

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 13th, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting was duly held at City Hall at 6:00 PM on the 13th day of January 2026.

Council present: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson.

Council absent: None

Mayor: Brian Anderson presided over the meeting.

Agenda:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Nick Anderson, to approve the City Council meeting agenda. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Nick Anderson, to approve December 9th and December 15th meeting minutes as presented with a correction of a year and a spelling error. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Approval of Timecards:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve the December timecards. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Old Business:

Dave Fasbender attended the meeting to give the council an update on the Freedom Veterans Memorial. He reported that currently there is around \$68,639.00 dollars in the Veterans Memorial bank account and approximately \$9,671.00 worth of pending expenses. Putting the pending balance of the account at approximately \$58,968.00. Mr. Fasbender said that the excess money will more than likely be used to procure another wall for plaques as the first two walls are filling up fast.

Mr. Fasbender also spoke about the Adams Community Library located in the Adams Community Center. He informed the council that there was a complaint from a resident from the Adams Health Care Center who could not access the library due to a space issue. The clerk and maintenance department were going to look into the matter further.

Paula Schmitz also attended the meeting to update the council on the happenings at the Adams Community Center. She let the council know that facility is being used regularly whether it be daily scheduled activities like chair and brain exercises, game days, coffee hours and movie nights or the Open House Christmas Coffee and Cider where over 40 people attended. The clerk also added the Community Center has also been rented out on 5 separate occasions as well for different events. Paula wondered if a council member would be willing to attend the monthly Community center Committee meetings that are held. Council member Karen Ruechel volunteered to join the committee and would start to attend the monthly meetings when available. The sign to be posted in the front of the Community Center was then brought up. The clerk and city maintenance talked to JB Custom Vinyl about creating a sign to be installed in

front of the building in December. Now that the holidays have concluded they will reach out to JB Custom Vinyl again to see if a sign can be created.

Katie Schaefer attended the meeting to speak about the safety concerns that Sacred Heart is having regarding its students, families and parishioners crossing the intersection of State Hwy 56 and 5th Street, especially during peak traffic times. She spoke to David Tsang, the Mower County Traffic Operations Engineer, and he recommended the installation of Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon signs. He stated that the City of Adams could pursue this option by obtaining a State Permit through a City Council Resolution. City maintenance checked with Earl F. Anderson, the city's supplier for road signage, and their quote for a 30" solar powered sign that would flash 24 hours 7 days a week would be somewhere around \$1600.00 to \$1700.00 per sign after shipping. Other options were discussed including a mobile stop sign that could be pulled out just before and after school as well as individual flashing lights that could be mounted on top of the already existing pedestrian crossing signs. The clerk and maintenance department were going to look into the matter further to find a solution that would be impactful enough to slow down the traffic as well as economically enough to fit into the city's budget.

The clerk reached out to surrounding cities to see if they paid any individuals to oversee their websites and social media presence in response to Ella Noterman asking for \$250.00 monthly to continue updating the City of Adam's website and Facebook page as she has done for the last 5 years for free. The City of LeRoy responded by saying they pay an individual \$1000.00 a month to be their Social Media Administrator and the City of Grand Meadow responded by saying they pay a company \$2400.00 annually to help them out. Mayor Anderson inquired whether Ron Vandevender, appointed as Activities Director at the Adams Community Center on November 17, 2025, would be able to manage postings on the city website and Facebook page. The clerk reported that there has been no communication from Mr. Vandevender since early December, despite attempts to contact him by email and text message. The council decided that if Mr. Vandevender does not contact them before the January 27 meeting, his employment may be terminated during his probationary period. The funds allocated for the Activities Director would then go to Mrs. Noterman to continue updating the city website and social media page.

The clerk informed the council about the insurance claim filed against the city in August of 2025 after a resident fell from a swing at Adams City Park. The city's insurance company settled the claim by covering \$820.00 in losses and expenses, while the city is responsible for a \$500.00 deductible.

Police Report:

No business to report.

Fire Department Report:

Fire report will be made at biannual Fire Board meeting on 1/27/2026.

Maintenance Department Report:

The maintenance department reported that the Christmas Light displays at the park was received well by the community and that the city's Christmas lights have been taken down. It was reported that one of the Fire Department's tanker trucks was repaired at Broad Street Diesel and the city's Dodge pickup had repairs completed at Wiste Auto and Bauer Built. There were also two repairs completed on the skid loader. The repairs were under warranty so there will be no charge for those.

Prairie Visions Report:

No business to report

Approval of Bills:

The bills payable for December were reviewed by the City Council.

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the payment of December bills. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Financial Report:

The city clerk presented the November 30th, 2025 financial statements.

Motion made by Christopher Quale, seconded by Nick Anderson, to approve the financial report as presented. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

2026 Mayoral Appointments:

Mayor Brian Anderson announced the following 2026 appointments:

Assistant Mayor: Karen Ruechel

Official Depositories: United Farmers State Bank / Northland Securities

Official Newspaper: Mower County Independent

Ambulance Joint Powers Board: Brian Anderson and Michael Cherney

Emergency Management Director: Dillon Heimer

Fire Chief: Dillon Heimer, 1st Assistant – Ryan Sathre, 2nd Assistant – Eric Wiste

Planning Commission: Charles Gilles, Dean Kiefer, Rick Hinz, Karen Ruechel, and Barry Kurtz

Prairie Visions Representative: Christopher Quale

Police Commissioner: Karen Ruechel

Street Commissioner: Nick Anderson

Community Center Liaison: Karen Ruechel

EDA Board: Brian Anderson, Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale, Nick Anderson

Personnel Committee: Brian Anderson, Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale, Nick Anderson and Jake Goodale

Motion made by Nick Anderson, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve the 2026 Mayoral Appointments. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Gambling Permit:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve a gambling permit to Sacred Heart Church for a raffle to be held on 9/1/2026 at the Sacred Heart School.

Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

2026 Pay Equity Report:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the City of Adam's 2026 Pay Equity Report put together by the City Clerk to be presented to the State of Minnesota.

Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

2026 Burning Permits:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Nick Anderson, to approve 2026 burning permits to Anna Smith at 66650 140th St, Robert Smith at 208 4th St SW, Lynn Sathre at 204 4th St SW, David Sathre at 206 4th St SW, the City of Adams at 703 West Main Street, John Smith at PID #21.009.0240 and Rick Hinz at 413 1st St. NW. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

City Worker Job application:

The clerk informed the council that a person has applied for the open general maintenance position / wastewater position. The person previously worked for the City of Austin as a wastewater operator for the last 40 years. The council asked that the clerk and wastewater supervisor to set up a meeting to interview the applicant.

2025 Noxious Weed Report:

Motion made by Christopher Quale, seconded by Nick Anderson to approve the City of Adam's 2025 Noxious Weed Report to be presented to the Mower County. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Resolution No. 01-2026:

Motion made by Christopher Quale, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to approve Resolution 01-2026 a resolution approving the application for funding for the Mower County Snowmobile Trail Committee from the Department of Natural Resources. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

North Side Park 2nd Addition Lot:

The City of Adams received an offer of \$30,336.00 on their vacant lot located at 403 3rd St. NW in the North Side Park 2nd Addition. The asking price for the lot is currently \$30,336.48.

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Christopher Quale, to accept the offer from Al and Deb Fasbender for the sale of the vacant lot at 307 3rd St. NW for \$30,336.00 to close on 3/30/2026. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Christopher Quale, Karen Ruechel and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Alysha Drees / Richard Drees:

Alysha, Shannon and Richard Drees attended the council meeting to thank the City of Adams for the use of the park for their Christmas Light Displays this December. They said that they had 13 displays with a possibility of adding 5 more next year. The top two displays were decorated by United Farmers State Bank and Heimer Foods. The Drees' said that they collected \$911.00 in donations and that money was then donated to the Adams Town & Country Pool. They posed an idea that the City plant a tree in the park that could be used for a tree lighting ceremony which would kick off the light displays in the park for 2026. The council agreed that the idea sounded good but needed to think where the tree might be planted.

Smoking At Community Center:

Individuals have been observed smoking outside the Community Center. The council inquired whether the maintenance department could place a receptacle near the tree in front of the building for cigarette disposal. The maintenance department responded that they would address the request accordingly.

No further business.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Votes in favor: Michael Cherney, Karen Ruechel, Christopher Quale and Nick Anderson. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Jake Goodale

Clerk/ Treasurer