

**Lanesboro City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 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. Consider Minnesota Department of Commerce Grant Agreement for Energy Study:** A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve the grant agreement; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; motion carried.
- C. FY2027 Preliminary Budget Work Session:** A brief 2027 budget overview was presented by City Administrator Mitchell Walbridge. Members then reviewed the proposed expenditures for governmental funds and each department as well as the debt service funds. Items reviewed and discussed included the City’s retainage of the lodging tax revenue to cover administrative costs, the City Administrator/City Clerk position on the City’s adopted compensation schedule, library director full time equivalency, and the amount to budget for economic development for professional services.
After reviewing each department budget, members agreed they would like to see the property tax levy amount reduced to roughly five percent more than the 2026 budget. To achieve this goal, the City Council expressed it would like to see an estimated \$10,000 reduction in economic development professional service expenses, \$14,000 reduction in the Fire Department’s Vehicle Replacement allocation, removal of the Lanesboro Museum donation, and application of approximately \$50,000 of sales tax fund reserves applied to the debt service payments.
Administrator Walbridge will make these modifications and prepare a preliminary property tax levy resolution for the next regular meeting of the City Council which is scheduled for September 8, 2026.

Mayor Pearson adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk