MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 14th, 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, Interim Administrator McCabe, Deputy Clerk Olson, PW Director Lampe, Fire Chief Davis, Sean Witte, Rob Hoernemann, City Attorney Franzese, Garrett Behrens, Brad Larson, Jim Smoger, Sean Witte, Darin Fellbaum, Jerrel Olson, Chelsie Falk, Nancy Rinke

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

Consent Agenda

Upon motion from Ms. Hansen, seconded by Ms. Churchill, and unanimously carried, the board approved the agenda, the minutes of 8/24/2026, special meeting minutes of 8/31/2026, and the claims of 9/14/2026.

Public Comment

No public comment made.

Darin Fellbaum/Moore Engineering – Project Updates

Darin brought Change Order #8 to the council for the LRIP and recommended it except for the inclusion of some castings which were included as an error. Pay Application #4 was also presented for the project with the suggested amendment regarding the castings.

Upon motion from Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to approve Change Order #8 with the alteration made by Darin.

Upon motion from Ms. Churchill, seconded by Ms. Hansen, motion carried unanimously to approve Pay Application #4 with the suggested amendment.

Darin additionally mentioned that there would be one more Pay Application for the LRIP for the punch list items that were made during the walkthrough of the project and handed out a project timeline for the Active Transportation project which is scheduled to begin on September 28th.

Fire Department Relief Association

Garrett Behrens and Brad Larson presented a summary of the current funds and projections based on the current and requested annual benefit.

Upon motion from Ms. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Rikimoto, motion carried unanimously to approve the annual benefit change from 2,450 to 3,000.

Resolution 2026-31 Certifying the Preliminary Levy

Administrator Ayres presented the proposed tax levy for 2027 of a 3.61% increase of which was in large part the prospective expenses of adding an Ordinance Enforcement position and an EDA Director role. It was suggested to increase the preliminary levy to 5% in the case that additional expenses are added prior to the final levy certification.

Upon motion from Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Mr. Wohlenhaus, carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2026-31 Certifying the Preliminary Levy at 5%.

Chelsie Falk – Chamber of Commerce

Chelsie spoke about the Chamber's desire to provide resources to new community members with a prospective location being a kiosk at the library. Additionally, it was requested to have the Chamber's information included on the city's website.

Nancy Rinke – Project Updates

Nancy Rinke reported on the state of the current ongoing projects she has been working on and let the council know that the plan is to have everything closed before winter and to have the buildings inspected when electrical work is done.

Sunday Lampe - Tax Abatement

Sunday Lampe presented a request for a tax abatement on her business property It's Always Sunnee Salon for the improvements that have been made. The request was to have the current rate be used for 5 years before any adjustment is made.

It was determined that a public hearing would need to be held for any action to occur on this item.

Fire Department Applicant – Matthew Brummund

Matthew Brummund applied to join the Fire Department and sought approval to join from the council

Upon motion from Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to approve Matthew Brummond's application to the Fire Department on the condition that his background check came back clear.

Legal Update – Matt Franzese

City Attorney Franzese discussed the unemployment appeal hearing that was held and mentioned that the hearing came back in the city's favor.

Franzese remarked on waiting to hear back about the Ordinance Enforcement position after it had been offered by the council.

Land Use Permits

James Ostendorf applied for a Land Use Permit to have a shipping container put on his property along Front St. S. After reviewing the location and the zoning map it was determined to be within commercial zoning.

Upon motion from Ms. Hansen, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to approve the Land Use Permit of James Ostendorf.

Casey Ness applied for a Land Use Permit to install a fence in the backyard of their property.

Upon motion from Ms. Hansen, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to approve the Land Use Permit of Casey Ness upon the discovery that setback requirements are met.

Donald Appel applied for a Land Use Permit to install an already finished storage shed with plans for a gravel base.

Upon motion from Mr. Rikimoto, seconded by Mr. Wohlenhaus, motion carried unanimously to approve the Land Use Permit of Donald Appel.

Mitchell and Kristin Frisch applied for a Land Use Permit to install fencing along the sides of their home and to have a patio put in the backyard.

Upon motion by Ms. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Rikimoto, motion carried unanimously to approve the Land Use Permit of Mitchell and Kirstin Frisch.

Lee Bock applied for a Land Use Permit to replace his existing driveway and sidewalk up to the front door with concrete and to add a patio to the backyard.

Upon motion from Ms. Churchill, seconded by Mr. Rikimoto, motion carried unanimously to approve the Land Use Permit of Lee Bock.

Administrator/Public Works Update

Public Works Director Lampe provided an update on the work done on the city's Star Bank building including the tin that had been ordered for the side of the building and sought approval on a spray foam quote for $5,720.

Upon motion from Mr. Wohlenhaus, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to approve the spray foam quote for the building.

It was further mentioned that the pool heater was being replaced and a quote would be obtained.

Administrator Ayres mentioned that an alternative quote had been received but was higher than the Buttweiler's one for the Airport Roof.

The Liability Coverage Waiver Form was presented with the set precedent to not waive the caps on coverage.

Upon motion from Ms. Churchill, seconded by Mr. Rikimoto, motion carried unanimously to approve the form without the waiver.

Upon motion from Mr. Wohlenhaus, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2026-32 Approving State Airport Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The topic of reimbursement for overpaid health insurance for city employees was discussed and a spreadsheet outlining the total cost of reimbursement was provided. It was determined that under the statute of limitations this payment could only go back 2-3 years from the date of discovery. The applicable years would be 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Upon motion from Ms. Hansen, seconded by Ms. Churchill, motion carried unanimously to approve the reimbursement of three years of overpayment for health benefits for current and former employees.

Adjourned at 5:47 pm

ATTEST:

Ashton Ayres, City Administrator

Steven Lundquist, Mayor