

**Regular Council Meeting  
January 5, 2026**

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

Roll Call: Deb Marsolek, Cleo Skroch, Linda Longmore, Randy Symicek, Elaine Conrad and Jason Ekern. 6 Present.

Others Present: Leslie Halling, Leslie Halling's Husband, Eric Theisen, Chief Jim Waniorek, Jim Woychik, Zach Rastall, and City Clerk Dawn Smieja.

City Clerk Dawn Smieja verified proof that public notice was given.

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

**Minutes –December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

Motion to approve minutes with correction of Operators License to C. Featherly from J. Featherly by Marsolek, seconded by Skroch. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

**Public Comments-**

Gareth Shambeau from Ayres Introduced himself and presented a report for Hi-Crush. Hi-Crush will be filing amendment.

Council thanked Eric for sanding during the New Years Eve Fire.

**Licenses and Permits**

**Elk Rod & Gun-Picnic License-**Symicek motioned to approve, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

**Sylvers Bar LLC-Alcohol License-** Ekern motioned to approve, seconded by Longmore. Voice Vote 5-0-1, Ayes- Skroch Abstained.

**C. Kabus-Operators-** Skroch motioned to approve, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

**J. Gierok-Operators-** Skroch motioned to approve, seconded by Marsolek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

**T. Preissner-Operators-** Ekern motioned to approve, seconded by Skroch. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

**C. Thomley-Operators-** Longmore motioned to approve, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

**Independence State Bank Loans-** Ron Guza-Executive Vice President/CCO at Independence State Bank presented loan option on three of the city loans. This will be brought back for February Meeting.

**Street Superintendent Report-** Garage panels from Overhead Door are in. Sand Shed has new beams. Alternate Signs discussed. Osseo Electric came and fixed the hanging light in the fire station. The guys have already used a lot of sand and salt.

**Police Department Report**-Chief Waniorek discussed Josiah Vogt's resignation and went over the hiring process. Council was presented a quote a month ago for Axon body cameras. Skroch motioned to approve, seconded by Symicek. Roll Call vote: Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes. 6-0 Ayes, motion carried.

Chief Waniorek advised the department to be getting a check for tactical helmets from Global Finishing Solutions.

## **Old Business**

The Dam-Mayor Tom Kloss advised they had many meetings with Davy and Contractors and in the end price is lower. DNR also needs to inspect the dam. Symicek motioned to approve Change Order, Substantial Complete and final payment; seconded by Marsolek. Roll Call-Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes. 6-0 Ayes, motion carried.

Historical Society/City Hall Basement Update- Atty Schaumberg presented the lease agreement to Lois Boe from the Historical Society. Lois asked if she could take the agreement to their next Historical Society meeting January 20<sup>th</sup>. Lois will bring it back for next month.

Sesquicentennial Celebration- There is a meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Veteran's Park- Mayor Tom Kloss and Clerk Dawn Smieja provided an update in the absence of Commander Wayne Palkowski.

Library Update- Kayla provided an update. Inside it is framed out, temporary windows are in. Governor Evers was visiting today. Donations came in- Independence State Bank- \$10,000; Anonymous-\$250,000; and Shirley Mathson-\$10,000.

Block 1 Alley- Nothing New rebid in February/March

Markham Addition Lots- Ekern advised after talking with Sean from Ehlers that we do have the potential to consolidate a few lots and we would still be in compliance with the TID parameters. Realtor- Mayor Kloss advised we have a contract with Josh Baecker from Hansen Realty Group and contract is expiring January 16<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Dawn Smieja reached out to Josh to come to the meeting, but he was unable to. Brandi Berg with Love Your Home Real Estate was asked by some council members to come. Provided some background on herself and some ideas of how to sell Markham Addition Lots. Atty Scaumberg presented amendment to the covenants for Markham Addition Lots. Next meeting would be a public hearing and to publish in the paper. Motioned by Skroch to approve; seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Open Records Request- Atty Schaumberg presented a Resolution. Marsolek motioned to approve, seconded by Ekern. Roll Call- Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes. 6-0 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Ferguson Apartments-Atty Schaumberg provided an update. Skroch motioned to approve Atty Schaumberg to do a title search, seconded by Ekern. Roll Call-Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-Yes. 6-0 Ayes, motion carried.

Fire Dept Generator- Ekern advised he has not received the 3<sup>rd</sup> quote. Looking at \$61,000-\$100,000 for the generator. Discussion was made and this will be tabled.

Building Permits and Cigarette License- Ekern advised GEC (General Engineer Contractors) told him there is no fee to use them. He also advised Blair uses them. This is tabled until there are more answers.

Alternate Side Parking- Mayor Kloss advised Eric to contact the county to check out pricing. Council also discussed educating the public by posting on the website and social media.

### **New Business**

**Employee Handbook-Revised-** Skroch, Symicek and Ekern went over the handbook and changes. Symicek motioned to approve; seconded by Skroch. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

**Bakertilly-Engagement Letter-** Clerk Dawn Smieja presented the engagement letter to the council. Longmore motioned to approve; seconded by Conrad. Roll Call- Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes. 6-0 Ayes, motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

Street- Symicek advised that there are a lot of side walks not plowed. Bushy called some of them.

LEP- Finished Handbook and J. Vogt had his exit interview.

Water & Sewer- Working with school internally, looking into water rate increases and looking to discuss weekend rotation.

**Correspondence:** Clerk Dawn Smieja provided a letter from Xcel Energy advising of the Outdoor lighting rates going up. Marsolek questioned how many streetlights there are and how this will impact the future budget.

### **Approval of Invoices and Payments:**

Motioned by Symicek to approve; seconded by Conrad. Roll Call Vote. Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes. 6-0 Ayes, Motion Carried.

### **Future Agenda:**

- Independence State Bank Loans
- Historical Society/City Hall Basement Update
- Library Community Center
- Sesquicentennial Celebration
- Veterans Park
- Block 1 Alley
- Hi-Crush/The Sand Mine
- Markham Addition Lots
- Street Superintendent
- Ferguson Apartment
- Building Permit & Cigarette License

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

Council Meeting February 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2026 @ 5:30 PM

After having completed all matters before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

**Dawn Smieja, City Clerk**