

CITY OF GRANT  
MINUTES

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**DATE :** : January 6, 2026  
**TIME STARTED** : 6:35 p.m.  
**TIME ENDED** : 7:37 p.m.  
**MEMBERS' PRESENT** : Councilmember Cornett,  
Cremona, Anderson and Mayor Giefer  
**MEMBERS ABSENT** : Councilmember Rog

Staff members present: City Attorney, Amanda Johnson; City Engineer, Brad Reifsteck; City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp; and Interim Administrator Clerk, Kristina Handt.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Giefer.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

Council Member Cremona moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Council Member Cornett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. December 2025 Bill List, \$111,695.32
- B. December 2, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of Official Depositories-Resolution No. 2026-01, Resolution to Designate the Official Depositories of Funds for 2026
- D. Approval of Official Newspaper-Resolution No. 2026-02, Resolution Designating the White Bear Press as the Official Newspaper
- E. Approval of Electronic Funds Transfer Authority-Resolution No. 2026-03, Resolution to Designate Authority to Make Electronic Funds Transfers
- F. Appointing Data Practices Officials and Adopting Policies-Resolution No. 2026-04, Resolution Appointing City's Data Practices Officials and Adopting Policies

Council Member Cornett moved to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Council Member Cremona seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**STAFF AGENDA ITEMS**

City Engineer, Brad Reifsteck

1 **Consider Approval of Cooperative Agreement between the City of Grant and Washington**  
2 **County for Engineering Costs for CSAH 12 Safe Routes to School Trail Segment**– City Engineer  
3 Reifsteck provided an update since the August meeting regarding the CSAH 12 Safe Routes to  
4 School Trail Project with Washington County. Scope of Work Includes:

- 5 • Preliminary and final engineering
- 6 • Utility investigations and coordination
- 7 • Geotechnical exploration and recommendations
- 8 • Environmental reviews and mitigation
- 9 • Wetland delineation and mitigation, including purchase of credits

10 Washington County will act as the lead agency and manage consultant contracts.

11 Cost Sharing:

12 Total estimated project cost: \$84,650

- 13 • County share: \$42,325
- 14 • City share: \$42,325

15 Final costs will be reconciled at project completion.

16  
17 Discussion was had regarding ongoing maintenance of trail. Reifstack mentioned the maintenance  
18 agreement comes later in the process but that the city would be responsible for maintenance including  
19 snow removal. The city could decide not to remove snow, contract the cost out or see of the school  
20 district or Mahtomedi would be open to removing the snow on this trail segment since they may be  
21 removing snow on their trail segments connecting to it.

22  
23 **Motion by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Cornett to table until the**  
24 **next meeting. Motion approved 4-0. Council Member Cremona asked who would follow up on**  
25 **the maintenance issue. City staff and the mayor will.**

26  
27 **Consider Approval of Plans and Specifications and Authorize Bid for 2026 Street Projects,**  
28 **Resolution No. 2026-08**- City Engineer Reifsteck presented Resolution No. 2026-08 to approve  
29 plans and specification and authorize bids for the 2026 street improvement projects. He went through  
30 the timeline and answered questions about the designed and timing of notices in March for the final  
31 assessment hearing and potential bid award in April.

32  
33 **Motion by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Cornett to approve**  
34 **Resolution No. 2026-08. Motion approved 4-0.**

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36 **City Planner, Jennifer Haskamp**

37  
38 **PUBLIC HEARING, Consideration of Resolution 2026-05, Variance from required wetland**  
39 **setback for 9850 Manning Ave N** – City Planner Haskamp presented a request from Jenny and  
40 Troy Bergmann at 9850 Manning Ave N to construct an approximately 600 SF home addition, a 390  
41 SF outdoor great room, and a 112 SF covered portico to the existing residential structure. The single-  
42 family house is partially within the wetland setback area; however, it was constructed in the late  
43 1970s prior to the adoption of wetland setback standards and is therefore considered to be legally  
44 non-conforming. A wetland delineation for the property was completed in October 2025. The report  
45 identifies five (5) wetland basins on the subject property.

1 City Code Sections 32-59 and 32-60 establish the criteria to review and approve variance requests.

2 **1) Proposed Use of the Property cannot be established under the conditions allowed by this**  
3 **chapter and no other reasonable use exists...**

4 The lot is zoned and guided for rural residential uses. It is therefore reasonable to consider  
5 improvements to the existing single-family residential home.

6 **2) Plight of the Landowner must be due to unique physical conditions of the land, and are not**  
7 **applicable to other lands...**

8 Per the submitted wetland delineation, there are approximately 4.9-acres of wetland area on the  
9 subject property, or about 48% of the total lot area. The existing residential structure is surrounded to  
10 the east, south, and west by wetlands and to the north by the septic drainfield area. Therefore, any  
11 additions or expansions to the home will be constrained and require either significant structural  
12 alterations or similar variances. A significant portion of the home is within the wetland buffer area;  
13 however, it was constructed in the 1970s, prior to the adoption of current wetland setback standards.  
14 The placement of the principal structure would likely not be permitted today; however, the landowner  
15 did not construct the property, and the home likely complied with applicable laws and standards when  
16 it was constructed.

17 While the proposed addition will expand a legal non-conformity on the site; Staff believes that the  
18 addition is in one of the only reasonable locations given the physical constraints of the site including  
19 the wetlands, existing home location, attached accessory garage location and utilities. Given the  
20 limiting factors, the requested variance has been minimized to the extent possible.

