



**Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall ~ July 23, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

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**Members Present:** Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members, Michael Brunkhorst, Chris Schmit, Jeannine Nagel

**Absent:** Joe Benda

**Staff:** Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman

**Guests:** Roger Ballstadt, Steve McNamara, Brenda Hinsch, Chad Ryan, and Rich Majerus – City of Bellechester JPA Committee Representative

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**Call to Order**

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

**Approve or amend Agenda**

Motioned to approve agenda was made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the July 9, 2025, work meeting minutes was made by Brunkhorst, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 4-0-0.

**Approval of Bills**

A motion was made to approve the bills by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

**Consent Agenda**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Restated Joint Powers agreement of the Goodhue Community Fire Truck Association**

Rich Majerus, Representative of the City of Bellechester Joint Powers Agreement Committee of the Goodhue Community Fire Truck Association spoke on behalf of the committee about the marked-up agreement with recommended edits and comments listed by Attorney Vose for the Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Goodhue Community Fire Truck Association. The current agreement is outdated and must be revised this year, as the opportunity only arises every five years. Goodhue's participation and fair financial contribution are central issues. Townships and City of Bellechester have been paying in, but City of Goodhue's role and payments have been less clear. There is an urgency to finalize the new agreement by August 11 to align with budgeting cycles and avoid dissatisfaction among member townships and fire department volunteers.

Mayor Valenzuela asked Committee member Rich Majerus to share what his position is of some of the items that Attorney Vose has concerns with for the City itself. His response was:

- 1) That they could fire the Fire Chief, but they weren't hiring him. We let the volunteers do the hiring, but we can take the position if things go bad, to fire him.
- 2) He said we didn't have enough of a formula. 50% of the levy is paid by population, 50% of the revenue is paid by building value. That is their formula.

- 3) Where the information comes from is the County Assessor's office and the State Demographer.
- 4) That we need a majority vote on things. The Committee only needs a 3/5<sup>th</sup> vote on it and we can present that to the townships because we know what they will and won't accept.
- 5) Indemnification should be put all together and not spread throughout document, which is not a problem for them to change and make it a cleaner document.

Attorney Vose reminded that nothing in the current agreement states that Goodhue can't be a voting member. Maybe they never sent anyone to vote, but they are a voting member.

Council member Schmit verified with Fire Truck Committee member, Rich Majerus, that the numbers listed next to the percentages were the "actual" numbers.

Attorney Vose raised concerns about the clarity of the agreement, especially regarding the payment formula and binding votes.

**Formula Clarification:** The formula 50% based on building value (from county assessor) and 50% based on population (from state demographer/GIS), was not clearly written in the draft.

After some discussion about the formula, it was clarified how the formula was calculated. The counties assessed value for all the structures of all the participating communities added together for a total building value for the entire area served. And then Goodhue's percentage of that piece of this formula would be its percentage building value of that total number. And that is 50% of the formula. The other 50% of the formula is the population. The total population calculation for all the participating communities and Goodhue's percentage of that total is the other 50% of the formula and this produces a total percentage for the calculation. This agreement does not say that, and it should.

**Voting Authority:** Disagreement existed whether the association's committee or only the member council/boards could bind cities/townships to financial obligations. Attorney Vose clarified that only governing bodies can bind their communities, not the association board alone.

Concerns were raised that the association could approve a large purchase (i.e. new fire truck) obligating all members to pay their share, even if their council did not directly approve the purchase.

Rich Majerus mentioned he will provide a revised draft incorporating attorney feedback and formula clarification. Then the draft can be reviewed by Attorney Vose. If returned by Friday, representatives could hold a general meeting Monday morning to refine the agreement, and if we come to an agreement, then he can take it back to the committee and see what they think. Then all the townships and cities need to each meet and agree to it. If needed a special meeting could be arranged.

All sides appear committed to clarifying the agreement and moving forward, but legal and process clarity is required before approval.

### **Amended Lions Lease Agreement**

The Lions Club returned a signed lease agreement to get City signatures and approval. A motion to approve the amended Lions Lease Agreement was made by Schmit, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

### **Resolution 25-13 Authorizing PSIG Grant Application**

The PSIG Grant Application is a requirement to get federal funding for the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District. Motion to approve Resolution 25-13 Authorizing PSIG Grant Application was made by Brunkhorst, seconded Schmit, motion carried 4-0-0.

### **Water Aerobics Options**

The options were read at the last meeting. A motion was made by Schmit to present the three options to the water aerobics instructor for adult use of the pool, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

### **City Wide Cleanup Details**

City wide cleanup event is scheduled for September 13 with National Honor Society students volunteering. A flat fee structure was discussed for the cost of each (per load drop-off) and (per curbside pickup). Curbside pickup will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with a prepaid request form from residents. Tire rims can be accepted, but we still need to determine if we can take tires without rims. They need to be separated. No tires with rims as we have no way to separate the two. Attorney Vose confirmed, if appropriate staff are used, liability is covered. The form should clarify that items left behind at the curb are non-acceptable items. Specifics about items that will be accepted and not accepted will be included in flyer. The Salvation Army will be present, along with Zemke roll-off, Poncelet Metals, and Michael Brunkhorst. The only fees at this time will be charges incurred for the Zemke roll-off dumpster. Any resident who may ask for financial assistance with disposal fees, may contact the City Administrator. A motion was made by Brunkhorst, to set the City Wide clean up fee for September 13<sup>th</sup> to be \$10 for drop off and \$15 for curbside pickup, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 4-0-0.

### **Administrator's Comments**

Transition to .gov email domain for official communications is in place. We are not changing our emails yet. It needs time to populate.

Staff is continuing ongoing work on Gas Commission agreement, covering shared services and staff rotation for on-call duties. We will have it ready to review at the work meeting. Previous billing issue with Gas Commission attorney fees was resolved. May and June charges will be a credit on the July invoice.

Clarification will be provided in the next water bill insert regarding use of recreational vehicles on private property (such as side-by-sides).

### **Council Comments**

None

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:19 p.m. by Council Member Schmit, seconded by Nagel 4-0-0.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk