

**Regular Council Meeting
June 1, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Tom Kloss.

Roll Call: Jason Ekern-Present, Elaine Conrad-Present, Wayne Palkowski-Present, Cleo Skroch-Present, Pat “Shorty” Kotlarz-Present, and Randy “Bushy” Symicek- Present. 6 Present.

Others Present: Mayor Tom Kloss, Leni Nilsestuen, Zach Rastall, Bruce, Ted Lee, Mariah Lang, Wayne Dahl, Michelle Dahl, Leslie Halling, Jose Paez, Diane Servais, Kayla Mathson, Street Superintendent Eric Theisen, Atty Rick Schaumberg, Chief Jim Waniorek, and City Clerk Dawn Smieja.

Proof of Public Notice: Mayor Kloss verified proof that public notice was given.

Approval of Agenda: Symicek motioned to approve agenda, seconded by Ekern. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Minutes –May 4th, 2026

Motion to approve minutes from May 4th, 2026 meeting by Symicek, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Public Comments: Clerk Smieja advised council their tablets are not for personal use

Licenses and Permits:

Class “B” License to Sell Intoxicating Liquors & Malt Beverages- Eagles Bar (Jeffrey M. Woychik), Sylvers Bar, LLC (Brittney Preissner), The Zoo Bar (JoAnn Waldera), Cantina Cruz, LLC (Gerardo Cruz), and Susie’s East End, LLC (Susan Prudlick)-Motion by Skroch to approve, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Class “B” License to sell fermented Malt Beverages- Tacos Ade aka Taco Sofy (Jaime Ignacio Gabriel) and McPherson Investments aka Ruby Glass Café (Jennifer Hubbard)- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Palkowski. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

“Class A” License to Sell Intoxicating Liquors & Malt Beverages- Anaya 5, LLC (Indee Mini Mart), Anaya 5, LLC (Independence Market), Dolgencorp, LLC (Dollar General), Bushy’s (Cody Bisek), and Tienda Guerrero Whitehall, Inc (Gilberto Hernandez Maldonado)-Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Cigarette Licenses- Susie’s East End, LLC, The Zoo Bar, Independence Market, Indee Mini Mart, Pietrek’s Service Station, Dolgencorp, LLC- Motioned by Conrad to approve, seconded by Palkowski. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Game License- Susie’s East End, LLC, The Zoo Bar, Sylver’s Bar, Eagles Bar, and Cantina Cruz- Motioned by Conrad to approve, seconded by Palkowski. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Operator’s License:

Susie's East End- Mary Jo Nicols, Melissa Nichols, Lenice Pronschinske, Amy Schock, Samantha Mc Reynolds, Julio Rodriguez, Robert Czerwinski, Yoselin Martinez Garcia, Bruce Gamroth, and Kelly Witte- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

The Zoo Bar- Eric Wilber, Christine Hensley, Robert Baecker, Cindy Putnam, Jenny Heiden, Daytona Hensley, James Roskos, and John Roskos- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Sylver's Bar- Debra Prudlick, Michelle Halverson, Lisa Filla, Larissa Utecht, Grace Pape, Cindy Crebo, Justin Gierok, Cody Kabus, Trent Preissner, Charlotte Thomley, Jill Scow, and Ziyannah Conner- Motioned by Symicek to approve, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve. Cleo Skroch- Motioned by Ekern to approve, seconded by Kotlarz. Voice Vote, 5-0 yes, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

Ruby Glass-Brenda Shefelbine- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Ekern. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve. Wayne Palkowski- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Kotlarz. Voice Vote, 5-0 yes, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

Indee Mini Mart- Amanda Jo Halvorson-Kulig and Amanda Wagner- Motioned by Symicek to approve, seconded by Skroch. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Independence Market- Stacy Roper, Angel Rodriguez and Mariah Pomeroy- Motioned by Symicek to approve, seconded by Skroch. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Dollar General- Raijhanai Polk, Morgan Przybylla, Rachel Johnson, and Maria Mendoza Weaver- Motioned by Ekern to approve, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Bushy's Meat Market- Cynthia Zeller- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Eagle's Bar- Adrian Mish, Alexis Girtman and Richard Filla- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Cantina Cruz- Britney Cruz-Larios- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Ekern. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

New Operator License:

Anna Gray (Sylvers Bar)- Motioned by Symicek to approve, seconded by Skroch. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Edgar Claudio Rivera (Indee Mini Mart)- Motioned by Palkowski to approve, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Morgan Rebarchek (Dollar General)- Motioned by Ekern to approve, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Ceziah Chandler (Cantina Cruz)- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Picnic License- Lions Club (Independence Days June 5th-7th)- Motioned by Symicek to approve, Seconded by Skroch. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Building Permits:

Maria Fernanda Tepole Itehua-Motion by Ekern to table until we can review, seconded by Palkowski. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve. Ekern rescinded the motion, but motioned to conditional approval or deny when Purchasing, Real Estate & Personal Property committee meet, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve. Site visit is needed.

Jeffrey and Jackie Cooper- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Leslie Halling- Motioned by Symicek to approve, seconded by Palkowski. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Motioned by Skroch to move the Police Department Report before Street Superintendent Report, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Police Department Report: Police Chief Jim Waniorek presented a Life Saving award to Nolan for saving his Uncle Bruce. Chief Jim explained Lexipol and the quote. Motioned by Symicek to approve Quote from Lexipol, seconded by Skroch. Roll Call Vote: Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes. 6-0 yes, motioned carried. Chief Jim is continuing to plan and get things for National Night out. Also getting prepared for the City's 150th.

Street Superintendent Report: Eric advised City Hall Door should be in later next week and can be put in within 1-2 weeks. Eric and Clerk Smieja provided an update on Streetlights. Council advised to check with other municipalities. Fire Station lights are on and will be checking with Jacobson. Jacobson provided a quote to rewire the Street post on 4th and Washington- Motioned by Conrad to approve, seconded by Skroch. Roll Call Vote: Conrad- Yes, Palkowski- Yes, Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, 6-0 yes, motioned carried.

New Business

Leni Nilsestuen (Running for Clerk of Courts)- Leni Nilsestuen introduced herself and provided a background.

Wayne Dahl (Running for Trempealeau County Sheriff)- Wayne Dahl introduced himself and provided a background.

Water/Sewer Truck- Ekern provided an update that Water and Sewer are looking to buy a new Water/Sewer truck. Able to get a truck from Osseo for about \$54,000. Seeking approval from council to take out a short-term loan due to Water/Sewer did not have this budget. Can roughly get about \$10,000 for our truck to cover payments. Motion by Symicek to approve, seconded by Palkowski. Roll Call Vote: Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Abstain, Conrad-Yes. 5-0 yes 1 abstain, motion carried.

J-Squared Property- Atty Schaumberg provided an update on the property. Motioned by Skroch to accept the property as a gift to the City, seconded by Ekern. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Old Business

Block 1 Alley- Dave Walter provided an update. Motion by Skroch to accept the lowest bid by Pavement Consulting Services, LLC for \$57, 776.13 with the Trempealeau County cost for materials, seconded by Conrad. Roll Call Vote: Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes. 6-0 yes, motion carried.

Historical Society/City Hall Basement Update- No one present to report.

Sesquicentennial Celebration- Mayor Kloss advised a final meeting before Independence Days June 2nd, 2026 at 6pm

Veteran's Park- Wayne provided an update on picking up the last 2 statues. Ceremony will be Sunday June 7th, 2026 at 7pm.

Library Update- Kayla Mathson provided an update on the progress of the new Library. Motion by Skroch to award Bid to GMS for Low Voltage Data Cabling, seconded by Palkowski. Roll Call Vote: Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes. 6-0 yes, motioned carried. Mayor Kloss currently looking into curb and gutter in front of the Library.

Lake Dredge Pile- Symicek advised Trempealeau County taking and Post D also taking some.

New Library Tenant- Mayor Kloss advised this is just a reminder to keep thinking.

Committee Reports:

Ambulance- Skroch provided update of finishing paying for the chaise.

Street- Rosewood and upper Ash St will be brought up on next month for Seal and double chipping.

Water/Sewer- No additional

Library- Kayla provided an update.

Correspondence:

Approval of Invoices and Payments:

Motioned by Skroch to approve; seconded by Ekern. Roll Call vote: Symicek-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes. 6-0 yes, motion Carried.

Future Agenda:

- Library Community Center
- Block 1 Alley
- Lake Dredge Pile/Seeding
- Water/ Sewer Truck
- J-Squared Property
- New Tenant in Library Space

Future Meeting Dates:

Council Meeting July 6th, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

Council Member Jason Ekern left the meeting @ 7:11pm.

Closed Session

Motion to go into closed session by Symicek, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve at 7:12pm.

Motion to go into open session by Symicek, seconded by Kotlarz. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve at 7:32pm.

Motioned that left over funds after litigation go into the Water/Sewer fund for further use of plant we have to update in the future by Randy Symicek, seconded by Pat Kotlark. Roll call Vote: Ekern-Absent, Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes. 5-0 yes and 1 absent. Motion Carried.

After having completed all matters before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Dawn Smieja, City Clerk