

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 27th, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a special meeting was duly held at City Hall at 6:00 PM on the 27th day of January 2026.

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

Council absent: None

Mayor: Brian Anderson presided over the meeting.

Agenda:

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

Fire Board Meeting To Approve 2027 Fire Department Budget:

The Adams City Council met with the Adams Fire Board to review fire department operations and look at a proposed fire department budget for 2027. Fire Board members present were Ted Kiefer (City of Taopi), Mark Schulz (Clayton Township), Troy McCabe (Marshall Township), John Kirtz (Lodi Township) and John Kloeckner (Adams Township). Dillon Heimer, the Fire Chief, attended the meeting representing the Adams Fire Department. The City Clerk presented a spreadsheet that determined the fire service fees for each participating City and Township in 2027 based on a \$85,000.00 and a \$90,000.00. The clerk reported that at the end of 2025 there was a balance of \$44,188.12 in the Fire Department fund, which is being held onto for any potential emergencies. Chief Heimer stated that there aren't any anticipated big purchases in the near future as most of the equipment is up to date and all the vehicles are in working order and will be sent out for annual maintenance and DOT inspections. Chief Heimer also reported that the department will be writing grants for new radios and a new UTV and skid rescue unit for Fire Department use. After considerable discussion the Fire Board recommended that the 2027 fire department budget be set at \$90,000.00. It was also decided that the budget will remain at \$90,000.00 for at least the next two years. The City Council was agreeable with this request. The Adams Fire Board will meet again in August when the Clerk will present the Cities and Townships with their invoice for participating in a \$90,000.00 budget for 2027.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel to approve setting the 2027 Fire Department budget at \$90,000.00. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Fire Department Report:

Fire Chief Heimer reported that the Fire Department responded to 2 medical assists, 1 house fire and 1 CO Alarm in the month of December. Mr. Heimer also reported that the Adams Fire Department will be hosting a electrical vehicle fire training from March 11-12 with 100+ participants from different fire departments from the surrounding area. Chief Heimer also informed the council that the department is in need of new radios and that he had found 6 APX6000XE radios on a MN State auction site. The current bid for the 6 radios was at \$1550.00 and Chief Heimer stated that the cost of one of these radios bought new would be around \$4200.00, but that when you buys these items on an auction there is always the chance that one or more of the radios may not function correctly.

Motion made by Christopher Quale, seconded by Nick Anderson to approve bidding on the 6 radios with a limit of \$6000.00 for all radios. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve the January 13th, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Old Business:

The clerk presented the council with the Personnel Policy in regards to the employee hiring process. The policy states all new employees shall go through a six-month training period during which time new employees can learn their job. It also states any employee serving his/her training period may be disciplined at the sole discretion of the city, up to and including dismissal. An employee so disciplined, including dismissal, will not have any grievance rights. This discussion was brought up because of the newly hired activities director at the Adams Community Center. The clerk hasn't had any contact with him since early December and has tried to reach out multiple times via the provided phone number and email address. The council thought it be wise to terminate the position and move in a different direction.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Karen Ruechel, to terminate the position of activities director at the Adams Community Center. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

The clerk informed the council about the interview he and the maintenance supervisor conducted with Werhner Schlichter, a potential candidate to fill the vacancy left in the maintenance department. It was learned that he worked for the City of Austin for 30 plus years at their wastewater facility and he is a very knowledgeable person in that regard. He also understands that his job duties with the City of Adams will be more diversified than when he was working with the City of Austin. He is willing to clean up snow, clean bathrooms, work every other weekend, interact with the public and come in during emergencies knowing that it is just requirements of the job. The clerk said that only thing left is to conduct a background check on Mr. Schlichter.

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Nick Anderson, to hire Werhner Schlichter for the vacant maintenance position with the condition that he passes a background check. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

The clerk presented the council with 4 different designs from JB Custom Vinyl for a sign that would be installed at the Adams Community Center.

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Michael Cherney, to select design number 1 for the sign to be installed at the Adams Community Center. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

The clerk presented the council with a quote from Johnson Hardware Co., LLC for the installation of a new metal frame and door with glass at the Emergency Services Building for \$7512.00. This quote does not include the painting of the door. The clerk reminded the council that he had budgeted \$10,000.00 to replace the door in the 2026 budget.

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Christopher Quale, to accept the quote from Johnson Hardware Co., LLC to replace the front door at the Emergency Services Building for \$7512.00 not including the painting of the door. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Community Center Rental Application:

Motion made by Karen Ruechel, seconded by Christopher Quale, to accept Connie Goergen's rental application for the Adams Community Center on 5/2/2026. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Resolution No. 02-2026:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Nick Anderson, to approve Resolution No. 02-2026 a resolution accepting donations from 11/1/2025 to 12/31/2025 for the Freedom Veterans Memorial. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Resolution No. 03-2026:

Motion made by Michael Cherney, seconded by Christopher Quale, to approve Resolution No. 03-2026 a resolution designating the Emergency Services Building at 16 East Main Street as the polling place for the 2026 elections. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

No further business.

Motion made by Nick Anderson, seconded by Christopher Quale to adjourn at 7:07 PM. Votes in favor: Christopher Quale, Michael Cherney, Nick Anderson and Karen Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Jake Goodale

Clerk/ Treasurer