City of Medicine Lake

May 4, 2026
City of Medicine Lake
Council Minutes

Present: Chris Heim, Councilor Bill McNaughton, Ron Tomczik, Ruth Hovey, Nina Zelazny; Treasurer Gary Englert, Clerk Therese Polum, Fire Chief Mike Fox, BCWMC Commissioner Clint Carlson, Planning Commission Jesse Swanson

Council and Staff Absent: TAC Shaun Kennedy, Fire Chief Rich Halvorson, BCWMC TAC Susan Wiese

Other attendees: Tom Vierkant, Bryant Jones

Mayor Heim called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes and Agenda

- **Motion to approve the agenda forwarded by Councilmember Hovey and seconded by Councilmember McNaughton. Yea – Heim, Hovey, McNaughton, Zelazny, Tomczik. Motion passed.**
- **Motion to approve the April 6, 2026 city council minutes forwarded by councilmember Hovey and seconded by Councilmember Zelazny. Yea – Heim, Hovey, McNaughton, Tomczik, Zelazny, Tomczik. Motion passed.**

Hennepin County Sheriff – absent

- No reported

Three Rivers Park District: District Commissioner Marge Beard

- Presented on her background
- Presented on Three Rivers Park District using the presentation included in the packet
- Reported the boardwalk trail is behind schedule
- Reported on water quality: Medicine Lake water is tested bi-weekly, working on a future alum treatment for Medicine Lake, water level currently good, DNR grant received (20k) to treat starry stonewort this season, 4,400 (1500 hours) watercraft inspections at French Park. Hennepin County cut their funding from 50K to 20K however Three Rivers is filling this gap. 2026 is the 'year of the river' theme; 100 years ago a fish study was done and three fish were counted, many more fish today so much to celebrate
- Recreation is the primary use of Three Rivers Parks, highlights of specific parks were presented
- Turtle Fest is coming and is a grand event, very popular

Mayor Heim thanked Commissioner Beard for her continued service to assist with so many items and items related to our recent road project. BCWMC Clint Carlson asked a few questions and added some positive comments. Mayor Heim asked a few more questions regarding the boardwalk trail and other trails.

Open Forum

Tom Vierkant

- Provided his background including he is a citizen for 10 years
- His topic is road plowing
- He presented a slideshow of photos of the road during various winter/snow conditions
- Plowing the roads needs some work, current plowing makes the road unwalkable, and un-useable, he presented several examples on the concerns using photos from this past winter
- He presented 40 to 60 citizens feel the same as him that the city needs to do better as a city on plowing
- He presented many occurrences on specific lack of plowing during multiple conditions, multiple locations, multiple examples
- He owns the company Medicine Lake Renew LLC, has insurance and a backup plan and is offering a solution to be hired as the city contractor to plow the city roads, keep them plowed appropriately, plow the full width of the road, and plow the trails
- He offered his price may be around $14,000

Mayor Heim asked some additional questions, discussion pursued. Councilor Zelazny would like council to hire Tom to perform the plowing. Discussion continued on this idea compared to continuing with the same company compared to other options including requesting proposals from other companies and what exactly are the plow contract expectations.

Next step: define plowing expectations to take out to get pricing. Discussion continued on who should be involved on developing the plowing expectations. Councilor Zelazny will create a document outlining expectations to use to acquire quotes and will have this ready for June council meeting.

Bryant Jones

- Presented on his qualifications on playground standards, audits, compliance
- He expressed we currently have a liability issue as we do not have inspection records and the city needs an initial inspection on new playground, and continued inspections and record keeping. A program is needed for the new playground including inspection plan.
- He presented Three Rivers or Plymouth would be a resource to provide people to hire for the initial inspection as a starting task.
- Councilor McNaughton will call Plymouth and the playground company to hire someone for the initial playground inspection

Council Zelazny asked about filling a role for public works type items with a designated list of responsibilities. Discussion pursued. June meeting: have a detailed discussion on this role/topic. Mayor Heim continued to discuss using citizens versus going to outside sources and Plymouth for various items as they pop up.

Fire Department Report – Mike Fox

- Reported he sent the report out late thus not included in packet
- Reported no calls since February, boat is on the water and is updated, medical training ride along for some were recently held, Osseo High School included in recent citywide drill including scenarios with the ambulance, two new rookies, losing a fire fighter, and some
- Mayor Heim asked about the radios and to make sure they are current. Asked have drills been happening using the fire hydrants and yes is the answer, and this will be on-going. Asked about hose ramps, and yes city owns hose ramps.

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission Report – Shawn Kennedy/Clint Carlson/Susan Wiese

- Reported he was happy that Commissioner Beard was able to come and present today
- Reported

Planning Commission Report – Jesse Swanson

- Reported comprehensive plan in process
- Reported on water connection topics, he is discussing with City of Plymouth to assign an assessment to each home to trigger title to research the water hook up requirements. Councilor McNaughton stated Medicine Lake can assign an assessment of zero dollars to each property to trigger this through title, he will have this discussion with legal council

- Mayor Heim reported on 233 Peninsula Road complaints, council will expect a resolution on June 1 regarding an official order abatement process where city will be paying to take care of this property
- Mayor Heim reported on 239.5 Peninsula Road complaints, council may expect a resolution on this property in the near future for similar items as 233 Peninsula Road
- Mayor Heim presented on many racoon complaints arriving into city inbox

Public Works – Councilor McNaughton and Ruth Hovey

- No report

Treasurer's Report – Gary Englert

- Receipts in reporting period: $15,302
- Receipts year to date: $196,713
- Disbursements in reporting period: $12,062
- Disbursements year to date: $189,512

Reported on receipts and disbursements. Mayor Heim asked for a summary check in during June meeting.

Motion to approve the summary spending, receipts and cash balances through April 30, 2026 forwarded by Councilmember McNaughton and seconded by Councilmember Zelazny. Yea -Heim, Hovey, McNaughton, Zelazny, Tomczik. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Councilmember Hovey

- Reported on Sheriff's report,
- NNO food truck, Sheriff will be present, starting the planning

Councilmember Tomczik
- No report

Councilmember Zelazny
- Reported on rental renewals in process
- Reported on election clerk items on-going. Mayor and two regular 4-year council terms submitted. Have received some volunteers.

Councilmember McNaughton
- Reported on closet construction
- Reported street sweeping this week
- Reported manhole repair work to start this week
- Reported Veit will be in soon to finish the last items
- Reported on a proposal from Bolton Menk regarding facilities conditions assessment on city hall and fire hall, passed out proposal to council for review and discuss at June council meeting.
- Reported on racoons

Mayor Heim
- His items covered

New Business:
- none

Motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm by councilmember Hovey seconded by councilmember McNaughton. Yea – Heim, Hovey, McNaughton, Zelazny, Tomczik. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Polum

Therese Polum
City Clerk

Approved on: June 1, 2026