

**Lanesboro City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 2, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.  
Lanesboro City Council Chambers**

**Present Members:**

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

**Staff:**

Mitchell Walbridge     Darla Taylor     David Haugen     Mark Lawstuen     Jerod Wagner  
 Joseph O’Koren     Michelle Marotzke

Mayor Pearson called the regular meeting of the Lanesboro City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**A. Agenda Approval:** City Administrator Mitchell Walbridge requested that a Lanesboro Area Community Foundation Temporary On-Sale Liquor Permit and a fiscal agent request from the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce be added to the Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve the agenda with the requested additions; Member Wade seconded the motion. All city council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

**B. Public Comments**

- John Levell addressed the Lanesboro City Council regarding environmental impacts of the proposed Minnesota Trout Unlimited Root River restoration project.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 5, 2026
- b. Minutes of Special Meeting, January 14, 2026
- c. Minutes of Special Meeting, January 28, 2026

A motion was made by Member Wade to approve the meeting minutes as submitted; Member Bakke seconded the motion. All city council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

**D. Consent Agenda**

- a. Accounts Payable
- b. 3.2% On-sale Liquor License – Commonweal Theatre Company
- c. Resolution 2026-21 – Adopting the Fillmore County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan
- d. Resolution 2026-22 – Accepting Donations to the Lanesboro Fire Department
- e. Approval of 2026 Lodging Licenses
- f. Application for Gambling Permit - Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce - August 2, 2026
- g. Temporary On-Sale Liquor License - Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce July 31-August 2, 2026
- h. Lanesboro Area Community Foundation Temporary On-Sale Liquor License Application
- i. Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce Fiscal Agent Grant Approval

A motion was made by Member Wade to approve the Consent Agenda; Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.

**Department Updates**

- A. Lanesboro Farmer’s Market:** Anita Bue delivered an annual Lanesboro Farmers Market report to the City Council. The Farmer’s Market has been successful and continues to attract new vendors.
- B. Economic Development Authority:** Economic Development Director Michelle Martozke delivered the 2025 annual report of the Lanesboro Economic Development Authority. Marotzke reviewed revolving loan fund activity as well as other projects completed and in progress of the EDA.
- C. Minnesota Trout Unlimited Root River Restoration Project:** Minnesota Trout Unlimited staff presented as summary and project status update. A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to adopt

Resolution 2026-23 to indicate city approval of the project; Member Wade seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.

### **New Business**

- A. Discuss Local Board of Appeal and Equalization:** Administrator Walbridge shared that the 2026 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is scheduled for mid-April, however, he requested to know if the City Council had any interest in changing the format of the meeting from its traditional format to an Open Book meeting with the Fillmore County Assessor. Upon discussion, members were interested in learning more about the Open Book meeting format and statistical data on how many valuations changes the Local Board of Appeal at the city council level has authorized. No action was taken.
- B. Discuss Tax Abatement and Development Agreement – Sparrow Valley Properties, LLC:** Administrator Walbridge explained that Sparrow Valley Properties, LLC has breached the Tax Abatement and Development Agreement with the City. Events of default include non-compliance with timely payment of property taxes, delinquent utility charges, past due EDA loan payments, and an investigation from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry regarding plumbing code violations at the project site. Both the city attorney and city administrator recommended the City Council authorize a 30-day Notice to Cure be sent to Sparrow Valley Properties, LLC. A motion was made by Member Bakke to direct the city attorney to send a 30-day Notice to Cure; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. All city council members voted in favor; Motion carried.
- C. Consider City of Lanesboro and Lanesboro Public Utility 2025 Audit – Letters of Engagement:** Letters of Engagement for the 2025 City and Public Utility audits were received from CohnReznick Advisory, LLC. A motion was made by Member Wade to approve the letters of engagement; Member Bakke seconded the motion. Mayor Pearson asked about the pricing of the audit. Administrator Walbridge stated that the pricing was within market norms and firms that are taking municipal audit clients are limited. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.

Mayor Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge  
City Administrator/Clerk