

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Whitington called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Garrett Steinberg, Beth Rohrich, Anthony White, Nick Lewis, and Mayor John Whitington.

Staff Present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch, and Public Works Director Andrew Hartman. Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office Liaison Lieutenant Mitch Gahler.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve the agenda. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whitington voting in favor.**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Lewis, to approve the December 1, 2025 City Council minutes as presented. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whitington voting in favor.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Monthly Bills	Treasurer's Report
Public Works Report	Fire Report
Gambling Report	Building and Zoning Permit
BECSO Report	Res. 2025-01 Official Depositories
Res. 2025-02 Official Newspaper	Res. 2025-03 2025 Fee Schedule
Res. 2025-04 Designate Bank Signatories/Delegating Authorizing Electronic Fund Transfers	Res. 2025-05 Accept Donations for Active Adults
Res. 2025-06 Employee 2026 Wages	Res. 2025-07 Resignation of Brudvig from Fire Dept. Reserves
Public Summary of Closed Session-City Administrator Performance Evaluation	ASCAP License Agreement
Res. 2026-08 Resignation of Wendland from Park Board	Res. 2026-09 Appointing Spencer Kolles as Fire Chief

- The 2026 Fee Schedule was pulled for discussion with questions asked if there is a need to increase the rental fee for the chamber rental to cover increased cleaning costs and wear and tear. A replacement schedule of furniture was recommended and to be budgeted for.

- Administrator Bromeland explained that the Council could approve the fee schedule as is and that it can be amended at the next meeting.
- **Council Member Steinberg moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Whitington voting in favor.**

## PRESENTATION

1. Roger and Nathan Bechel, 308 and 312 Agency Street South: Snow Removal on CSAH Sidewalks
  - Nathan Bechel stated that when Agency Street was reconstructed, the sidewalk was installed the full length and is wider than it previously was and some residents did not want the sidewalk. He stated that snow removal has been a continual issue and the way it is handled causes issues. He went on to explain that MNDOT provides Blue Earth County with funds for CSAH road maintenance and that the County then shares that with the City. He went on to explain that MN Statute includes sidewalk maintenance as acceptable uses for these funds. He also stated that Agency St. (CSAH 27) is classified as a major collector road and Parkway Ave. (CSAH 17) is a minor collector road. The City does some snow removal on sidewalks along Parkway Avenue.
  - Roger Bechel stated that he spoke with Ryan Thilges of Blue Earth County who indicated they do not have the equipment to remove snow from sidewalks. Roger Bechel explained that the ice chunks on the sidewalk are from when the County came through a second time to widen the street and the only way to remove them is to use a shovel. He went on to say that some sidewalks in the City are next to the curb. He asked the City to remove snow and move it to a different location as MN Lake and some cities in Wisconsin do. He asked that the budget be looked at to increase equipment and staff be worked to include this service and stated that the current process is not good for them. He also stated that Agency Street South is a safe route to school sidewalk. He stated that by the school some people are walking on the street because sidewalks are not cleared. He mentioned several suggestions for improvements and noted that since this is a county road many of the suggestions would not be feasible. He is looking for a way to keep ice chunks off the sidewalk. He asked if the parking lane could be used as a snow buffer when plowing and then the snow later be removed. He stated this is a lifetime hardship for residents on this roadway.
  - Mayor Whitington stated that the Council will look at this and that it is not possible for the City to clear all sidewalks within the City and that the City does not have the equipment to do so.
2. Sally Comfort and Keith Steinke with Computer Technology Solutions: Server Quote
  - Keith Steinke explained the \$27,057.56 quote before the Council is for a new server which includes three separate nodes. The life span for this equipment is 5-6 years, and the life span could be extended by scheduling the replacement of each node at different times.
  - Discussion included the high cost of the proposed server and it was explained that the licensing cost has increased 160%. The reason the server is needed to accommodate the Banyon software which is not cloud based. The reason for the 5-year life span is due to difficulty in finding replacement parts. The new server will have a 5-year hardware warranty, if a node fails the system will still work. The turnaround time for equipment is 8 weeks and about 1 week for the installation. The proposed server is a mid-grade, a lower-grade server would not meet the City's needs.
  - Administrator Bromeland stated that Jim Klein with CTS has indicated they could get started with the project in late February.

- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to accept the bid from CTS for a server at \$27,057.56. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whitington voting in favor.**
- 3. Ryan Vesey with Greater Mankato Growth: Transforming Tomorrow Together Regional Plan 2040
  - Mr. Vesey explained that the Transforming Tomorrow Together (TTT) Regional Plan has been in the works since 2022 and is a follow up to the previous plan: Vision 2020. It is a robust, forward-looking regional community planning process and aims to explore the future strategic positioning of the region and to create an enduring vision and roadmap to the future. Five key areas (pillars) have been identified, work teams exist for three focus areas, and 42 organizations and communities have signed on as partners and supports of the initiative. The Regional Economic Development Alliance adopted the plan as the Strategic Plan for the Alliance.
  - Pillar 1 is Creating the Region as a Human Talent Hub which includes letting college students know that Mankato wants them to stay in the area through various methods. Pillar 2 is Positioning the Region as a Renowned Food and Bio-Economy Center with the goal of becoming a leading food, bioscience, and bioeconomy innovation center. It will also take advantage of GreenSeam Branding. Pillar 3 is Driving Investment, Innovation, and Industry Synergy by focusing on building on industry clusters that exist in the region, increasing investment in the region, and expanding the political heft of Greater Mankato. Pillar 4 is Building Future-Oriented Regional Community Infrastructure by focusing on developing housing, transportation, and community amenities. Pillar 5 is Fostering an Inclusive and Healthy Regional Community which includes focusing on physical health and wellbeing, developing the greater Mankato area as a Mental Health hub and develop social inclusion and belonging.
  - Mr. Vesey encouraged the Council to attend the ICLV Activation Work Session on January 22 which will focus on regional plans. It is important for Eagle Lake to attend to provide input.
  - The Council was encouraged to adopt a resolution supporting the Regional Plan.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Pricing for New Server
  - See Presentations, number 2.
2. Letter from MPCA Terminating Eagle Lake's Coverage under NPDES/SDS General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems for the City of Eagle Lake
  - Administrator Bromeland explained that the City received notification from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in October 2025 informing the City of its right to submit a petition to the Commissioner requesting a re-evaluation of the City's designation as a small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). MPCA indicated that upon receipt of a signed petition, the Commissioner would evaluate the petition and determine whether the City continued to meet the criteria for designation as a Small MS4. If the criteria were no longer met, the City could be released from the MS4 regulatory program.
  - The City has received a letter from the MPCA which stated the City of Eagle Lake's coverage under the General Stormwater Permit for Small MS4s has been terminated.
  - Administrator Bromeland explained that significant staff and consultant time has been dedicated to establishing and implementing an MS4 program in Eagle Lake and that City staff recommend that the stormwater program currently in place continue as is to ensure responsible stormwater management.

3. Pricing for HVAC Compressor Replacement at City Hall

- Administrator Bromeland explained that the City has a service agreement with Schwickert's since 2015 for heating and cooling equipment at City Hall. This agreement includes maintenance and service for five geothermal heat pump units, an energy recovery ventilator, and two circulation pumps. Scheduled maintenance and inspections occur in the fall and the spring.
- The heating system serving the kitchenette area at City Hall stopped functioning. Schwickert's investigated the issue and determined that the compressor failed internally and is no longer pumping. The existing compressor has been deemed obsolete and is no longer available for replacement. Schwickert's provided a quote for installation of a new compressor, including a new mounting system and necessary piping connections. Due to the dollar amount, staff was advised to obtain a second quote from Skogen Mechanical.
- Discussion included that Council would like to obtain a quote for preventative maintenance from Skogen as well.
- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Lewis, to accept the bid from Skogen in the amount of \$3,000 to replace the compressor. Council Member Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whitington voted in favor.**

4. Pricing for Plow Wing Repair

- Public Works Director Hartman explained that the plow driver hit something in the road which has resulted in the plow not operating correctly. The quote received is from Crysteel Truck Equipment in the amount of \$9,410.
- It is anticipated that the repair will take 1-2 weeks.
- **Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White, to accept the bid from Crysteel in the amount of \$9,410. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whitington voting in favor.**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. YTD Revenue and Expenditure Report for December 2025 – will be sent to Council
2. Employee Leave Balances – will be sent to Council
3. Draft Orderly Annexation Agreement – the next step will be to go to township with the applicant and then bring back to the City Council for approval.
4. Bank Reconciliation Project Update – waiting for an update from Abdo Financial Solutions.

COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Council Member Rohrich stated the Park Board held the annual holiday lights contest.

ADJOURNMENT

**Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Whitington voting in favor.**

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John Whitington, Mayor

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Kerry Rausch, Deputy City Clerk