

**Red Wing City Council
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
February 23, 2026**

Council Members Present: Council President Janie Farrar; Council Members Donald Kliewer, Beth Snyder (attending virtually), Becky Norton, Kim Beise, Vicki Jo Lambert, and Ron Goggin

Members Absent: All members were in attendance

Others Present: Gary Iocco, Mayor; Brian Metling, Assistant Police Chief; Melissa Hill, City Clerk; Chris Heineman, Council Administrator; Dan Brower, Library Director; Marshall Hallock, Finance Director; Kyle Klatt, Community Development Director; Mike Warner, Fire Chief; Shantel Dow, Sheldon Executive Director; Shawn Blaney, Public Works Director; Zach Regnier, Engineering Director; Zachary Cronin, City Attorney's Office

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order

Council President Janie Farrar called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 2

Pledge of Allegiance

Council President Farrar led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 3

Excusal of Members

All members were in attendance.

Agenda Item 4

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Council Member Ron Goggin, seconded by Council Member Donald Kliewer, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Beise, Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, and Snyder voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

Agenda Item 5

Proclamations and Recognitions

A. Swearing-in Ceremony.

Mayor Gary Iocco introduced and swore in Kendal Swanson, who will serve a First Term on the Sister Cities Commission, with the term expiring on December 31, 2028.

Mayor Gary Iocco introduced and swore in Jim Ross, who will serve a First Term on the Port Authority Board to expire on January 31, 2029.

Council President Farrar congratulated the new members and thanked them for their service.

Agenda Item 6

Presentations

The Sturgeon Lake Road Project was recognized with two awards, which were presented to Mayor Iocco and the City Council by Engineering Director Zach Regnier. Director Regnier explained that the Sturgeon Lake Road Overpass Project was substantially completed and opened to traffic in the summer of 2025. This project represented decades of effort and collaboration and resulted in success. It was recognized for excellence in engineering, collaboration, and public benefit. The first award was the American Public Works Association Minnesota Chapter Project of the Year, and the second was from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), which focused on the use of consultants for the project. The project replaced one of the most dangerous at-grade rail crossings in Minnesota with an overpass, increasing safety. Regnier stated that, should there be a 100-year flood event, there would be no blockages due to a train moving through the area. Many people, and their collaboration, made this project possible. Finally, Regnier stated that the City was also asked to submit this project for the national award.

Council President Farrar congratulated those involved and thanked them for their work on the project.

Agenda Item 7

Public Comment

Council President Farrar reviewed the public comment procedure, which was recently changed, and reminded the public of the three-minute time limit.

George Hintz, Ward 1, stated his topic was the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. He asked the community for help finding a location for this program. The locations used previously are no longer available. Because there is no space available, it is challenging to move toys from place to place. In all, 857 children received toys through this program. Finally, Mr. Hintz invited those interested in joining the group to attend their breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9 am.

Amma Plank, Ward 4, spoke about recognizing Black women and Black History Month. Amma stated it's OK to be self-conscious, but you should love yourself, brush your hair, and be happy when you look in the mirror, even if you aren't completely confident. Finally, Amma asked that the Council address her by her correct name when she speaks.

Laura Habedank, Ward 2, spoke about immigrants and Black History Month. Ms. Habedank referenced a recent article she read concerning all people living in the United States. Ms. Habedank also stated that the article went on to argue that differences among people should be celebrated rather than ignored.

Amber Dawn Plank Warfield, Ward 4, stated that those who speak during public comment know the rules and asked questions such as: why is Black History Month is not listed on the City website; is the Council disappointed only four residents have been arrested; how does the Council feel about ICE being compared to the Gestapo; does the Council think Anne Frank would have supported them; and other questions and doesn't trust the Council with the future. Ms. Warfield also asked for respect for her daughter.

Matias Plank, Ward 4, addressed some of the Council's decisions and the Council's reactions when residents speak, including facial expressions and silence. Mr. Plank also stated that the Council made decisions that limit public speaking or shorten comment time.

Brian Ertel, Owner of Grandview Trailer Park, spoke to the new ordinance discussed at the workshop earlier that evening. As the owner, Mr. Ertel invested approximately one million dollars in the park's water and sewer infrastructure, including securing a grant to complete the work. The purpose is to keep manufactured housing an affordable option for families in the future. The City doesn't perform repairs to the property, and communication with the City Council is inadequate. If the ordinance passes, the cost to tenants will rise significantly, and Mr. Ertel would like to work with the Council to find a solution that works for everyone.

