

**Lanesboro City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 28, 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 special meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

- A. Agenda Approval:** A motion was made by Member Wade to approve the agenda; Mayor Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; motion carried.
- B. Discuss Economic Development Staffing Needs:** Member Wade reported that the recruitment committee, consisting of Interim Preston City Administrator Michelle Marotzke, Lanesboro City Administrator Mitchell Walbridge, Preston EDA Board Chair Jon Ebner, and herself as Lanesboro EDA Board Chair, completed a recruitment cycle to fill the Economic Development Director position. Although two candidates were interviewed, no employment offer was extended.
- Member Wade further reported that she and Administrator Walbridge met with the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to discuss the possibility of contracting with the Chamber for economic development administrative services. The Chamber Board expressed a willingness to negotiate a professional services agreement.
- Administrator Walbridge explained that both the City of Lanesboro and the City of Preston are currently developing their preliminary 2027 budgets. As a result, a decision regarding whether to continue the existing shared-services agreement or pursue an alternative staffing model should be made as soon as practical. He noted that notice of termination of the current agreement would need to be provided no later than August 31, 2026, for the agreement to terminate effective December 31, 2026. Administrator Walbridge also reviewed preliminary 2027 budget projections related to staffing options involving both the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Preston.
- Council members discussed the potential advantages and disadvantages of transitioning to a new staffing model beginning in 2027.
- C. Consider Authorizing Contract Negotiations with the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce:** A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a professional services agreement with the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce for economic development staffing services; Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; motion carried.
- D. Consider Termination of Economic Development Service Agreement:** A motion was made by Member Albrecht-Benson to terminate the economic development services agreement with the City of Preston with termination effective December 31, 2026; Member Wade seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk