

Regular Council Meeting May 4, 2026

Mayor Stan Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members in attendance were Darwin Sietsema, Chris McCurdy, and Stu Peterson. Absent was Brian Baartman. Also in attendance were Darrin Haroldson and Rochelle VanderWoude.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those in attendance.

Minutes of the April meeting and the April 9, 2026 Board of Review meeting were approved with corrections by M/Sietsema 2/Peterson/cd unanimously.

Wastewater Supervisor, Darrin Haroldson gave the council his report for the month of April and answered the council's questions.

Bid proposals were presented for Crack filling to be done to Harrison Street, Norway Street, and Gilbertson Avenue from Norway Street to 231st Street. Bids were received from Precision Paving Solutions for \$12,780.00 and from Bertram Asphalt Company for \$8,028.90. The council accepted the Bertram Asphalt Company bid for \$8,028.90 by M/Peterson 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

Four (4) bids were obtained for a 60" zero-turn lawnmower for the ball diamond from Farmward Cooperative for a Ferris IXS 2200 for \$12,900.00; and from Lipinski Small Engine and Hardware for a Stihl 960IK for \$14,800.19; a Gravley Pro-Turn 560 for \$13,679.20; and Country Clipper for \$13,571.22. After discussion it was approved to purchase the Ferris IXS 2200 from Farmward Cooperative for \$12,900.00 by M/Peterson 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

Two (2) bids were received to cut down five (5) ash trees and grind stumps on southwest corner of Main Street and Leo Avenue from Lamote Tree Service for \$3750.00 and from Serreyn Tree Service for \$4200.00. It was approved to have Lamote Tree Service come in and do the tree work by M/Sietsema 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

It was approved to purchase a rolling broom for the Public Works lawnmower from Jim Haroldson for \$3,500.00 by M/Sietsema 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

The April bills were presented and approved by M/Peterson 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously. Receipts = \$96,272.83 Disbursements = \$115,488.33.

The garbage contract renewal from VanDyke Sanitation was received. The bid is for \$85.00 for the first (1st) eight (8) yard dumpster per week plus \$68.00 for each additional eight (8) yard dumpster per week. This contract is for three (3) years with the option of renewing this contract for an additional three (3) years providing there are no changes. After discussion, the council decided to table this issue as they would like to include in the contract that the contractor will only pick up full dumpsters. If VanDyke Sanitation accepts the change the council will sign the contract. If not, the council would like Brad VanDyke to come to the next meeting.

Resolution 2026-04; A Resolution Establishing Fire Escrow Account Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 64A.50 was approved by M/Sietsema 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously. This resolution needs to be approved to be put on the State's Fire Debris Removal List. The importance of being included on this list is that if a structure in the city is damaged by fire and the owner has property insurance, the insurance company is required to withhold up to 25% of the insurance proceeds to ensure that the property owner either rebuilds or cleans up the debris on the property. Insurance companies must check with this agency before they pay

out proceeds and if a city is on this list, they must follow the provisions of the state law creating this fire escrow account.

Resolution 2026-05; Resolution Supporting the Request for State Bonding for Infrastructure Improvements was approved by M/Peterson 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

Mayor Stan Townsend received a letter from the Mayor of Crosslake, Jackson Purfeerst on how the Paid Family Medical Leave is not only impacting our cities but also placing real strain on the small businesses within our communities. Mayor Purfeerst invited Mayor Townsend to join fellow Minnesota mayors in signing this letter to raise awareness about the need for PFML reform not only for cities, but for our small businesses that serve our communities as well. The council supports this letter and approves Mayor Townsend to sign this letter by M/Sietsema 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

It was approved to purchase bathroom stalls and accessories for the bathrooms at the ball diamond for \$6,205.00 by M/Peterson 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

Mayor Stan Townsend made a proclamation that the month of May 2026 as Poppy Month in the City of Ruthton and asks that all citizens pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing the Memorial Poppy during this month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. by M/Townsend.

Rochelle VanderWoude
Ruthton City Clerk/Treasurer