

**Lanesboro City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 29, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Lanesboro Community Center Meeting Room**

Present Members:

Mindy Albrecht-Benson Chase Bakke Joe Cullen Alicia Pearson Kathryn Wade

Staff:

Mitchell Walbridge Darla Taylor David Haugen Mark Lawstuen Jerod Wagner

Tara Johnson Joseph O'Koren Michelle Marotzke

Guests: Anna Loney; *Via Zoom:* Deane Benson, Charlie, Sheila Walbridge, MollyS

Mayor Pearson called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- A. Agenda Approval:** Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- B. Public Hearing for Amendments to City Ordinance 30.111 – City of Lanesboro Fee Schedule:** Mayor Pearson opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. No public comments were shared. Mayor Pearson closed the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.
- C. Public Hearing for Amendments to City Ordinance 54.06 – Lanesboro Public Utilities Fee Schedule:** Mayor Pearson opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m. No public comments were shared. Mayor Pearson closed the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.
- D. Consider Adoption of Amendments to City Ordinance 30.111 – City of Lanesboro Fee Schedule:** Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments; Member Bakke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
Mayor Pearson entered a motion to approve the summary of publication for Ordinance 30.111; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- E. Consider Adoption of Amendments to City Ordinance 54.06 – Lanesboro Public Utilities Fee Schedule:** Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments and approve the summary of publication for Ordinance 54.06; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- F. Consider Approval of Settlement Agreement with Wapasha Construction Company, Inc.:** City Administrator Mitchell Walbridge requested the item be tabled to the January 5, 2026, city council meeting as the settlement agreement is not yet complete. Member Bakke entered a motion to table consideration to the January 5, 2026, city council meeting; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- G. Consider TH250 Project Engagement Agreement with Kennedy & Graven, Chartered:** City Administrator Walbridge explained that Henning Professional Services is completing appraisals for property acquisition within the TH250 project area. At the recommendation of Henning Professional Services, the City may utilize professional services from Kennedy & Graven, Chartered to draft conveyance documents for the direct purchase of real estate acquisitions associated with the Lanesboro/MnDOT Trunk Highway 250 Reconstruction Project. The volume of conveyance documents required exceeds the available staff resources of City Attorney O'Koren.
Member Albrecht-Benson moved to approve the Engagement Agreement with Kennedy & Graven, Chartered. Member Cullen seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- H. Consider Approval of City of Lanesboro Statement of Position on Rural Health Innovation Initiative:** Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to approve the Statement of Position as drafted; Member Wade seconded the motion. During discussion, Mayor Pearson expressed concern that the language of the statement conveyed a negative perception of the project. Member Albrecht-Benson stated that she believed the statement was factual. Member Cullen agreed that the information presented

Approved 01/05/2026

was factual and noted that the scope of information exceeded his expectations. Mayor Pearson reiterated concern that the statement appeared to position the City as opposed to the project.

Member Bakke stated that he believed the statement conveyed neutrality and focused on factual information. Mayor Pearson requested several wording changes, including removal of "Omcare" from the project title throughout the document to reflect that it is a joint-agency collaboration between partners like the University of Minnesota. Mayor Pearson also requested that Section 5 be amended to clarify that the non-profit Hope Corp was not created after the City declined to serve as fiscal host, noting that the non-profit status was granted in September 2025. Member Albrecht-Benson moved to amend her original motion to approve the Statement of Position with the requested changes: removal of "Omcare" from the project title throughout the document and amendment of Section 5 as described by Mayor Pearson. Member Wade seconded the motion. The motion to amend carried with all members voting in favor.

Discussion continued regarding the Statement of Position, including the reliability of data collected by Mayor Pearson through a health care needs survey she conducted and the EDA Board's interest in supporting local healthcare clinic and pharmacy options.

Member Albrecht-Benson moved to call the question and end debate; Member Wade seconded the motion. The motion to call the question was carried, with Members Albrecht-Benson, Wade, Cullen, and Bakke voting in favor. Mayor Pearson voted against the motion. On the motion to adopt the amended Statement of Position, the motion carried with Members Albrecht-Benson, Wade, Cullen, and Bakke voting in favor. Mayor Pearson voted against the motion.

Member Albrecht-Benson moved that the amended Statement of Position be made available to the public via electronic means; Member Bakke seconded the motion. Member Cullen requested clarification that electronic availability was the intent. Member Albrecht-Benson confirmed that the statement could be shared electronically, including on the City website and Facebook page. The motion was carried, with Members Albrecht-Benson, Wade, Cullen, and Bakke voting in favor. Mayor Pearson voted against the motion.

Mayor Pearson adjourned the special meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk