

## **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Dave Heinen called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following City Council members were found to be present: Mayor Dave Heinen and Council Members Mike Fall, Ryan Hennen, and Doug Schmitz. Fran Ramler arrived late. Others present: Kris Dockendorf, Jon Stueve, Jason Blum, Lois Lieser, Dan Weber, Stacy Kalthoff, Pat Evens, Chuck Merten, Rose Keul, and Drew VanLoy.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

### **2026 PROPOSED BUDGET DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Fire Department – Dan Weber**

Chief Weber reviewed the Fire Department budget. A discussion was held on possible ways to reduce their call load, and the Council directed Dan to talk with Chief Blum about getting the police department's help with daytime calls.

#### **B. Police Budget – Jason Blum**

Chief Blum reviewed the proposed Police Department budget. Discussion was held on his request for a new squad car. Council members Hennen and Ramler proposed making a policy that we buy a new squad every year so that it doesn't have to be discussed every budget meeting.

Rose Keul from the Rocori Senior Center was present to request their annual donation from the City of \$5,000. She stated that they do ask the neighboring cities and township, but no one else is donating.

#### **C. Parks Budget – Jon Stueve**

Jon presented the Parks budget. Mayor Heinen reported that the Park Board proposed a new shelter at Pioneer Park. He also stated that some residents had asked the City to construct a pickle ball court, but the Park Board felt the Pioneer Park shelter should be done first. Council member Fall suggested raising the park rental rates.

Drew VanLoy was present to request that the City replace the first base bleacher boards from wooden to composite, and stated that Cold Spring will be hosting the state amateur tournament in 2027. He stated that the baseball association will be paying for a number of other upgrades to the park before then.

#### **D. Streets and Storm Water Budgets – Jon Stueve**

Discussion was held on Jon's request for a new sweeper and the possibility of holding off on it. Jon also requested another allocation of \$200,000 in his equipment reserve fund. They reviewed the options for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE reconstruction and the Fireside Road connections. Kris reported on the financial status of the Main St and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE projects.

#### **E. Water, Wastewater, & Pre-Treatment Budgets – Jon Stueve**

Jon discussed the budget item for drilling a new well and relining the sewer line in Main Street. He also reported that the Brewery would like us to purchase a biogas burner to save on their gas expenses. This would be reimbursed to the City from the Brewery.

#### **F. General Government – Kris Dockendorf & Lois Lieser**

Council member Schmitz proposed a pay increase for EDA, Planning Commission, and Park Board. Council member Ramler proposed a pay increase for the Mayor and Council members.

#### **G. Administration – Kris Dockendorf & Lois Lieser**

Kris discussed the budget item for a new electronic sign, stating that the current one has connectivity issues and some of the lights don't work, and can't be repaired due to the age of the sign.

#### **H. EDA Budget – Kris Dockendorf**

Kris presented the EDA budget.

**COUNCIL REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED 2026 LEVY AND BUDGET**

The budget as originally presented by the Departments resulted in a 49.93% increase to the levy rate. The Council reviewed the capital purchase list and proposed the following changes to the General Fund budget:

- Remove pickup truck: (\$39,800)
- Increase budget for Park Board, Planning Commission, Mayor, & Council pay: \$4,600
- Remove both Fireside Rd full reconstruction connections and add a temporary connection only for 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave: (\$249,686)
- Remove 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE reconstruction and instead put \$100,000 into reserves for it: (\$232,039)
- Reduce levy by grant money received by police department: (\$33,042)
- Increase COBRA revenue in the police department: (\$4,500)
- Take edging and wood chips for Pioneer Park from Gambling Fund: (\$34,000)
- Remove construction of Pioneer Park shelter: (\$400,000)
- Remove construction of bleachers at baseball park, instead pay for half the cost and take that out of the Gambling Fund: (\$72,887)
- Remove purchase of electronic sign and instead put \$50,000 in reserves for future sign: (\$29,645)

These changes resulted in a reduction of \$1,090,999 to the levy. This changed the levy rate increase from 49.93% to 10.54%. The Council acknowledged that this large increase in the levy was attributable to the new payments on the fire hall bonds.

**GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

NONE

**ADJOURN**

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO ADJOURN AT 1:27 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

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David Heinen, Mayor

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Kris Dockendorf, City Administrator