

**Red Wing City Council
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
May 11, 2026**

Council Members Present: Council President Janie Farrar; Council Members Donald Kliewer, Beth Snyder, Kim Beise, Vicki Jo Lambert, and Ron Goggin

Members Absent: Council Member Becky Norton (excused absence)

Others Present: Gary Iocco, Mayor; Amy Mace, City Attorney; Brian Metling, Assistant Police Chief; Chris Heineman, Council Administrator; Kelsey Prall, DD PW - Utilities; Kyle Klatt, Community Development Director; Marshall Hallock, Finance Director; Melissa Hill, City Clerk; Michelle Leise, Public Information and Engagement Officer; Mike Warner, Fire Chief; Nick Sather, Police Chief; Brian Schmidt, Xcel Energy

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order

Council President Janie Farrar called the meeting to order at 6:01 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

This item was addressed after item 9A.

Agenda Item 4

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Council Member Snyder, seconded by Council Member Goggin to approve the agenda as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

Agenda Item 5

Proclamations and Recognitions

A. Public Works Week Proclamation.

Mayor Gary Iocco read a proclamation recognizing 2026 National Public Works Week, May 17-23, 2026, honoring the contributions of public works professionals to the health, safety, and well-being of Red Wing residents. The proclamation noted the 66th Annual National Public Works Week, with the theme Rooted in Service, Powered by Community. Kelsey Prall accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Public Works Department.

B. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week Proclamation.

This item was addressed after 5C. Police Week Proclamation.

C. Police Week Proclamation.

Mayor Iocco read a proclamation recognizing Police Week, May 10–16, 2026, and Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15, 2026. The proclamation recognized Red Wing Police Chief James Daily and Officer John Peterson, Goodhue County Sheriff Sergeant Richard Waldron, and Deputy Tom Carroll. Police Chief Nick Sather accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Red Wing Police Department.

B. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week Proclamation.

Mayor Iocco read a proclamation recognizing EMS Week, May 17-23, 2026, honoring the lifesaving work of emergency medical services personnel. The proclamation noted the 52nd anniversary of EMS Week, with the theme Improving Outcomes Together.

Agenda Item 6

Presentations

A. Commemorative Officer Memorial Presentation.

Assistant Police Chief Brian Metling presented on a commemorative memorial wall plaque now on display at Gernentz Auto, 328 Bush Street, the former site of the Sibley Hotel, where Police Chief James Daily and Officer John Peterson were fatally shot on January 15, 1907. Greg Gernentz, owner of Gernentz Auto, and Michelle Tracy, owner of the Creative Hand, collaborated to design and install the copper-colored plaque. Assistant Chief Metling announced a dedication ceremony at the site on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at noon.

Agenda Item 7

Public Comment

Council President Farrar reviewed the public comment procedure.

Mark Estabrook, Ward 1, Red Wing, requested Council assistance regarding an ambulance bill from a February 2026 transport from Red Wing to Rochester, stating he was not informed of the cost before transport and had filed an unsuccessful appeal. Mr. Estabrook asked the Council to review the matter with Fire Chief Warner.

Amber Dawn Plank Warfield, Ward 4, Red Wing, expressed concern about Council members' lack of attention during public comment and requested that Council members be filmed during those sessions.

Laura Habedank, Ward 2, Red Wing, continued comments from a prior meeting on institutional racism and its effects on Red Wing's population.

Tom Wilder, Ward 2, Red Wing, spoke virtually on what he described as the proper scope of local government: police and fire protection, public infrastructure, and supporting the tax base through development.

Todd Avery, Hay Creek Township, President of the Goodhue County Historical Society, encouraged Council support for Item 9A, noting the Society's 157-year history and a recently completed State grant to digitize over 19,000 photographs.

Robin Wipperling, Ward 2, Red Wing, Executive Director of the Goodhue County Historical Society, spoke to Item 9A and asked the Council to consider waiving or reducing the insurance requirement on the City-owned building the Society rents.

Susan Betcher, Wacouta Township, Goodhue County Commissioner and board member of the Goodhue County Historical Society, spoke to Item 9A in support of the Society's request, noting its budget of under \$400,000 per year and Goodhue County's annual contribution of \$137,000.

Kenzie Baader, West 6th Street, Red Wing, Executive Director of Hope and Harbor, spoke to Item 9B in support of Ordinance No. 234, describing emergency housing as a short-term, staff-supervised shelter for individuals in immediate crisis.

Janet Hansmeier, 247 Frenn Avenue, Red Wing, President of the Board of Hope and Harbor, spoke to Item 9B in support of Ordinance No. 234, stating that research does not support concerns that shelters attract individuals from outside the community.

Tom Wilder, Ward 2, Red Wing, spoke virtually a second time regarding a Port Authority letter to the Advisory Planning Commission recommending zoning changes to properties currently zoned R-1 or R-2, including the former Jefferson School site, and expressed concern about increased density and reduced public comment opportunities.

Agenda Item 8

Consent Agenda

Council President Farrar noted that Council Members may pull Consent Agenda items for further discussion.

A. Motion to Approve Bills (Warrant #127748 - 127916, totaling \$929,475.15).

B. Motion to Approve Minutes.

- 1. April 27, 2026, Workshop Minutes.**
- 2. April 27, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.**

C. Motion to Approve 2026–2027 Liquor License Renewals.

The attached list includes local businesses that have completed all requirements for renewing their liquor license.

D. Motion to Approve First Addendums to Site Lease Agreements with Goodhue County for Space on Charlson Crest Water Tower and Sand Hill Water Tower.

Staff requested City Council approval of the First Lease Addendums to the existing Site Lease Agreements between Goodhue County (Lessee) and the City of Red Wing

(Lessor) for telecommunications equipment space located on the Charlson Crest Water Tower and Sand Hill Water Tower.

E. Motion to Approve Ordinance No. 233, Fourth Series, Noise Ordinance.

On April 27, 2026, the City Council approved the introduction of Ordinance No. 233. The Council was asked to approve the second reading of this ordinance.

F. Motion to Approve Private Use of Public Property (PUPP) Application for Universal Music Center Summer Music Festival.

Universal Music Center (UMC) requested to host its second annual UMC Summer Music Festival at the Central Park Bandshell on July 25, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will feature live music from students, along with a prominent local headliner, three food trucks, kids' games, and local vendors.

G. Motion to Approve Private Use of Public Property (PUPP) Application for Red Wing Bluff Climbing Event.

Chockstone Climbing submitted a request to host a rock-climbing festival at He Mni Can-Barn Bluff and Memorial Park on September 12–13, 2026. The festival will begin with a rock-climbing competition at He Mni Can-Barn Bluff, lasting approximately six to eight hours, followed by post-event activities at Memorial Park, including an awards ceremony, small bonfires, food, and overnight camping.

H. Motion to Approve Private Use of Public Property (PUPP) Application for Downtown Plaza Car Show.

Downtown Plaza requested permission to host its annual car show in partnership with the Phantom Car Club on August 25, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Organizers requested use of Level E, the top level of the 4th Street Parking Ramp, to park collector cars, set up tables and chairs, and host a DJ.

I. Motion to Approve the Arts and Culture Commission Recommendation to Expend \$300 from the Municipal Arts Fund to Cover Shelter Rental Fees for Red Wing Arts' "Art in the Park" Programming.

J. Motion to Approve Private Use of Public Property (PUPP) Application for the Red Wing Farmers Market.

The Red Wing Area Farmers Market (RWAFFM) will have multiple vendors set up each Saturday from June 2026 through the last Saturday in October 2026 in front of the train depot. In addition to the Saturday market, RWAFFM will continue to hold the weekday market at the end of Bush Street. The application was approved with conditions as noted in the attached application.

K. Motion to Approve 2026 Food Wagon License for Solem Concessions, Inc., Austin, MN.

L. Motion to Approve Private Use of Public Property (PUPP) Application for Fairy Fest 2026.

Red Wing Downtown Main Street submitted an application to hold its third annual Fairy Fest in downtown Red Wing on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will include live music, kids' crafts, sidewalk chalk, food trucks, face painting, and a petting zoo.

M. Motion to Approve Resolution No. 8168, Ordering Preparation of Report on 2026 Alley Improvements.

This alley reconstruction is in the Public Works Department's budget to be completed in 2026, will be designed by the Engineering Department, and constructed by the Public Works Department.

~~**N. Motion to Approve School Resource Officer Contract with the Goodhue County Education District, River Bluff Education Center.**~~

~~The contract will be for the 2026–2027, 2027–2028, and 2028–2029 school years. This item was pulled by Council Member Snyder.~~

A motion was made by Council Member Lambert, seconded by Council Member Goggin, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item 8N. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Snyder, Farrar, Kliewer, Beise, Lambert, and Goggin voted aye; no nay. Six ayes; no nays; motion carried.

N. Motion to Approve School Resource Officer Contract with the Goodhue County Education District, River Bluff Education Center.

Council Member Snyder asked for clarification on the Goodhue County Education District and its relationship to the Red Wing School District. Police Chief Sather explained that the contract is a renewal of a prior three-year agreement with updated POST language and revised compensation, and that the Goodhue County Education District is a separate entity from the Red Wing School District operating River Bluff Education Center within the City.

Council Member Snyder asked whether the three-year term was appropriate given potential changes to the school's location. Chief Sather noted that any significant change would require the contract to be reopened.

Mayor Iocco noted the contract includes a 90-day out clause for either party. Council Member Kliewer noted that a school resource officer would be needed regardless of facility configuration.

A motion was made by Council Member Snyder, seconded by Council Member Kliewer, to approve the school resource officer contract with the Goodhue County Education District, River Bluff Education Center. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

Agenda Item 9

Motions and General Business

A. Motion to Approve Amendment to Goodhue County Historic Society Lease Waiving League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Premiums.

Finance Director Marshall Hallock introduced the item, noting that staff presented options without a formal recommendation. Director Hallock provided context on escalating insurance rates and the City's financial relationship with the Society, including a State grant of \$616,000 for facility rehabilitation matched by the City, awarded in 2018 and completed by 2020. He noted that no other current City lease bills the lessee for property casualty insurance.

Council Member Snyder asked about standard practice for billing lessees for building insurance. Council Member Beise noted the City's ongoing maintenance contributions and suggested the Council consider whether it should remain in the business of owning the property.

A motion was made by Council Member Kliewer, seconded by Council President Farrar, to forgive the outstanding balance of \$11,045 owed by the Goodhue County Historical Society and to address any further financial considerations during the 2027 budget process. Council Member Lambert expressed interest in how other Goodhue County municipalities structure relationships with local historical societies.

Robin Wipperling, Executive Director of the Goodhue County Historical Society, confirmed the Society would pay the 2026 premiums and requested forgiveness only of the outstanding balance.

Council Member Goggin noted that since 2017, City revenues from the Society totaled approximately \$273,000, operating and maintenance costs were approximately \$297,000, and capital expenditures totaled \$1.182 million.

Council President Farrar directed staff to gather additional financial information for the 2027 budget cycle.

Following the discussion, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

Agenda Item 3

Excusal of Members

A motion was made by Council Member Snyder, seconded by Council Member Lambert, to excuse the absence of Council Member Becky Norton. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

Agenda Item 9

Motions and General Business (cont.)

B. Consider Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 234, Fourth Series, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 11 of the City Code.

Community Development Director Kyle Klatt provided an overview of Ordinance No. 234, a Planning Commission-initiated action addressing four land use categories, community services, community centers, emergency sheltering, and supportive transitional housing, as well as small-scale food production. Director Klatt noted that the current zoning code contains no definition for emergency housing; the Ordinance would allow emergency sheltering as a conditional use in Downtown, Civic, RM-2, and RM-3 districts, all subject to conditional use permit review. The Planning Commission recommended approval unanimously.

Council Member Snyder asked whether the Ordinance would affect Hope and Harbor's current model of rotating shelter use among churches. Director Klatt explained that shelter use as an accessory to a church's primary mission would not require a conditional use permit under the proposed ordinance.

Council Member Lambert expressed support and asked about the small-scale food production category. Director Klatt confirmed it targets commercial-scale uses requiring a commercial kitchen.

Council Administrator Christ Heineman noted that Sturdiwheat and Knudsen's Caramels are examples of Downtown businesses that could benefit from the new definition.

A motion was made by Council Member Snyder, seconded by Council Member Lambert, to introduce Ordinance No. 234, Fourth Series, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 11 of the City Code, approving definition revisions and district allowances related to emergency housing, supportive transitional housing, community center, community services, and small-scale food production. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

C. Consider Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 8169, Conditional Use Permit Amendment Request by Northern States Power/Xcel Energy for its Ash Disposal Facility Operation Adjacent to Bench Street.

Director Klatt presented the item, noting the Council was asked to adopt an amendment to the existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Xcel Energy ash landfill adjacent to Bench Street. The amendment would allow processing of municipal solid waste combined combustor ash to extract metals before permanent deposit in the landfill, with all operations occurring within the existing 31,500 square foot building and no new external construction. The Planning Commission reviewed the request at its April 21, 2026, meeting, received no public comments, and recommended approval, including an amendment to condition F of Resolution No. 6492 limiting ash to that generated at the Xcel Energy RDF plant in Red Wing.

Council Member Lambert asked for a plain-language summary of the operation. Director Klatt explained that ash would be temporarily staged, processed for metal extraction in the existing building, with recovered metals leaving the site and remaining ash permanently deposited in the landfill.

Council Member Kliever asked whether previously buried ash would be excavated. Brian Schmidt, representing Xcel Energy, confirmed that the proposal focuses exclusively on fresh ash and that previously buried ash would not be excavated. Schmidt noted that GEM-Ash has operated a similar process at the SKB landfill in Rosemount, Minnesota, for over ten years, that the operation would reduce landfill volume by approximately ten percent, and that GEM-Ash would separately pursue a solid waste transfer station permit through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

A motion was made by Council Member Kliever, seconded by Council Member Beise, to adopt Resolution No. 8169, approving the Conditional Use Permit Amendment Request by Northern States Power/Xcel Energy for its Ash Disposal Facility Operation Adjacent to Bench Street. Upon call of the roll, Council Members Snyder, Farrar, Kliever, Beise, Lambert, and Goggin voted aye; no nay. Six ayes; no nays; motion carried.

D. Consider Motion to Select DDA Human Resources, Inc. to Perform a Comprehensive Benefits Study.

Administrator Heineman introduced the item, noting that following direction from the City Council at the January 29, 2026, annual workshop, staff issued a request for proposals for a comprehensive employee benefits review. Three proposals were received. Staff recommended the selection of DDA Human Resources, Inc. (David Drown Associates) for \$12,500, building on the City's 2024 pay and classification study conducted by Baker Tilly.

Council President Farrar summarized the personnel committee's discussion from that morning, noting the committee recommended retaining 11 comparable organizations: Marshall, Faribault, Austin, Albert Lea, Winona, Owatonna, Northfield, Hastings, Goodhue County, Cottage Grove, and Stillwater, and removing larger cities not considered comparable to Red Wing.

A motion was made by Council Member Snyder, seconded by Council Member Lambert, to select DDA Human Resources, Inc. to perform a comprehensive benefits study in the amount of \$12,500 and to select the comparable organizations to be used for the study. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

Agenda Item 10

Communication Items

A. Port Authority Update.

Director Klatt provided an update from the most recent Port Authority Board (PAB) meeting. The board deferred two sign and awning facade grant applications to the finance committee and approved hiring a consultant to develop a branding and marketing strategy, with stakeholder outreach expected to begin in spring 2026.

Director Klatt updated the Council on the former Jefferson School property at 601 Buchanan Street. An initial environmental assessment identified the need for additional assessment work. Staff is also pursuing a historic site designation for the National Register of Historic Places, which would open additional financial incentives for redevelopment.

The Port Authority Board has conducted outreach to approximately 16 developers. Director Klatt noted that clarity on zoning is a critical prerequisite for developer commitment and that the PAB will need to decide in the near future whether to proceed with the purchase. Remediation estimates for asbestos and other materials range from \$40,000-\$50,000 to \$600,000-\$1,000,000.

Council President Farrar asked about engagement with the School District. Administrator Heineman explained that a School Board workshop was scheduled the following evening, with the Jefferson School property on the agenda.

Director Klatt reported that staff is working with a financial consultant to develop a draft Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement for the Fleischmann Malting project, with a goal of completing the agreement by June 2026. Demolition of the Central Research Building is complete; the contractor is processing concrete on site. He noted that the PAB applied on behalf of Red Wing Grain for a port infrastructure development grant, which was not funded due to limited available funds for small port projects; Red Wing Grain intends to reapply.

B. Council Comments.

Mayor Iocco reported attending the Habitat for Humanity groundbreaking and the ribbon cutting for Man on the Water. Senator Tina Smith visited, and she toured the Red Wing Grain project, the wastewater treatment plant, and the Little River bulkheads with the Mayor, Administrator Heineman, and Assistant Fire Chief Grady Nelson. He noted that Congressman Finstad has signed off on congressional funding support for the wastewater treatment plant and that Senator Smith indicated she would promote the project.

Mayor Iocco shared that Shirley Perkins, a longtime presence at the senior center at Pier 55, passed away on Friday, and expressed appreciation for her years of service to the community.

C. Status Updates.

Administrator Heineman provided updates on several items. The Law Enforcement Center Ad Hoc Committee met the previous week; questions were forwarded to Goodhue County commissioners, and he committed to following up. The State of the City luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Administrator Heineman provided a federal funding update, noting that Congressman Finstad has recommended congressionally directed funding for the wastewater treatment plant, with a decision expected in September or October 2026,

and that Senators Smith and Klobuchar have moved forward with direct appropriation requests of approximately \$3.5 million for the plant. He encouraged Council members to advocate for the projects.

Administrator Heineman noted that the \$4 million bonding request for Sturgeon Lake Road remains possible as the legislative session ends May 18, 2026. The governor has recommended a bonding bill of \$907 million.

Director Hallock confirmed that contacting capital investment committee chairs would be most effective; Council Member Snyder asked Director Hallock to provide the relevant names.

Administrator Heineman noted that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) plans to close two medians on Highway 61, at Hedin and west of McDonald's, in June 2026, resulting in right-turn-in, right-turn-out access only. The decision follows a history of serious crashes at those intersections. Council President Farrar expressed support and asked that information be shared on City social media when appropriate.

Mayor Iocco noted receipt of a letter commending the Police Department's handling of a speeding violation complaint and confirmed that the State of the City luncheon has been held for many years, with the exception of the COVID-19 period.

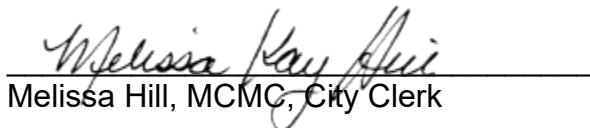
Agenda Item 11

Adjournment

Council President Janie Farrar adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.


Janie Farrar, Council President

ATTEST:


Melissa Hill, MCMC, City Clerk