

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

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**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

**5:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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**A. Call to Order**

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

**Excused** Council Member Kevin Aaker

**Additional** Tyler Reisch

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Recognition of Guest(s)**

Katie Baustian, Marissa Marr, Lori Sorenson, Mandy Van Grootheest

**D. Public Forum & Correspondence**

**E. Reports, Requests, and Updates**

**E.1. 2026-15 Food Shelf Updates - Katie Baustian**

Katie Baustian, Co-director of the Rock County Food Shelf presented an update to the City Council. The food shelf has been in the current city-owned building for almost 5 years. They are open every Thursday from 1-3 p.m. and occasionally from 5-6 p.m. Distribution is based on family size. Katie discussed the various food sources that the food shelf receives food from as well as monetary funding and donations that are received. The new building provides more of a shopping experience for visitors. She noted the improvements that were made including a handicap accessible door, a garage door, and a 24-hour food donation drop-off. Volunteers are welcome to contact Katie Baustian or Mary Gehrke to sign up to help.

**E.2. [2026-16](#)** Outdoor Recreation Project - Marissa Marr

Marissa Marr presented on the Outdoor Ice Rink Renovation Project. Two key recreation needs within the community were identified as ice quality at the outdoor ice rink and a shortage of pickleball space. A vision was presented to renovate the current outdoor ice rink into a multi-use space for all seasons and ages. Project considerations are a new roof structure, new concrete, painted pickleball courts, and upgrades to lighting, safety, and accessibility. The City is applying for the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant to help with funding the project. The maximum grant is \$500,000 with a 50% local match. Application deadline is March 31 annually. The City is leveraging partnerships with several local groups to assist with funding. The City is seeking Community Engagement and Public Comment through a survey at [www.cityofluverne.org/rinkreno](http://www.cityofluverne.org/rinkreno). If the City is awarded the grant and additional funding is received, the project could start in Spring 2027.

**F. Other, if any**

Chuck Ackman with Senator Klobuchar's office and Jeanne Poppe with Senator Tina Smith's office were in town to discuss the Lewis & Clark expansion that Mayor Baustian attended.

**G. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Council Member Thorson, seconded by Council Member Kracht, to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,  
Mandy Van Grootheest  
Administrative Operations Assistant