Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Center City Council
September 1, 2026

Mayor Behnke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Jill Behnke, Councilmembers Mark Wolcott, Lloyd Vetter, Garrett Boulineau, Sally Swanson

Others Present: City Clerk Dana Miron, PW Jeff Anderson, Chisago County Press Matt Silver, Sarah Johnson, Mychale and Stephanie Hinners, Mark Baumann, Martin Ziegler

Consent Agenda: September Agenda, Regular Council Meeting Minutes August, Special Meeting Minutes August 28, August Claims. Motion made by Wolcott and seconded by Swanson to approve the consent agenda. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM: No public comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Hursh Iron Works:** Swanson stated that she was informed that the building permit application received by Chisago County Environmental Services was deemed incomplete. It lacked complete building plans, including heating, cooling, and plumbing details, as well as other requirements. Discussion followed about pursuing ordinance violations and discussing next actions with the City Attorney.
2. **SIRT (Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail):** Nothing new at this time.
3. **Bayview Rain Garden:** Repairs are almost complete. A routine maintenance plan needs to be created and implemented.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Preliminary Budget Levy Resolution 2026-09-01:** Wolcott briefed Council on some uncertainties going into next year that could affect the budget. The Preliminary Budget is proposed with a 7.04 percent total levy increase over last year at $423,100 for 2027. Swanson stated that with current project uncertainties, she favors a higher Preliminary Budget number that could be adjusted downward before the Final Levy is accepted. Motion to approve the Preliminary Budget Levy Resolution 2026-09-01 made by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter. Ayes: Vetter, Wolcott, Behnke, Boulineau. Nays: Swanson. Motion carried 4-1.
2. **Tobacco License Approval: Chisago Tobacco.** An application has been submitted by Chisago Tobacco to open a shop in the mall on Andrews Avenue. Motion to approve with a clean background check made by Wolcott and seconded by Swanson. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **Public Works: Monthly Report:** Reviewed and briefly discussed.
   - Behnke asked about Water Tower Park. PW Anderson said that the crew showed up yesterday and has most of the work done, and that it looks pretty decent. Vetter stated that there should be more wood chips added.

   A. Street Lights: PW Anderson said he is still waiting on information regarding shipping costs for one vs. two street light posts.

   B. Lift Station Update: Still waiting for answers from Nelson on pump repair vs. replacement.
2. **Clerk/Treasurer**: Nothing to note at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Fire Department:** The fire department has decided to lease the radios next year rather than purchasing them.
2. **Personnel:** Nothing at this time.
3. **Planning Commission:** Nothing at this time.
4. **Ordinance Committee:** Nothing at this time.
5. **Budget Committee:** Met with Council on August 28th.
6. **HPC**: Behnke said that there was a meeting that included both HPC and Parks. Sarah Johnson had submitted ideas for using etched/stenciled steel rather than painting murals. Also, ideas for etching old monument stones to be placed at the trailhead. Grant applications will be pursued to help fund these projects.
7. **Parks:** (see above)
8. **Library:** Nothing at this time.
9. **Sewer Board:** Vetter stated everything is in good overall shape. Flow is down this year, likely due to lack of rainfall.
10. **Highway 8:** Meeting October 5th at the Chisago Lakes Town Hall.
11. **EDA:** Nothing at this time.
12. **Visitor's Bureau:** Meeting later this month.
13. **Chisago County Collaborative Initiative:** Nothing at this time.

MOTION by Swanson and seconded by Boulineau to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Attest:

Dana Miron, City Clerk **Jill Behnke, Mayor**