



Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes  
City Hall ~ July 9, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

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**Members Present:** Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members Joe Benda, Michael Brunkhorst, Jeannine Nagel

**Absent:** Chris Schmit

**Staff:** Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman, Jason Mandelkow

**Guests:** Pete Grimsrud **Remote Guest:** Robert Vose, Attorney

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**Call to Order**

Mayor Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approve or amend Agenda**

Agenda order was changed with no additions. Motioned to approve amended agenda made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the April 23, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Benda, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

**Public Works Report**

Public Works Director described the quotes for the plow truck under basic state bid from International for the Chassis and Crysteel for the plow equipment. Additions are aluminum wheels and batteries located inside the cab. Also added a three-way plow and extra brackets for the liquid salt. Total price range is \$287,000 to \$290,000 for new truck with the best warranty plan. Council member Brunkhorst asked Public Works if there was anything they would add that they could use that is not listed here if we are looking at ordering a new truck. A desired addition that is not included would be a pintle trailer hitch. International and Minnesota Rural Water have short term financing. International has a cummings motor and they are in Rochester, which is convenient. Council agreed to let staff proceed with the details of the bid information for the plow truck since it will take a minimum of a year to get once approved and ordered. Once we have the new truck in place the plan is to sell the old one. The budget has about \$100,000 set aside for the new truck plus the sale of the old truck.

**New Business**

Staff put together a list of the duties, labor and equipment use that are Gas Commission related in their jobs from daily to occasional types of work. Attorney Vose recommends putting together a simple one-page agreement that reflects the basic relationship between the Gas Commission and the City of Goodhue describing their combined operations. Council needs to decide how it works best. Gas Commission board consists of three members, Wayne Gadiant, Chris Schmit, and Mitch Lindholm. The Gas Manager is not a City employee but is on all City payroll and benefits. Currently certain expenses are documented, and those monthly expenses are reimbursed. Attorney Vose stated that large cities that have a utility board are City employees and contribute to PERA and some have the utility as a City department. There needs to be a list of operations and understanding of cooperation that needs to be in writing. Who does what? Public Works Director commented on how the Gas Commission is always willing to help with sewer and water and help on weekends when City staff are gone and the City helps them when there is a gas call. Council agreed that an agreement should be written up.

Public Works director gave insight into the irrigation meter accounts. The only way to get back on track was to activate all irrigation meter accounts at the beginning of June to see what kind of readings would be pulled in for the month. The results showed some meters were never activated and usage and account fees were back charged for many months resulting in some huge bills. The past practice for billing out the irrigation usage was on the honor system for activating the accounts. No customers notified the City this year about starting up their irrigation accounts. Two of the accounts have new meters and staff will verify backflow preventers. Council and staff agreed that we need to let the customers know that all previous bills and usage on the irrigation meters will be written off and from now on they will be paying for irrigation water that is used every month starting July 1, 2025.

Attorney Vose stated the old agreement was not good. The City was a voting member. But he was not sure the new Joint Powers Agreement of the Goodhue Community Fire Truck Association is a good thing for the City either. What's proposed doesn't fit. The indemnification portion and payment formula to him did not seem a good fit for the City. Brunkhorst explained it was to help with the budget process for the City. Due to lack of time the council moved on to the next item.

The water aerobics is back on the table. The City is not trying to eliminate the aerobics; the logistics just needs to get cleaned up. At the council meeting on August 14, 2024, council suggested we pass this option to the school to run through their Community Ed. The City never heard back. In May of 2025, the aerobics director contacted us about doing aerobics and the City referred them to the school. The school replied to the City that they would not be able to coordinate the aerobics because they don't own the pool. Administration presented council with the three options that were created to be offered to the aerobics instructor, and with those options, it was implied to move forward with the offer.

The remaining items on the agenda were tabled.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. by Council Member Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk