. Project Updates**

Butler stated that the final grading and seeding is completed at Lift Station #1. He stated the repair issues on the Main Street Improvement Project are getting addressed and that striping on the eastern portion will be completed this week. He stated that a partial start up was done at the Backwash Tank, he added that there are control and electrical items that need to be resolved yet. He stated work continues on the design reports for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lastly, he stated that tree removal and dirt work continue at the Spartan Fields development.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Blum provided the Council with a monthly service call report for June. He provided a reminder about National Night Out events. He also stated that a sensory friendly Touch-a-Truck event will be held on August 6, 2025. Councilor Fall stated that he had received a request for a dynamic speed sign on 1st Street South for westbound traffic. Chief Blum stated that since it is a county road the county would need to approve it.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Eric & Tanya Leither Sewer Connection Agreement

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH ERIC & TANYA LEITHER REQUIRING FUTURE CONNECTION TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

B. Update on Construction Manager Interviews

Dockendorf stated that the building committee had interviewed five firms and had narrowed it down to three candidates. She inquired whether Council would like to interview those three firms after a regular meeting session or hold a workshop. After discussion the Council agreed to hold a special workshop meeting on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 5 pm to conduct the interviews of construction managers for the City Hall/PD remodel project.

COMMISSION UPDATES

A. Planning Commission

Councilor Hennen stated that they discussed the variance for Grafton Schools, Inc. He stated they also discussed the amendment to the driveway width ordinance. Lastly, they discussed managed landscapes and the permitting process for it. He stated they hope to finalize it at their next meeting before bringing it to the Council for approval.

B. EDA

Councilor Ramler stated they discussed repairs to the parking lot by Winners and the welcome to Cold Spring signs.

C. Park Board and Rocori Trail

Neither of these commissions met since the last report.

LIST OF BILLS AND ADDITIONS

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$320,157.28 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$63,064.28 AS PRESENTED BY CITY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Hennen inquired about the fire service contracts, Dockendorf stated that she recently received information back from the City Attorney and that she would have a draft ready for approval at the next meeting.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY HENNEN, TO ADJOURN AT 5:48 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Doug Schmitz, Acting Mayor

Kris Dockendorf, City Administrator