



**Meeting of the City Council
Held at the Elk River City Hall
Monday, July 29, 2024**

Members Present: Mayor John Dietz, Councilmember Jennifer Wagner, Councilmember Mike Beyer, Councilmember Matt Westgaard, Councilmember Cory Grupa

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Cal Portner, Assistant City Administrator Joe Stremcha, Human Resources Representative Lauren Wipper, IT Manager Seth Calvin, Interim Police Chief Darren McKernan, Police Captain Joe Gacke, Public Works Director Justin Femrite, Facilities Maintenance Superintendent Gary Lore, Street and Park Superintendent Tim Sevcik, Engineer 1 Ryan Sandhoefner, Wastewater Treatment Chief Operator Matt Stevens, Finance Manager Lori Stich, Liquor Operations Manager Joe Audette, Liquor Store Managers Brenda Gustafson and Megan Knopik, City Clerk Tina Allard

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. 2025 BUDGET

3.1 2025 Budget

Mr. Stremcha presented the staff report. Various staff presented their budgets to the City Council.

Police

Mayor Dietz asked about incentives for retaining police reserves and requested staff to review the matter.

Stormwater

Mayor Dietz noted there is \$2 million in the fund, but the staff is proposing to spend about \$250,000 in 2025. He questioned the program requirements and if the city should be completing more projects. He has no issues with completing more projects if it's what is needed or required. Mr. Femrite stated a rate study hasn't been completed for this item, noting it's a newer program with the goal of focusing on state law compliance. He stated a review of the fees should be completed if we see a trend. Mayor Dietz suggested a review of this program.

Liquor

Councilmember Westgaard expressed concerns about diminished signage capacity for the Northbound

Liquor Store if it is relocated onto Coborn's property. Mayor Dietz asked staff to discuss with the economic development division, moving the progress of activity for the sale of the northbound store site because decisions need to be made on whether to repair the building.

Councilmember Wagner questioned the reduction in transfers out of the liquor fund from \$1 million to \$750,000. Mr. Portner noted the money may be needed in the future to offset the cost of the bonds for the relocating or rebuilding of the northbound store site.

Finance

The Council had a discussion on credit card fees and consolidation of credit card companies.

4. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Councilmember Beyer and seconded by Councilmember Grupa to adjourn the meeting of City Council. Motion Carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Tina Allard.



John J. Dietz, Mayor



Tina Allard, City Clerk