



Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes  
City Hall ~ December 10, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

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**Members Present:** Mayor Chris Schmit, Council Members Michael Brunkhorst, Joe Benda and Jeannine Nagel

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Lisa Redepinning, City Administrator, Eric Brandt, Sandy Benda, Trevor Sullivan-GCSO, Charlotte Muenzenberger-News Record

**Remote:** None

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**Call to Order**

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

**Open public comment period for Budget**

There was no input from the public

**Closed Public comment period**

**Approve or amend Agenda**

Request to remove Joint Powers Fire Truck Association Agreement from New Business since agreement was not received. Motion to approve amended agenda made by Nagel, seconded by Benda, motion carried 4-0-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the November 12, 2025, work meeting minutes made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, 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.

**Old Business**

Council discussed the unusually high utility bill for Trinity Church due to the water leak after the meter and clarified details of how staff handled the process. Consensus was that all users are responsible for paying for actual usage and there was no decision to forgive any of the bill with emphasis on equal treatment for all accounts.

Council discussed appointment to council vacancy. Reviewed applications and agreed importance of attendance and engagement. A motion to appoint Eric Brandt to the vacant city council seat was made by Nagel, Seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

Swearing in of new council member Eric Brandt took place.

**New Business**

*2026 Fee Schedule Review*

Staff decided to move away from using the water rate study due to skewed data. A motion was made by Brunkhorst, to approve the 2026 Goodhue Fees Schedule except for pool fees, which will be discussed at a later meeting, and setting the water rate increase at 5% for three years, seconded by Brandt, motion carried, 5-0-0.

### *Tobacco License Renewals*

The Goodhue County Sheriff Office confirmed there were no tobacco sales violations for the three locations in Goodhue. Tobacco license renewals for 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pub, The Corner Bar and Grille, and Goodhue Country Station were pre-approved pending payment of the annual fee of \$50, with a motion by Nagel, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 5-0-0.

### *CEDA Renewal Discussion*

Council expressed concerns about the value received for CEDA's \$16,000/year contract. Low meeting attendance, minimal tangible results, and limited grant success cited as reasons for dissatisfaction. Council consensus is to not renew the contract for 2026 and to continue the EDA internally with local volunteers. A motion was made by Brunkhorst, to not renew CEDA contract, seconded by Benda, motion carried. CEDA will be notified of non-renewal requiring some administrative follow-up.

### *Snowplow Bids*

Snowplow bids were received and reviewed from Lodermeier's and Thomforde Enterprises with flexibility for Public Works Director to seek additional help as needed. The rates were similar to prior years. Motion by Benda to accept both bids as read, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 5-0-0.

### *COLA Increases*

A motion by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, to approve the cost-of-living adjustment of 2.8% for city staff.

### *Staff Reviews*

Staff reviews were performed and City Administrator's recommendation is a 3% increase. A motion made by Nagel to approve the 3% increase, seconded by Brandt, motion carried, 5-0-0.

### *Approve Resolution No. 25-21 acknowledging the Award of Grant Funds From the Greater Minnesota Small Cities*

The City is a pass-through for the Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity for the \$55,000 grant that was awarded them. A motion was made by Brunkhorst to approve Resolution No. 25-21 acknowledging the Award of Grant Funds From the Greater Minnesota Small Cities, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

### *Approve addition of new MNPL (MN Paid Leave) section to handbook/personnel policy*

A motion was made by Nagel to add the Minnesota Paid Leave to the City of Goodhue employee handbook, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 5-0-0.

### *Business Facade improvement Program Application Request for Peter's Insurance*

An application came in for Peter's Insurance to update their storefront windows which was confirmed with program budget. Two other facade grants are in progress: one pending completion and receipts and another unused to date. A motion was made by Brunkhorst to approve the business facade application for Peter's Insurance, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

### **Public Works Report**

Council reviewed public works report. City continues to seek a new snowplow. Water meter replacement program is ongoing; letters were sent to residents with unreadable meters. Follow-up planned for non-responsive accounts.

### **Administrator Comments**

City qualified for lower small city rate for new Minnesota Family Paid Leave law. Acknowledgement given to Kyle for assisting with snow removal, with cross-departmental billing clarified.

**Council Comments**

Council discussed rollout of ACH for water bills. Gas Commission is considering ACH service to gas bills after the City's initial trial.

Council Members and Mayor expressed appreciation for outgoing council member Joe Benda, honoring his years of service and contributions to city improvements and governance.

**Mayor Comments**

Mayor Schmit thanked Joe Benda for his service.

**Other**

None

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:02 pm by Council Member Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst 5-0-0.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk