

GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2025 @ 5:00 PM
GRAND MEADOW CITY HALL

Present: Mayor Tim Fenton, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Isaac Tangen, Councilor Thomas Oehlke, Councilor Caden Fruth, City Administrator James Christian, City Clerk Chris Hyrkas, Mike Bubany (David Drown), Derek Olinger (Bolton & Menk)

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Fenton called the work session to order at 5 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Budget and CIP planning discussion with Mike Bubany: Christian presented the updated 2026 budget proposal, reduced from a preliminary levy of \$832,441.54 (a 7.73% increase over 2025) to \$809,956.08 (a 4.82% increase over 2025). Bubany discussed long-range capital planning, and Olinger presented short-term funding needs for the sanitary sewer improvement project.

2. Adjourn: Tangen motioned to adjourn the workshop, Fruth 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm.

GRAND MEADOW COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
GRAND MEADOW CITY HALL

Present: Mayor Tim Fenton, Councilor Blayne Stejskal, Councilor Isaac Tangen, Councilor Thomas Oehlke, Councilor Caden Fruth, City Administrator James Christian, City Clerk Chris Hyrkas, Mike Bubany (David Drown), Derek Olinger (Bolton & Menk), GMPD Chief Jim Richardson, GMPD Officer Aaron Stoning and family, GMFD Chief Joe Gehling, Rep. Patricia Mueller, Sherry Thorson, Jeff Thorson

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Fenton called the meeting to order at 6 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA: Tangen motioned to approve the consent agenda, 2nd by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.

- A. Approved additions & corrections to the agenda
- B. Approved October regular meeting minutes
- C. Approved General Fund payments in the amount of \$253,228.68

3. OPEN FORUM: Sherry Thorson discussed issues she had at Pine Lawn Park. Jeff Thorson inquired why the City had decided to use the state surplus auction service instead of going with a local service; Christian explained that the state auction specialized in the type of equipment being auctioned, and it was the goal of Council to get the most money possible for the surplus equipment.

4. Sanitary Sewer Project – Derek Olinger: Olinger presented the engineering scope and fees for the Phase 2 Wastewater Improvements project, explaining the need to keep moving with surveying and soil boring before winter hits. Tangen motioned to move forward with the project, Stejskal 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Police – Report provided, Aaron Stoning was sworn in as a part-time GMPD officer. Richardson reminded everyone of winter parking restrictions.
- B. Library – No meeting in October, no questions from Council.

- C. Ambulance – Report provided. Stejskal asked if the GMAAS was up to date on reimbursing the City for expenses; Christian replied that they were not.
- D. Public Works – Report provided.
- E. Fire – Report provided. Chief Gehling said that the lift assists had slowed down but the Assisted Living still had not paid the outstanding lift assist bills.
- F. City Clerk – Discussion was held about bulk water billing, which will go out in December.
- G. City Administrator – Report provided. Council asked Olinger what the approximate cost would be to mill and overlay the asphalt on 5th St; Olinger responded that it would be in the range of \$500-600,000.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Personnel Policy updates: Christian presented the 2026 Personnel Policy updates. Highlights were adding an extra week of vacation for employees with 20 years of service and adding language for the MN Paid Leave Act. Motion by Tangen to approve the updated policy, 2nd by Fruth. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. 2026 Utility Rates – Motion by Fruth to table the 2026 Utility rates until more input was received from Mike Bubany, 2d by Tangen. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Resolution 2025-015 – Resolution Designating Annual Polling Place: Motion by Stejskal, 2nd by Fruth to pass Resolution 2025-15 designating the Community Center as the 2026 designated polling place. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Resolution 2025-016 – Resolution Authorizing the Pursuit of 2025 Local Road Improvement Program Funding: Motion by Fruth to pass Resolution 2025-16, 2nd by Tangen. Motion passed unanimously.

8. WALK-ON ITEM: Representative Patricia Mueller gave Council an update on legislative items and upcoming issues.

9. ADJOURN: Motion by Tangen to adjourn, 2nd by Stejskal. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 6:52 pm.