

Lanesboro City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 6, 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 made requests to amend the agenda, including removing Resolution 2026-30 Certifying Unpaid Utility Charges from the Consent Agenda and removing Discuss Request from Lanesboro Fire Relief Association Regarding Donated Funds from New Business. Administrator Walbridge also requested that Approval of a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License be approved for Lanesboro Arts Center for a May 2, 2026 event.

A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to approve the agenda with the amendment requests; Member Wade seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

B. Approval of Minutes:

a. Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 2, 2026

A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to approve the minutes as presented; Member Bakke seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; motion carried.

C. Public Comments: No public comments were received.

D. Consent Agenda:

- a. Accounts Payable
- b. Resolution 2026-31 – Accepting Donations to the Lanesboro Fire Department
- c. Approve City Administrator Attendance of Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute – Year 2
- d. Approve Independence Day Parade on Parkway Avenue – July 04, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
- e. Approve Application from Lanesboro Arts Center for Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for May 02, 2026

A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to approve the Consent Agenda; Member Wade seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

Kali Lenz, Senior Manager at CohnReznick, presented a summary of the 2025 financial statements for Lanesboro Public Utilities and the City of Lanesboro. Lenz stated the audit result was a clean, unmodified opinion for both the governmental and utility funds.

Continued Business

A. Closed Session for Attorney Client Privilege: A motion was made by Member Bakke to close the meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 Subd. 3(b); Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Mayor Pearson shared that the justification for closing the meeting was for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss litigation strategies with legal counsel regarding a contract dispute with Sparrow Valley Properties, LLC. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried. The meeting closed at 6:21 p.m. A motion was made by Member Wade to return the meeting to open session; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried. The meeting returned to open session at 6:41 p.m.

A motion was made by Member Wade to have the City of Lanesboro enter into the retainer agreement

with Murphy and Roverud, PLLP; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

- B. Consider Fire Department Purchase Request – Badges:** Members held discussion on this item along with consideration of the Fire Department Uniform Allowance Policy as New Business.

New Business

- A. Consider Fire Department Uniform Allowance Policy:** Members reviewed a draft of a Fire Department Uniform Allowance Policy. Fire Chief Robert Wagner stated he would like the policy language to be edited to allow members to keep certain uniform items if it was not personal protective equipment (PPE). Specifically, Fire Chief Wagner stated he thought members should be allowed to keep their badges. Member Albrecht-Benson asked if more cost-effective badges were found. Fire Chief Wagner stated he did not have additional options to provide.

A motion was made by Member Wade to adopt the Fire Department Uniform Allowance Policy with changes to the language to allow members to keep uniform items as long as they are not personal protective equipment (PPE) and approve the purchase of the requested uniform badges; Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. Members Albrecht-Benson, Wade, Cullen, and Pearson voted in favor and Member Bakke abstained from voting; Motion carried.

- B. Consider Request to Ratify Lanesboro Fire Relief Association Pension Benefit Level:** Member Bakke, who serves as the President of the Lanesboro Fire Relief Association, submitted a request on behalf of the Association's board of trustees to ratify the pension benefit level from \$1,850 to \$1,950 per service year. Member Bakke stated that financial analysis shows a surplus in the Association's Special Fund which houses pension benefit funds. Administrator Walbridge pointed out that the funding ratio and the calculated surplus amount should be looked at closely as the figures assume a 5.0% return on investments and that no projected benefit payments are shown as anticipated through 2027. Member Bakke stated that the City Council could consider a Consent Agenda approval if the funding ratio exceeds a certain percentage – such as 105% or 110%.

A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to approve automated funding increases if the surplus ratio is at or above 110%. Member Bakke stated he would like to see some defined criteria established prior that could be applicable to future increase requests. Member Albrecht-Benson rescinded her original motion. A motion was then made by Member Albrecht-Benson to table discussion until the next meeting; Member Wade seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.

