

ROLLA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
OFFICIAL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Kevin Juntunen, Councilpersons: Deanna Counts, Clarence Booth, Paul Frydenlund, Alex Albert, and Willie Fritz present. Member Damond Schemmel absent. Also present were Valerie McCloud, Rebecca Bryant, Tara McDougall, school staff, parents, and students of Mt. Pleasant School.

Mayor Kevin Juntunen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Mt. Pleasant School. Members of the Rolla City Council and student body joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Minute:

Good afternoon, students, faculty, parents, members of the Rolla City Council, and neighbors from our community.

Welcome to this special meeting here at Mount Pleasant School as we come together to commemorate City Government Week. It's a true pleasure to hold our council meeting in a place where the next generation of civic leaders learns, grows, and asks the big questions about how our community works.

To the students: thank you for joining us. Your presence reminds us why government matters — not as an abstract idea, but as the practical work of keeping our streets safe, our schools strong, and our community connected. We hope today gives you a window into the decisions and discussions that shape daily life in Rolla. Ask questions, be curious, and know your voice matters now and will matter even more as you become full participants in civic life.

To the faculty and staff of Mount Pleasant School: thank you for welcoming us into your school and for everything you do to prepare students to be engaged, thoughtful citizens. Educators are the cornerstone of civic literacy — teaching not only facts, but the habits of listening, evaluating, and participating that make democracy work.

To our fellow community members and parents: thank you for being here and for supporting events like this that help bridge local government with the people it serves. Your interest and involvement are what keep public institutions responsive and accountable.

And to the Rolla City Council: thank you for making time to bring government to the people — especially to young people. Today is a reminder that public service is both a responsibility and an opportunity: a responsibility to serve all residents equitably, and an opportunity to collaborate with our community to solve problems and seize new possibilities.

Today's agenda will include readings of our "If I Were Mayor" essay winners, some student presentations and a brief demonstration of how council decisions are made, and time for questions from students and community members. We hope this meeting will be informative, interactive, and inspiring — a chance to demystify local government and encourage everyone present to engage.

Before we begin, let us acknowledge that the best government is one in which citizens and leaders listen to one another, respect differing perspectives, and work together toward the common good. That spirit — of openness, learning, and service — is what we celebrate this week.

Thank you again to Mount Pleasant School, to everyone who helped organize this event, and to all of you for being here. I look forward to a productive meeting and lively, thoughtful conversation.

Now, let us begin.

Members of the Rolla City Council and student body joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Juntunen then introduced himself and let each of the councilpersons and city staff introduce themselves. Mayor Juntunen explained the purpose of the meeting today, which was to promote City Government Week recognized in North Dakota.

Two students were recognized as winners of the “If I were Mayor” Essay contest which students in the 3rd Grade and 7th Grade participated in. Marshal Jeannotte, 3rd Grade winner, and Aria Parslow, 7th grade winner, read the essays they had written and were recognized by the City Council.

A group of FFA members, Emily Senger, Eric Good, and Haley Juntunen, presented “Voices For Veterinary Services”. The presentation was to advocate to the city council to invest in looking for a veterinarian to come to Rolla. The presentation included a survey showing 100% of respondents travel outside of the area for veterinary services, traveling 30-60 minutes or more for services. Along with showing why Rolla is in need of veterinary care the group gave areas to improve and draw people to the community. The group also gave ideas of incentives that could be offered to help make Rolla more appealing for a new veterinarian wanting to start a business. Rolla JDA director, Rebekah Bryant, introduced herself and explained what her job entails.

The City Council members discussed the proposal with the students and really liked the idea and said they would continue discussions at the future City Council meetings.

Mayor Juntunen informed the students of three new radar signs that are in the process of being installed in the city. The radar signs were proposed by a group of 7th grade students during a special council meeting held at the Mt Pleasant school during city government week in 2025. Mayor Juntunen informed the students of a City Council Student Representative Ordinance that has been introduced to city council and passed the 1st reading. The 2nd reading of City Council Student Representative Ordinance will be on April 15th at the regular city council meeting.

On motion and unanimously approved the board adjourned at 1:45 PM.

ATTEST:

Kevin Juntunen, Mayor

Tara McDougall, City Auditor