

**Announcement of Meeting  
City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

**5:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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**A. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mayor Patrick Baustian, Council Member Caroline Thorson, Council Member Dan Nath, and Council Member Marlin Kracht

**Excused:** Council Member Kevin Aaker

**Additional :** Jessica Mead, Jill Wolf, and Tyler Reisch

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Thorson, seconded by Council Member Kracht, that the Agenda and Special Orders be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**D.1. [2025-442](#)** January 20, 2026 City Council Minutes

A motion was made by Council Member Nath, seconded by Council Member Thorson, that this Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**E. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

George Eilertson, Matt Sorenson and Mandy Van Grootheest.

**F. PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**G. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**G.1. [2025-437](#) Sheriff's Office Quarterly Report - Matt Sorenson**

The Rock County Sheriff's Office conducted 5,026 calls for service in 2025, an increase from 2024, along with rises in incident reports and traffic stops. Violent crime responses grew in several categories, including assaults (21 vs. 8) and mental health related calls (62 vs. 39). Public order issues such as suspicious activity and harassment remained significant call types, though some categories declined from the prior year. Overall, 2025 showed higher enforcement activity, more community service calls, and continued emphasis on safety, welfare, and crime prevention.

**G.2. [2025-438](#) City Administrator Report**

Work has begun on individually metering all airport hangars, and that project will continue in the coming weeks. The City is also working on long-term power needs, which has required substantial planning time. Public Works has been taking advantage of the mild weather by completing tree trimming, street sweeping, cleaning and preparing the tree dump for spring use, and conducting sign inspections and repairs, including replacing signs damaged over the winter. In Water/Wastewater, the City completed its annual MPCA permit inspection of the wastewater treatment facility, which went well; inspectors noted periodic elevated phosphorus levels, and staff will begin adding alum as a corrective (non-violation) action. A leaking water main near the train depot was repaired. Staff are also resuming updates to the sewer ordinance which was initially started last year and now continuing under the new director. The revised ordinance expected to come before the council in the new future. Planning is underway for required PFAS testing this spring. The MPCA shifted the wastewater facility's permit inspection schedule from biennial to annual based on system size and regulatory updates.

**H. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Kracht, seconded by Council Member Nath, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**H.1. [2025-439](#) Petty Cash Reconciliation as of January 31, 2026****H.2. [2025-436](#) Claim Report for February 2026 (Check No. 166855 - 167088) for \$1,559,046.68.**

- H.3. [2025-440](#) Application for Exempt Permit for Jackson Ducks Unlimited MN to conduct a Raffle and Bingo at the Luverne Fire Department on April 18, 2026
- H.4. [2025-441](#) Temporary Liquor License for Luverne Area Chamber on June 5, 2026 at 801 W Commerce Rd RE: 2026 Cruise-in Event.
- H.5. [8-26](#) PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE WAIVER OF CHAPTER 152  
SUBDIVISION REQUIREMENTS AND RECORDING OF  
SUBDIVIDED PROPERTY  
(Brett & Wendy Stegenga Living Trust to Comex Holdings, LLC)

**I. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

- H.6. [2025-451](#) Change Order No. 3 for a contract increase of \$2,247.45 RE: Highway 75 project for storm sewer structures near Bethany Lutheran Church to accommodate the proposed detention basin.

A motion was made by Council Member Thorson, seconded by Council Member Nath, that this Motion be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**J. NEW BUSINESS**

- J.1. [9-26](#) PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND AWARDEDING  
THE SALE OF \$2,180,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION UTILITY  
REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2026A AND PLEDGING FOR THE  
SECURITY THEREOF NET REVENUES

This proposed resolution issues \$2,180,000 in General Obligation Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2026A, to fund the replacement of water and sewer lines as part of the MnDOT Highway 75 reconstruction project. The bonds will be secured by net revenues from the City's water and sewer utilities, with the City's full faith and credit pledged should those revenues be insufficient. Northland Securities solicited proposals for the bond sale, and the resolution awards the bonds to the lowest responsive purchaser and authorizes all necessary financing actions.

A motion was made by Council Member Nath, seconded by Council Member Kracht, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**J.2. [2025-449](#)** Replacement of Rooftop Dehumidification Unit Quote.

The indoor pool's rooftop dehumidification unit (Dectron unit) needs replacement because it has reached and exceeded its 15-year life expectancy, having been installed in 2007. The unit is critical for controlling moisture levels in the building to prevent rust and structural deterioration. The \$374,750 replacement cost would be funded from the pool CIP fund and existing pool cash reserves.

A motion was made by Council Member Thorson, seconded by Council Member Nath, that this Motion be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**J.3. [6-26](#)** PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION DESIGNATING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AS A  
CITY PARK, DEDICATING IT FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR  
RECREATION USE, AND AUTHORIZING RELATED ACTIONS

This proposed resolution designates Lot 1, Block 2, Gabrielson Industrial Subdivision as a city park dedicated for public outdoor recreation use and related public benefits (current outdoor rink renovation project) . The City commits to maintain the park and associated facilities for outdoor recreation for at least 20 years and, for the underlying parkland, into perpetuity or as required by grant agreements, and to comply with all conditions of any state or federal grants used to improve the property.

A motion was made by Council Member Thorson, seconded by Council Member Kracht, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**J.4. [7-26](#)****PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AN OUTDOOR RECREATION  
GRANT**

This proposed resolution authorizes the City of Luverne to act as the legal sponsor and submit an Outdoor Recreation Grant application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the outdoor rink renovation project, with Tyler Reisch designated to apply on the City's behalf. It affirms that the City has appropriate conflict-of-interest safeguards, legal authority, and financial capacity to meet any required match, construct the project, and maintain it for its design life, and that it has not yet incurred development costs or entered into a purchase agreement for the project property. The resolution further states that the City will obtain the necessary property interests, comply with all grant conditions including dedicating the park property for perpetual outdoor recreation use, and authorizes the Finance Director to execute all necessary implementation agreements.

A motion was made by Council Member Nath, seconded by Council Member Kracht, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**K. COUNCIL REPORTS****L. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Kracht, seconded by Council Member Thorson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Jessica Mead, Operations/HR Manager

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Patrick T. Baustian, Mayor