21 **3) Unique conditions cannot be caused by the Owner**

22 The physical constraints of the property were not created by the Applicant, and Staff believes that the  
23 variance request is not motivated by economic considerations alone. The available space to site the  
24 proposed addition is constrained, mostly because of the unique physical characteristics present on the  
25 site. These conditions were not created by the landowner and meet the criteria to establish a practical  
26 difficulty in complying with the setback requirements.

27  
28 **Motion by Council Member Cornett, seconded by Council Member Cremona to open the public**  
29 **hearing at 7:12p.m. Motion approved 4-0.**

30  
31 The applicants shared they had been in conversation with the Browns Creeks Watershed District and  
32 saw no issues in meeting their requirements.

33  
34 **Motion by Council Member Cremona, seconded by Council Member Cornett to closed the**  
35 **public hearing at 7:13p.m. Motion approved 4-0.**

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37 **Motion by Council Member Cremona, seconded by Council Member Cornett to approve**  
38 **Resolution No. 2026-05. Motion approved 4-0.**

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40 **City Attorney, Amanda Johnson (No action items)**

41  
42 **NEW BUSINESS**

43 **Consideration of Ordinance No. 2026-86, 2026 Fee Schedule and Resolution No. 2026-06,**  
44 **Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 2026-86-** Interim Administrator Handt presented the 2026  
45 fee schedule. No fees were proposed to be increased but building permit fees were added to the  
46 schedule.

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3 **Motion by Council Member Cremona, seconded by Council Member Cornett to approve**  
4 **Ordinance No. 2026-86 and Resolution No. 2026-06. Motion approved 4-0.**

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6 **Consideration of 2026 City Council Meeting Schedule-** Interim Administrator Handt presented the  
7 proposed 2026 city council meeting schedule noting it followed the first Tuesday of each month with  
8 two exceptions being February due to precinct caucuses and November due to the general election.  
9 These meetings were moved to the first Monday.

10  
11 **Motion by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Cornett to approve the**  
12 **2026 city council meeting schedule. Motion approved 4-0.**

13  
14 **Consideration of 2026 Deputy Mayor-**Interim Administrator Handt noted the City Council is  
15 required to appoint an acting Mayor each year per state statute which covers the duties of the acting  
16 mayor to essentially fill in when the mayor is not available. Even though the appointment is  
17 annually, the Council can appoint the same person each year.

18  
19 **Motion by Mayor Giefer, seconded by Council Member Cornett to appoint Council Member**  
20 **Rog as Deputy Mayor. Motion approved 4-0.**

21  
22 **Consideration of Appointment to Ramsey Washington Suburban Cable Commission-** Interim  
23 Administrator Handt noted that while the council doesn't need to appoint a new director each year to  
24 the cable commission, the joint powers agreement does mention appointment by resolution so one  
25 was prepared this year. The mayor has served on the commission and is interested in continuing to  
26 serve. The council should also consider who they'd like to appoint as an alternate. The mayor clarified  
27 both can attend but only one would be able to vote. Council member Cornett volunteered to serve as  
28 the alternate.

29  
30 **Motion by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Cremona to approve**  
31 **Resolution No. 2026-07 appointing Mayor Giefer as Director and Council Member Ben Cornett**  
32 **as alternate to the Ramsey Washington Suburban Cable Commission. Motion approved 4-0.**

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34 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

35 **DISCUSSION ITEMS (no action taken)**

36 **Staff Updates (updates from Staff, no action taken)**

37 Handt shared that office hours began this week and will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am-  
38 12:30pm though residents are encouraged to check the website for any changes. She noted the  
39 changes in how meeting packets are prepared and the tools to navigate to specific agenda items.  
40 Lastly an update on ongoing code complaints was provided.

41 City Attorney Johnson recognized the increase legal bills as of the last few months. She offered that  
42 some cities do not have their attorney attend all council meetings and asked if that change should be  
43 implemented. Council agreed she would not need to attend every meeting if she didn't have an item

1 on the agenda and there wasn't an item that required her to be in attendance. She will work with the  
2 administrator on updating the complaint process and see if she is needed at the next meeting.

3 **City Council Reports/Future Agenda Items (no action taken)**

4 Mayor Giefer asked a number of questions related to the recent Comcast broadband grant project. He  
5 will email them to the Administrator for follow up with a Comcast representative. He also shared he  
6 was recently appointed to the Executive Committee on the cable commission and is serving as the  
7 secretary. Due to financial challenges with the decline of cable subscriptions, they did have to  
8 eliminate a position recently.

9 Council member Cremona asked when the other policies the council had on previous work session  
10 agendas would be coming back. Interim Administrator Handt suggested April as she will be tied up  
11 with audit items through February.

12 **COMMUNITY CALENDAR JANUARY 7 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026:**

13 **Council Member Cornett read the following calendar announcements:**

14 **Mahtomedi Public Schools Board Meeting, Monday January 5<sup>th</sup> and January 26<sup>th</sup> Mahtomedi  
15 District Education Center, 7:00 p.m.**

16 **Stillwater Public Schools Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and January 20<sup>th</sup>, Oak Park  
17 Learning Center, 5:30 p.m.**

18 **Washington County Commissioners Meeting, Tuesdays, Government Center, 9:00 a.m.**

19 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 19, 2026**

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21 **ADJOURNMENT**

22 **Council Member Cornett moved to adjourn at 7:37pm p.m. Council Member Cremona  
23 seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

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26 These minutes were considered and approved at the regular Council Meeting on February 4, 2026.

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Kristina Handt, Interim Administrator/Clerk

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Jeff Giefer, Mayor