Alan Muller, of Sturtevant Street, stated that people in Red Wing are exposed to environmental hazards that affect their health and their children's health, including lead, radon, and other pollutants. Mr. Muller was excited to see that the state is providing some funding.

Natasha Yates, Ward 2, advocated for the continuation of a City Council liaison to the Library Board. Council liaisons ensure the Council has an accurate understanding of the Library's issues and concerns. There are many collaborations with other City organizations. Council liaisons ensure the Library's mission is supported and serves as an advocate for the Library. The Library is deeply intertwined with the City, and having a Council liaison strengthens public trust in the City Council.

Council President Farrar closed the public comment section of the meeting at 7:01.

Agenda Item 8

Consent Agenda

Council President Farrar noted that Council Members may pull Consent Agenda items for further discussion. A motion was made by Council member Lambert and seconded by Council member Norton to approve the Consent Agenda without 8M. Upon the call of the roll, Council members Norton, Goggin, Lambert, Beise, Farrar, Kliewer, and Snyder voted aye; no nays; motion carried.

A. Motion to Approve Bills (Warrant #126547 – 126767, totaling \$1,744,628.67).

B. Motion to Approve Minutes.

- 1. February 2, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. February 9, 2026, Budget Workshop Minutes.**

C. Motion to Appoint the City of Red Wing's Public Information and Engagement Officer, Michelle Leise, to the Visitors and Convention Bureau (VCB) Board of Directors.

D. Motion to Approve Finance Report.

E. Motion to Approve Reallocation of \$193,600 in the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan from Trickling Filter Roof Replacement to Preliminary Engineering for Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements.

Staff is requesting City Council approve the reallocation of \$193,600 from the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan for the sewer utility enterprise fund, from the Trickling Filter Roof Replacement Project, to fund preliminary engineering for the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

F. Motion to Approve a Memorandum of Agreement regarding Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Unions.

The City Council is asked to approve the Memorandum of Agreements listed below. Staff recommends approval.

1. AFSCME Utilities.
2. AFSCME Clerical Technical.

G. Motion to Reject all Bids Received for the 2026 Sanitary Sewer Slip Line Project.

Bolton & Menk, Inc., the City's consulting engineer for this project, reviewed submitted bids and determined that all proposals were significantly higher than the engineer's estimate of \$525,555. Due to the magnitude of the cost overruns, staff is requesting that the scope of work be modified and the project be rebid.

H. Motion to Approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Minnesota Public Employees Association (MNPEA) Police Officers Unit, Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement related to Working Out of Classification.

The City Council is asked to approve the Memorandum of Agreement. Staff recommends Approval.

I. Actions Related to Phase II Bluff Prairie and Savana Restoration Project.

The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) is requesting City permission and a letter of support to apply for a Phase II grant to expand ecological restoration efforts onto City-owned land within the Billings–Tomfohr Conservation Area. The proposed work includes invasive species removal, savanna canopy restoration, and ongoing habitat management consistent with established conservation plans. There is no direct financial impact to the City at this time, as grant administration would be handled by TPE, with City involvement limited to coordination and oversight.

1. Motion to Grant Permission to the Prairie Enthusiasts to Apply for a Grant from MnDNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant to Fund Prairie Restoration Work on City-owned Property.
2. Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Support for the Application.

J. Actions Related to MN Department of Health Grant Funding for Lead Service Line Replacements.

Staff is requesting Council authorization to develop and submit a Project Priority List (PPL) Proposal application to the Minnesota Department of Health Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) Program for 100-percent grant funding to replace qualified private water service lines within the City of Red Wing. Eligible work includes replacement of all lead service lines, galvanized service lines requiring replacement, and any service lines that contain or have historically contained lead. Grant funding would cover the engineering, design, and construction costs required to complete the replacements.

1. Motion to Authorize Submission of a Grant Application to the MN Department of Health Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program for 2027 Lead Service Line Replacements.
2. Motion to Authorize Staff to Enter into a Work Order Contract with Bolton & Menk to Develop and Submit Grant Application.

K. Motion to Approve Private Use of Public Property (PUPP) Application for St. Paul's Lutheran Church Elvis in the Park Concert.

The event will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Central Park Bandshell. St. Paul's Lutheran Church will hold a brief church service at 4 p.m. A musical concert will follow the church service in Central Park. The event is open to the public.

L. Motion to Approve Private Use of Public Property (PUPP) Application for the 2026 Red Wing Memorial Day Observance.

The Red Wing Memorial Day Association has submitted an application for the Red Wing Memorial Day Ceremony to be held on May 25, 2026, in Bay Point Park from 8:45 a.m. to 10 a.m. The event will feature a Master of Ceremonies, the Mayor, Color Guard, guest speakers, musical interludes, floral tribute with firing squad and artillery salutes, and TAPS.

~~M. Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 228, Fourth Series, Repealing and Replacing Chapter 9 of the City Code.~~

~~On November 10, 2025, Council approved the introduction of Ordinance 228, Fourth Series, amending Chapter 9 of the City Code to improve readability, eliminate redundancies, and make two policy adjustments related to the 300-foot rule and hours of downtown parking enforcement. Council is asked to approve the second reading of this Ordinance.~~

~~*This item was pulled by Council Member Lambert.*~~

N. Motion to Approve Out-of-State Travel for Mayor Iocco for the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Meeting.

The Council's travel policy dictates that all out-of-state travel by elected leaders must be approved by the City Council. The Mayor is very active in this group and the trip has been budgeted for. Staff recommends approval.

A motion was made by Council Member Lambert, seconded by Council Member Becky Norton, to approve the Consent Agenda without item 8M. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Beise, Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, and Snyder voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

M. Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 228, Fourth Series, Repealing and Replacing Chapter 9 of the City Code.

Council Member Lambert had concerns with this ordinance, stating that it had significantly changed since its introduction. Council Member Lambert reviewed the ordinance for the Council. There were requests in December and January to discuss this ordinance, but they

did not take place. She stated that she was curious about these changes, which were made without discussion, and would like to see this item tabled until the Council can see why and how it was changed.

Council Administrator Chris Heineman stated that this ordinance is older than the timeframe stated by Council Member Lambert and deferred to Community Development Director Kyle Klatt for a more detailed explanation.

Director Klatt indicated that this ordinance had been discussed in detail since November, that the Council approved moving forward, but that the state needed to review it, which led to the delay in returning to the Council for approval. Duplications and changes over time made the ordinance confusing and difficult to understand. At that time in November when the ordinance was discussed, there were two major issues: how parking is regulated in the parking ramps and the downtown parking hours, which were originally 8-8 and are now 8-5. Essentially, the remainder of the ordinance is the same but has been reorganized to be clearer.

Assistant Police Chief Brian Metling stated that Director Klatt was correct and added that, for officers to write state citations, they needed to go through the courts, and the ordinance numbers needed to be approved by the state before they could be entered into the ticket system. This process has been completed, so the officers can now write those tickets.

Council Member Lambert asked about the 20-hour parking limit, as it was not included in the new ordinance. Director Klatt stated that the time limit has not changed and that, on the ramps, there are signs indicating you can park there if you have a permit, and referenced the section of the ordinance where this could be found. There is no formal permit process in place, for example, if you want to park in front of your home for more than 20 hours. Director Klatt reiterated that this ordinance doesn't change any of the regulations on parking in residential areas, and that it has been the same for the past 50 years. The City has never issued parking permits in residential areas, and there was no reason to change the current ordinance at this time. The Council would have to go through a process if changes were requested. Council Member Lambert found the ordinance confusing and wanted to ensure it is accurate for residents. For example, if the City is not allowing residents to park with a permit as stated in the ordinance, then that specific line should be removed.

Council Member Norton agreed with Council Member Lambert's concerns and questioned whether a strikethrough or a change in language would require a return to another reading of the ordinance. Zachary Cronin, the City Attorney's representative, stated that a second reading would be required if there were such a change. In addition, Council Member Norton asked for clarification on parking on the street, as leaving and returning to the same spot isn't considered moving your vehicle under the ordinance, even though most residents park in the same spot time after time. Assistant Chief Metling stated that the Police Department receives complaints regarding parking and 20-hour violations. Vehicles are covered in snow, and Public Works need to be able to plow the roads. Therefore, the Police Department does issue citations to residents who leave their cars on the street for more than 20 hours. There have never been permits for residential parking, and if there were, they would be expensive for the City, as it would be a challenge for the Police Department to consistently enforce.

Council Member Lambert would like to either strike the language stating "without an approved permit" or add the following to the ordinance: "without an approved downtown permit." Council

Member Snyder agreed and suggested changing the language to include an approved permit in parking ramps rather than striking the language. City Attorney Cronin stated that if this language were to change, the ordinance would have to come back to the Council for a first and a second reading as it would be a substantive change. Director Klatt referenced section 905 as the specific place where language would need to be revised. City Attorney Cronin needed more time to review the ordinance, as he was not part of the conversation when it was revised. Council Member Goggin asked if the language changes would it then need to go through the state approval process again. Assistant Chief Metling indicated that would only be needed if the ordinance number changes. Council Member Norton stated that the 20 hours is too short and needs to be reviewed, as there are days when residents don't leave their homes, especially during snowstorms.

A motion was made by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Lambert, to table the item, as clarification was needed on the two items discussed. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Beise, Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, and Snyder voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

Agenda Item 9

Motions and General Business

A. Actions Related to 2026 Street Reconstruction (E 4th Street, E 3rd Street, Sanderson Street, Green Street, Arkin Street).

Council President Farrar reviewed the Public Hearing procedure.

Director Regnier provided an overview of the public meeting held on the 11th. This included a graphic indicating the construction that would have to take place underground, since the public utilities are under the street, which will cause a bit more disruption and be more time-consuming. The water mains and sewer pipes are old and undersized, so they need to be replaced. The private infrastructure also needs to be reconstructed. The services will also be replaced from the main to the water lines, but they do not go beyond the right-of-way line to the home. Homeowners would need to contact a contractor to complete that work separately. The above-ground work, including the sidewalk, curbs, gutters, pavements, and replacement of driveway aprons, will be time-consuming and completed. All work will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards wherever possible. The streets will be dug up about seven times to complete the work. Director Regnier shared the timeline, which included the public hearing this evening, with the work finalized in 2027 and final assessments approved, with assessments added to property taxes on January 1, 2028. These assessments are paid over a ten-year period and are attached to the property tax bills, with the option to pay the partial or full amount due at the assessment hearing in 2027 to save on interest. Finally, assessments are being levied in 2027, with the first payment due in 2028.

Finally, Director Regnier reviewed the concerns raised during the public hearing, including parking and access to homes during construction, as well as access to the sidewalks on both sides of East 4th Street. The Police Department will be included to help with the parking and the disruption caused by the construction.

1. Conduct the Public Hearing.

Council President Farrar asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member Lambert, seconded by Council Member Goggin, to open the public hearing.

There was no vote on the motion.

Council President Farrar opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Michelle Bjorlin, 207 East 4th Street, stated that an investment has been made in the area and that there is an estimate of about \$14,000 that she was unaware of prior to the purchase. There is a concern around a risk analysis, and Miss Bjorlin is concerned that this has not been addressed. There are specific questions that Miss Bjorlin has, which Director Regnier will address with her after the meeting. Finally, Miss Bjorlin would like to receive a copy of the analysis presented at the neighborhood meeting.

Adrianna Hildebrandt, 239 East 4th Street, stated that she is concerned about the size of the project and agreed it is needed, as the road is in pretty bad shape, but still has concerns about the scope of the project.

A motion was made by Council Member Lambert, seconded by Council Member Goggin, to close the public hearing. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Farrar, Lambert, Beise, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, and Snyder voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

Council President Janie Farrar closed the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.

2. Consider Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 8154, Ordering Improvements and Preparation of Plans.

A motion was made by Council Member Lambert, seconded by Council Member Snyder, to adopt Resolution No. 8154, Ordering Improvements and Preparation of Plans. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, Snyder, and Beise voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

B. Actions Related to a Reduction of Sewer Charges Policy.

1. Consider Motion to Remove from the Table.

A motion was made by Council Member Goggin, seconded by Council Member Beise, to remove from the Table. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, Snyder, and Beise voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

2. Consider Motion to Adopt the Sewer Reduction Policy.

Public Works Director Shawn Blaney asked the Council to consider adopting the sewer reduction policy included in the information packet and to approve the reduction charge requested at a previous meeting. The policy gives staff latitude to provide a reduction of up to 50%. This will save some staff time from having to present all requests to the City Council.

Council Member Snyder questioned the terminology of “high” cost and asked that it be further defined. Council Member Snyder found the language in the document, and Director Blaney felt it was up to the customer to approach them if they considered it a significant increase.

Council Member Lambert questioned the terminology regarding the reasonable time frame for notification to the City. Director Blaney stated it is not uncommon for the City to actually find the issues rather than the homeowners.

Council Member Norton suggested changes to the language; however, agreed that the City would notify the resident after the meter is read and a report is provided, almost immediately, so that would be addressed in an appropriate time frame. Director Blaney indicated that there will be a conversation about the meter readings in the near future. Council Member Norton thanked the staff involved for the work completed on this policy.

A motion was made by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Kliewer, to adopt the Sewer Reduction Policy. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, Snyder, and Beise voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

3. Consider Motion to Approve a Reduction of Sewer Charges for Terry and Ron Toivanen, Owners of Property Located at 596 East 7th Street, in the Amount of \$224.12.

A motion was made by Council Member Goggin, seconded by Council Member Beise, to approve a Reduction of Sewer Charges for Terry and Ron Toivanen, Owners of Property Located at 596 East 7th Street, in the Amount of \$224.12. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, Snyder, and Beise voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

C. Consider Motion to Authorize a Modification to the Current Policy to Fund the City of Red Wing's Perpetual Flower Program.

Director Blaney reviewed the direction given to staff at a prior workshop to revise the funding model for this program so that 50% of the program cost is supported by the interest earnings from the perpetual flower fund.

Council Member Goggin stated he still had concerns about maintaining a perpetual fund, even with the changes in language. Director Blaney stated that the use of the staff remains minimal and that there will not be an issue in 25 years. The program should fund itself in the not-so-distant future.

Council Member Norton agreed with Council Member Goggin, but he does not support the program. Council President Farrar also expressed concerns; she expressed that she is willing to support the program.

A motion was made by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Lambert, to authorize a Modification to the Current Policy to fund the City of Red Wing's Perpetual Flower Program. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, Snyder, and Beise voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

D. Consider Motion to Introduce Ordinance No 231, Fourth Series, Rezoning Seven Parcels South of the HWY 61 and Spring Creek Road South Intersection to General Business (B-2).

Director Klatt made a presentation to review this request. The intent is to address some zoning issues that have existed in this area. Director Klatt reviewed the comprehensive plan, which includes a section on this specific ordinance.

Council Member Norton stated that, in general, the City buffers R1 from businesses. Klatt explained that, under the zoning regulations, there are buffering requirements that would need to be met if a developer wanted to build on this property. The chances of doing a larger commercial project in this area are very limited.

A motion was made by Council Member Kliewer, seconded by Council Member Goggin, to introduce Ordinance No. 231, Fourth Series, Rezoning Seven Parcels South of the Highway 61 and Spring Creek Road South Intersection to General Business (B-2). Upon call of the roll, Council Members Lambert, Goggin, Norton, Kliewer, Farrar, Snyder, and Beise voted aye; no nay. Seven ayes; no nays; motion carried.

E. Consider Motion to Approve Changes to City Council Member Liaison Appointments.

Council Administrator Heineman provided a brief overview of this item. At a previous workshop in November of 2025 and at the February 2, 2026, workshop, this item was discussed. This is now being brought forward to the Council for a vote based on the prior discussion and the need for further direction from the Council.

Council Member Norton stated that her input as a Council liaison is valued by the boards she has been appointed to. Although she does not provide them with direction, she sees tremendous value in sitting on the boards and would like to remain as a liaison to the boards.

Council Member Lambert noted agreement with Council Member Norton's comments. These boards and commissions need the support of City Council members. There are questions from residents about what the City Council members do, as residents do not realize the members also attend other miscellaneous meetings in addition board and commission meetings. In addition, Council Member Lambert added she appreciates hearing updates from Council members at City Council meetings.

Council Member Becky Norton also questioned the role of Council members within other organizations, such as Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. Council President Farrar indicated that it is not within her authority to appoint those roles, but would invite Council members to sit as representatives to those committees should they wish to do so.

Council Member Kliewer stated there isn't any intention to prevent members from attending a meeting if they would like to attend. Council Member Lambert stated that there is a difference between attending a meeting and actually sitting on it as a liaison.

Council Member Norton asked if there was any communication to the boards and commissions about the potential of removing Council liaisons. Council Administrator Heineman stated that there have been conversations with these groups about Council liaisons. Administrator Heineman reminded Council that he attends meetings board and commission meetings, particularly when items are being discussed that concern the Council. Because of this attendance, he can communicate board and commission activities to the

Council as needed. He further stated that some boards and commissions felt there was value in keeping Council liaisons, and others felt they are not needed.

A motion was made by Council Member Kliwer, seconded by Council President Farrar, to Approve Changes to City Council Member Liaison Appointments, with a friendly amendment to keep only liaisons on boards of authority. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Goggin, Kliwer, Farrar, Snyder, and Beise voted aye; Lambert and Norton voted nay. Five ayes; two nays; motion carried.

Agenda Item 10

Communication Items

A. Council Liaison Commission Reports.

Council Member Norton informed the City Council that the Arts and Culture Commission has created a Creative Laureate program and is accepting applications from people who would like to explore art and use Red Wing as their canvas. All of the information can be found on the City's website. Council Member Norton has enjoyed attending their meetings and will miss working with this group.

B. Council Comments.

Mayor Gary Iocco recognized Gold Medalist Taylor Heise and the men's and women's hockey teams. Mayor Iocco also attended Skate with a Cop, spoke about announcing the Mayor for a Day program at Burnside school during their upcoming pep rally.

Council Member Snyder asked about last year's vote on the assessment for the 7th Street project, and that the interest rate was fairly high. Council Member Snyder would like to take another look at how these rates are calculated for consideration of revising the policy. Director Regnier explained how this would move forward and when it would come before the Council, which would actually be in 2027.

Council President Farrar asked Council Member Snyder to use the new form to add this as an agenda item, so they can be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

Council President Farrar wanted to encourage everyone to review the packet provided for the City Council. She also reminded everyone of the April 13th date for a closed meeting to discuss Council Administrator Heineman's evaluation.

Council Member Norton asked about this process, as it is new to the Council. Council President Farrar stated there has been no actual plan, and she looked back a few years. She summarized the personnel committee's discussion. Utilizing a third party, such as an HR consultant, to assist with the evaluation process is under consideration at this time. The personnel committee will bring a recommendation back to the full City Council. The City of Northfield has a policy regarding how evaluations are completed, and Council Member Norton would like the City of Red Wing to consider creating a similar policy.

C. Council Administrator's Status Report.

Council Administrator Heineman highlighted topics from his report:

- Council Administrator Heineman spoke about legislative issues under review during a 12-week session that started on February 17th. Administrator Heineman mentioned the

approval of the preliminary design plan of the wastewater treatment plant. He spoke to the funding team, which includes ten staff members with whom he has previously worked. He finds them very knowledgeable and indicated they will work hard to secure grant dollars for the project.

- Council Administrator Heineman spoke about the League’s City Day on the Hill event on March 11th, and then the Coalition of Minnesota Cities at the end of March, asking if anyone would like to attend so they could register them for either event.
- Council Administrator Heineman stated that the township meetings have been completed and wanted Fire Chief Mike Warner to update the City Council. There are many funding challenges in this area at this time. It is a step in the right direction to get the townships to work together, and two of them are willing to do this at this time. The packet includes information for the City Council to review. Council President Farrar thanked those involved with this process.
- Council Member Lambert stated that the League of Minnesota Cities meeting is on March 25 and asked whether others would be in attendance. Finance Director Marshall Hallock will complete registrations for those Council Members interested in attending.
- Mayor Iocco met with their Representative and the Senator to discuss funding and the wastewater plant. It was a productive meeting.
- Council Member Norton thanked those who supported the residents and answered their questions about the 4th Street reconstruction project. Council Member Norton thanked the staff involved in keeping the community gardens at Spring Creek and 4th Street alive and thriving, as well as bringing one back to East Street.
- Council Member Beise asked for verification that there was support for the City’s projects. Director Hallock added that meetings with legislative representatives are wonderful opportunities to learn what is happening at the Capitol.

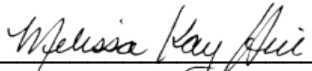
Agenda Item 11

Adjournment

Council President Farrar adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.


Janie Farrar, Council President

ATTEST:



Melissa Kay Hill, MCMC