- C. Consider Purchase of Lawnmower:** Administrator Walbridge presented a recommendation from the Park Board to purchase a John Deere X758 Signature Tractor with mower deck. Of two quotes obtained, Preston Equipment Company had the lowest estimate with a remaining balance of \$5,500 after the trade-in value is applied. A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to proceed with the purchase based on the estimate provided by Preston Equipment Company; Member Bakke seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

- D. Consider Purchase of Dishwasher for City Hall:** Administrator Walbridge stated the current commercial dishwasher located in the community center kitchen has reached the end of its useful life. It is a used dishwasher purchased more than 20 years ago, and parts are no longer available for repair. An estimate from Restaurant Supply, LLC was presented to the City Council for a Hobart CDL-1 low temperature commercial dishwasher in the amount of \$5,255. An installation quote from VIS Plumbing for the unit's installation was presented in the amount of \$1,169.45. A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to proceed with the purchase and installation based on the quotes provided; Member Bakke seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

- E. Consider Purchase and Sharing Agreement for DuraPatcher:** Public Works Director David Haugen reviewed the results from the DuraPatcher use last fall. Director Haugen explained the patched roadway held together well throughout the winter and spring freeze-thaw cycles. While not permanent fix for deteriorating roadways, Director Haugen explained that the DuraPatch method does temporarily improve roadways until the next scheduled road project takes place. Council members reviewed the

agreement with City Attorney Joseph O’Koren. Some reservations regarding the agreement were brought up regarding maintenance responsibility of the DuraPatcher equipment, shared use of the unit, and termination of the agreement. Attorney O’Koren also stated some grammatical errors should be edited prior to the City of Lanesboro engaging in the agreement. Administrator Walbridge recommended that he work with the city administrators and public works directors of Chatfield and Stewartville to see if they are amenable to making slight changes to the agreement language. Administrator Walbridge cautioned that the City should not try to dictate terms of a longstanding agreement that exists between the other two communities, though clarification of language in the agreement would be appropriate. A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to table approval of the agreement until Administrator Walbridge can discuss the matter with the other cities’ staff; Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

F. Consider Amendments to MnDOT Partnership Agreement for TH250 Project: Administrator Walbridge presented a Partnership Agreement amendment from MnDOT that would make MnDOT the director payer for easement acquisition for the Ashburn Street properties. Originally, the City of Lanesboro was responsible for paying property owners for easement acquisition compensation and later be reimbursed by MnDOT. The amendment eliminates the City as the intermediary. A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to accept the amendment; Member Wade seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

G. Accept 2025 Audit and Financial Statements for Year Ended December 31, 2025: Based on the presentation of the audit earlier in the meeting, Administrator Walbridge requested the City Council adopt the financial statements and accept the audit findings. A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to accept the 2025 financial statements and audit findings; Member Wade seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

H. Discuss Ordinance 116 – Regulating Lawful Gambling: At the request of a council member, council discussed the regulations around issuance of gambling site permits as governed by City Ordinance 116. Currently, only locations with a city-issued on-sale liquor license may conduct lawful gambling. The question was raised about whether cannabis businesses should be allowed to hold gambling site permits. Administrator Walbridge stated the City Council would need to amend the existing ordinance to allow cannabis businesses to allow lawful gambling. Attorney O’Koren explained that the limitation to on-sale liquor licenses is a regulatory and compliance tool and opening gambling site permits to other business types creates more work on staff who work on maintaining compliance. It was also mentioned that the City has the right to revoke a city-issued liquor license while cannabis licenses and permits are not issued by the City.

A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to table discussion of Ordinance 116 amendment indefinitely; Member Wade seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

I. Consider Alternative Date for May 4, 2026 City Council Meeting: Due to Administrator Walbridge’s attendance of the Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute May 4-8, 2026, council considered canceling the regular May 4 meeting and scheduling a special meeting. A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to cancel the May 4 meeting and schedule a special meeting on May 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.; Member Wade seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

Administrator Walbridge stated that there are a few zoning applications that require city council action within 60 days of the application date, meaning May 13 would be too late. Administrator Walbridge recommended canceling the May 13 meeting and holding a special meeting on April 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to move the May 13 special meeting April 27 at 5:00 p.m.; Member Wade seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor; Motion carried.

Mayor Pearson adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk