

October 16, 2026
Budget
Work Session Notes

Council Present: Mayor Ron Grobeck, Mike Windey, Jill Carlson, Jerry Martin and Elizabeth Augustus.
Staff Present: Clerk-Treasurer Amanda Thorson; Deputy Clerk, Patty Hensel, and Coordinator Justin Lohse

Work Session Agenda & Discussion

2026 Budget Planning

Staff and council reviewed the proposed 2026 budget and discussed what would need to be updated for 2026.

Road Repairs & Upgrades – Reviewed the CIP for streets and will investigate repairs to China St and Ottertail Dr for 2026. Lueders from 108 to tracks was discussed with class 5 and grading as a solution.

Master Fee Schedule/Water Rates - Clerk Thorson informed council no changes need to be made to the fee schedule other than update on water rates. Clerk Thorson presented an increase to the water rates from 2% - 5%. Council discussed a 3% increase and putting 1% of that increase into the water fund for future needs. Aging water meters will need to be replaced as they go bad, this will be a cost to the city.

Park

Update to Lions Shelter. It is need of updates and repairs to swings, monkey bars, and dirt and mulch in the playground area. Lions and Rod and Gun could help fund?

City Hall Parking and Sign

Clerk Thorson informed council of the need for repairs and maintenance to city hall parking lot and sign.

Employee Compensation

Clerk Thorson provided an overview of the projected increase in medical insurance premiums. She requested Council consideration of a 5% COLA adjustment for staff, along with the standard step increases. Clerk Thorson further requested increasing the City's HSA contribution by \$25 per pay period and raising the City's contribution to family health insurance by \$100 per month. She also requested that the City contribute toward the lower-deductible BCBS plan effective with the December 2025 renewal.

MN Paid Family & Medical Leave

Clerk Thorson presented the MN Paid Leave Program to council and what it's benefits will be. Clerk Thorson will look into a private insurance carrier for the city, as cost may be less then going thru the State MN Paid Leave Program.

Work session adjourned at 7:55p.m.

s/s
Amanda Thorson
Clerk-Treasurer