

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2025
6:30 P.M., CITY HALL

Pursuant to due call and notice, the City Council of the City of Eagle Bend, MN met in regular session on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6:30 P.M., in the City Hall. Mayor Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Council Members present were Jaculyn Lorentz, Jim Kimball, Jessica Olson, and Jason Nelson. Also present were Ashlee Nordlund, Andrea Voller, Lori Johnson, Clay Sandmeyer, and Nick Stoecker.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Scott Johnson declared the Truth in Taxation Hearing open on the proposed 2026 budget and property taxes. Mayor Scott Johnson stated that the floor is now open for public comments regarding the city's proposed 2026 budget and levy. The 2026 Levy proposes a decrease of 1.0% over the 2025 Levy. After a brief discussion on the proposed budget/levy and since the city received no oral or written comments regarding the proposed 2026 budget or levy, (Action 25-12-179) Council Member Lorentz moved to adopt the 2026 proposed budget as presented, seconded by Council Member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously. (Action 25-12-180) Council Member Lorentz presented Resolution #25-34-766 "A Resolution approving the 2025 Tax Levy, Collectible in 2026" and moved for its adoption, seconded by Council Member Kimball. Put to a vote, the following members voted in favor of this resolution: Lorentz, Kimball, Olson and Nelson; against, none. Resolution #25-34-766 was duly adopted. (Action 25-12-181) Council Member Lorentz moved to close the Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6:32 p.m., seconded by Council Member Olson. Motion adopted unanimously.

Following a brief review and discussion, (Action 25-12-182) Council Member Olson moved to approve the minutes from November 17, 2025, regular council meeting and December 3, 2025, work session as written, seconded by Council Member Lorentz. Motion adopted unanimously.

Bills submitted for approval were reviewed. Following a question-and-answer period, (Action 25-12-183) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the bills for payment as presented, seconded by Council Member Olson. Motion adopted unanimously.

Changing the Council Meeting days and times (Action 25-12-184) After a brief discussion, Council Member Lorentz moved to change the City Council Meeting from the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm, to the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm, seconded by Council Member Olson. Motion adopted unanimously.

City Administrator Nordlund presented the Council with the 2026 Legal services contract for Quinlivan. The only change is that the retainer increased \$25, going from \$550.00 to \$575.00. (Action 12-25-185) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve Quinlivan's 2026 Legal Services contract, seconded by Council Member Nelson.

The Council was informed that the Eagle Bend Fire Department Relief Association, Charitable Gambling, wishes to donate up to \$50,000.00 to the City with the suggestion that these funds be used for the Fire Department's Emergency Equipment/Building Fund. Following a discussion, (Action 25-12-186) Council Member Olson moved to accept the donation with the money to be used as suggested, seconded by Council Member Kimball. Motion adopted unanimously. The City Administrator was instructed to deposit the entire donation into the Fire Department Fund as specified.

The Council was informed that Jeff Wolf has requested that his sewer bill be lowered \$75.50 due to a leak/burst pipe in his basement. The water did not go down the sewer as the water was soaked into the dirt floor. His October sewer bill was \$107.45 compared to his average sewer bill of \$31.95. After a brief discussion,

(Action 25-12-187) Council Member Olson moved to approve lowering Mr. Wolf's sewer bill \$75.50 as presented, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

The Council was presented with the following renewal Licenses for selling Tobacco over the counter; Eagle Bend Municipal Liquor Store, Dollar General, Little Store (Great Plains, Oil Co.), and Shirley's Gas and Grocery. (Action 25-12-188) After a brief discussion Council Member Olson moved to approve the Resale Tobacco License renewal for the Eagle Bend Municipal Liquor Store, Dollar General, Little Store (Great Plains Oil Co.), and Shirley's Gas and Grocery as presented, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

The Council was presented with a quote from MR Sign for three signs within the city. The first sign is a "Dead End No Turn Around" that will be installed at Oak Drive and 153rd Avenue due to Harren's no longer using Nativity Lane. The second sign, "No Trucks" to be installed at 3rd Avenue SW and South Street W, due to truck drivers turning on South Street W and taking out the new Nelson Park sign. The third sign(s) will be for Second Avenue SE, as there are currently no signs. The quote for all 3 signs has a rough total of \$489.13 plus freight. (Action 25-12-189) After a brief discussion Council Member Kimball moved to approve the quote from MR Sign as presented plus the freight, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

During the work session the Council was presented with the proposal to increase the sewer rates due to the fact that 61% bond payments for updating the sewer ponds will come out of the sewer fund, and if the rates are not raised, the bond payments will deplete the sewer fund. It was suggested not to raise the water rates but to increase the base sewer rate to \$18.00 and increase the per 1,000 gallons from \$7.55 to \$10.00. This will not completely cover the cost of the bond payments, but this will help. (Action 25-12-190) After a brief discussion Council Member Lorentz moved to approve increasing the base sewer rate to \$18.00 but leave the 1,000 gallons at \$7.55, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.

City Administrator Nordlund requested that the City get a regular checkbook. This would prevent multiple trips to the Post Office and could be used to pay for water samples and county records. (Action 25-12-191) Council Member Lorentz moved to approve the City getting a checkbook, seconded by Council Member Olson.

City Administrator Nordlund requested that City Hall get a petty cash box. This would be used to make change for residents paying for utility bills, dog licenses, etc. Currently the cash box being used in the office belongs to the EBADC. The cash box would have \$500 in small bills and change. (Action 25-12-192) After a brief discussion, Council Member Lorentz moved to approve City getting a petty cash box if it's reconciled every day, seconded by Council Member Olson.

The Council was presented with a request from the Fire Department to start using a Fleet card. This would be used in the event of a fire in the middle of the night instead of having to contact the gas station manager to come to approve the purchase. The fire department would receive rewards by using the card in the form of gas discounts. A form would be made to fill out after each purchase and the receipt turned in to match the card statement. (Action 25-12-193) After a brief discussion, Council Member Lorentz approved the First Department getting a fleet card for gas fill-ups, seconded by Council Member Nelson.

The Liquor store report for the month of November was presented by the City Administrator to the City Council which showed a net profit of \$1,147.29.

The Council was presented with a monthly report for November from the Todd County Sheriff's Office showing calls they handled during the month in the City of Eagle Bend.

The Council was presented with the list of recognized holidays for 2026. Council Member Olson moved to approve the new list, seconded by Council Member Nelson.

The Council was presented with the new 2026 Minnesota Paid Leave Rates. The program states that employers can deduct up to .44% of employees' taxable wages to fund premiums. No action required.

Employees present for salary negotiations were Ashlee Nordlund, Clay Sandmeyer, Andrea Voller, Lori Johnson, and Nick Stoecker. The Council proceeded to review and discuss the wages of all full and part-time employees. Following a brief discussion and deliberation on wages, (Action 25-12-194) Council Member Kimball moved to approve the suggested wage increases contingent on increasing the Deputy Clerk's raise from \$1.50 to \$2.00, seconded by Council Member Lorentz. Motion adopted unanimously. The wage increase will become effective January 01, 2026. (Action 25-12-195) Council Member Kimball moved to approve a comp time change from a maximum of 80 hours banked before it is paid out as overtime to 60 hours banked and a comp time change from being able to carry over 80 comp time hours to only being able to carry over 60 hours, seconded by Olson. Motion adopted unanimously.

City Administrator Nordlund informed the Council that we received a health insurance settlement in the amount of \$480.84 from the Minnesota Healthcare Consortium due to low claims utilization.

Maintenance Supervisor Sandmeyer informed the Council that they are using a rented skid loader at a rate of \$25/working hours. The City skid loader is in the shop for electrical repairs, and it needs new wafers because they are damaged by the uneven sidewalks.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, (Action 25-12-196) Council Member Lorentz moved to adjourn at 8:06 p.m., seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion adopted unanimously.



Ashlee Nordlund
City Administrator



Scott Johnson
Acting Mayor