MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 28th, 2026

A regular council meeting of the City of Wheaton, MN was held in the Wheaton Community Library with the following members present: Mayor Lundquist, Councilmember Rikimoto, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Wohlenhaus, Councilmember Churchill

Absent: None

Also present: Administrator Ayres, Deputy Clerk Olson, PW Director Lampe, Rob Hoernemann, Kit Johnson, Jim Smoger, Bill McCabe, Jerrel Olson, Jon Determan, Justin Rikimoto, Bob Hess, Hillary Tweed

Mayor Lundquist called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion from Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Ms. Churchill, and unanimously carried, the board approved the agenda, the minutes of 9/14/2026, and the claims of 9/28/2026.

Public Comment

No public comment made.

Bill McCabe/Moore Engineering – Project Updates

Bill provided an update for the council regarding the Active Transportation and its delayed start and the LRIP Punchlist items that are still being worked on.

Additionally, he brought a Lead Service Line Task Order and Letter of Agreement which outlined a $15,000 project for the replacement of the five known lead or galvanized lines in Wheaton.

Upon motion from Ms. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Wohlenhaus, motion carried unanimously to approve the Lead Service Line Letter of Agreement.

Sara Furhman – Late Fee Waiver

It was noted that Sara was not present at the meeting to support her case. The council discussed the circumstances of the late fee and decided to let it stand due to other methods of payment being available beyond the online payment portal.

Hoernemann – Sewer Waiver

Rob was present and provided an explanation for the $41.20 sewer waiver he requested. The reasoning being that the water from his sprinkler, which was left on overnight, didn't end up going into the sewer system.

Upon motion from Mr. Wohlenhaus, seconded by Mr. Rikimoto, motion carried unanimously to approve the sewer waiver of $41.20 for Rob Hoernemann.

Hillary Tweed - CEDA

Hillary attended the meeting to discuss and provide information to the council about CEDA as it is something the Economic Development Authority and the council has been exploring a partnership with. Discussion centered around what CEDA can offer, return on investment concerns, and the timeframe to begin strategic planning.

Resolution 2026-33 Accepting Donations

The City was provided with two donations, one from the Gopher Theater for $1,000 designated for the Gopher Theater Fund and the other from TC Agri Sales for $100 designated for the Fire Department.

Upon motion from Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to accept the donations from the Gopher Theater and TC Agri Sales.

Jon Determan – Rural Service District Discussion

Jon Determan was present to promote discussion of the council exploring establishing a rural service district for the agricultural land within city limits. Kit Johnson, Travers County Auditor/Treasurer, was in attendance to help explain the concept and reasoning around establishing these districts. The reasoning is to set up a reduced city property tax rate for designated parcels in the district. This would, however, place the tax burden difference upon the rest of the properties in the city. It was determined that most of the work to prepare for a decision on this could be done in December with a decision in January for any new council members to be involved in the discussion.

Land Use Permits

Sherri Mattis applied for a permit to install a vinyl fence on the corner of her property at 1109 2nd Avenue North.

Upon motion from Ms. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Wohlenhaus, motion carried unanimously to approve the permit of Sherri Mattis.

Tri County Cooperative Oil Association applied for a permit for the installation of a lean-to on an existing building and paid the fee for getting beginning work before it was approved.

Upon motion from Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to approve the permit for the lean-to.

Administrator/Public Works Update

PW Director Dean Lampe provided an update on the pool walls being painted and the roof for the public works building has been mostly completed.

Administrator Ayres brought the memberships to the MCFOA for himself and Deputy Clerk Olson up for discussion as an additional professional development opportunity for the office staff. The cost of membership is $50.00 per year for each member.

Upon motion from Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Mr. Wohlenhaus, motion carried unanimously to approve MCFOA memberships for both office staff.

Ayres proposed a West Central Initiative Foundation pursuit for a Charging Smart Designation which wouldn't cost the city and would take time to address electric vehicle charging within zoning.

Upon motion from Ms. Churchill, seconded by Mr. Rikimoto, motion carried unanimously to approve the pursuit of the Bronze Designation with WCIF.

Ayres provided the updated rule change proposal from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for Construction and Demolition waste. He mentioned that he had been in contact with members from the agency and had visited with the Traverse County about the process of closure. After consulting with these groups, he stated that the most const effective outcome would likely come through closure if this rule change will go into effect in 2027.

Due to the council meeting not occurring on the 12th of October in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day, it was recommended to have a meeting on October 13th upon council approval.

Upon motion by Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to hold a council meeting on October 13th.

Ayres provided an update on the contingent approval of the Casey Ness land use permit. He stated that he joined Dean Lampe to measure the setback distances and visited with City Attorney Franzese about the ordinance and found that the fence should be approved.

Mayor's Minute and Council Purview

The topic of the Tourism Committee was mentioned with little idea of its purpose or if it even meets. It was determined to visit with the City Attorney and investigate disbanding it.

Additionally, it was mentioned that the city should follow up with the County Assessor about a tax break on the Star Bank Building.

During the meeting, it was noted that the Corner Café is planning on closing in December.

Adjourned at 5:19 pm

ATTEST:

Ashton Ayres, City Administrator

Steven Lundquist, Mayor