

Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Avenue
Monday, May 18, 2026
5:45 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Meeting Called to Order *Additional information on agenda item is attached or at City Hall
2. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda
 - a. Bills: Checks #29968-29989, 1817E-1838E (1-7)
 - b. Payroll: Checks #69506-69542
 - c. Approve April 14 Library Board Minutes, Expenditures, & Library Report (8-11)
 - d. Approve April 20 Lake Commission Minutes (12-13)
 - e. Approve April 20 EDA Minutes (14-15)
 - f. Approve April 23 & 27 Utilities Commission Minutes (16-18)
 - g. Approve May 4 City Council Minutes (19-21)
3. Public – A total of ten (10) minutes is allotted for individuals to briefly discuss a topic of concern or provide comments to the Council.
4. Pow Wow – Beer Garden Request, *Karina Bryant*
5. City Administrator
 - a. Discussion/Action – Annexations
6. Roundtable
 - a. Discussion – Commissions/Boards Update
7. Adjourn

Special City Council Meeting Tomorrow 5-19-2026 @ 5:30 PM

MOUNTAIN LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
April 14th, 2025

Members Present: Rachel B., Sally E., Rick H., Emily I., Loida G.Q.

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Daniel Mick

Others Present: Michael Mueller

Others Absent: Andy Ysker

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 PM by Chairperson Rachel B.

M/S Emily I./Rachel B. to approve the minutes of the March 10th meeting.

Reports: Daniel M. presented the March Monthly reports indicating 2872 total circulation and expenditures in the amount of \$4565.08 Emily I./Rachel B. to accept the March reports and expenditures as given, Motion carried.

Changes to the Agenda: NA

Unfinished Business: Daniel M. has reported that Carolina is doing great and is not using the sticks any longer to shelve materials. She continues to impress as she picks up new tasks and learns more about the library. Daniel M. also mentioned that Gesselle and her mother continue to do a good job, small wrinkles of learning or remembering parts of the cleaning list but we are happy with their work.

The library continues to save funny for our new canopy, we have now received donations from the Lions Club and Country Pride. Their companies will receive a leaf for their generous donations and their business logo will be included in our final canopy design.

In New Business: Daniel M. reported that the PLA conference in Minneapolis that he attended with Dana Schroeder in Minneapolis. During their time they enjoyed the maze like sky walk that connected their hotel to the convention center. Daniel M. thought the hole experience was nice to meet with other librarians that have similar libraries and communities and be able to glean some tips and tricks how they conduct Teen programing and size restrictions.

Daniel M. also reported the current status of the Summer Reading Program and explained his ideas for a new board game, theme, being Paleontology and Geology as well as some of the crafts and programs that will also occur during June and July.

Mountain Lake Director Check In: Daniel M. reports a continuing heavy use of the new Toni Boxes, only being on the shelf maybe for a day or two before being checked out.

Daniel M. also reported a total of 65 sign-ups for the Winter Reading Program and 62 of the patrons completed their goal of 12 books by the end of the program, several being able to complete the challenge 3 times. In total the Reading Program ran very smoothly this year and next year will include book lights, fuzzy warm socks and some nice warm mittens from a year ago.

Board Suggestions: Rachel B. checked to see if we were getting the latest in Gabrielle Meyer books, Daniel M. confirmed the library had ordered the 5th book and will be processed shortly after its May 5th street Release date.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Mick

Mountain Lake Public Library - April 2026 Report

Children	
Audio	18
Books	1062
DVDs	52
Non Print	8
Multi Media	11
Periodicals	0
ADULT	
Audio	0
Books	509
DVDs	115
Non Print	8
Multi Media	0
Periodicals	17
Other Physical Media	70
SUBTOTAL:	
Ebooks	1870
Downloadable Audio	57
	207
TOTAL CIRCULATION:	2754
ILLN(MNLink)	53
Interlibrary Loan Sent	287
Interlibrary Loan Received	280

REVENUE	
Cash Income	\$ -
County Revenue	\$ -
Donations (Monetary)	\$ -
Fines	\$ -
Misc. Revenue	\$ -
Meeting Room Rental	\$ -
Sale of supplies	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ -
EXPENDITURES	
Books	\$ 932.98
Periodicals	\$ 358.00
Audio/Visual	\$ -
Gas Utilities	\$ 104.46
City Utilities	\$ 503.03
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 24.99
Office Supplies	\$ 200.78
Library Supplies	\$ 119.00
Postage	\$ -
Project Expense	\$ 837.01
Repairs & Maintenance Building	\$ -
Repairs & Maint-Materials	
Tech/Automation Expense	\$ -
Telephone	\$ -
Training, Instruction & Milage	\$ 1,604.22
MISC.	\$ -
PCLS Delivery	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 4,684.47

APRIL LIBRARY EXPENDITURES

Expenditure	Description	Budget #	Total
Country Pride	Bolts, socket set	200	\$45.93
Country Pride	Rubbing Alcohol, Impact Bit Set	200	\$80.10
A&B Business Solution	Monthly Bill	200	\$83.38
Library	Milage Reimbursement	308	\$167.98
City Utilites	Monthly Bill	380	\$503.03
Minnesota Energy	Monthly Gas	383	\$104.46
Thomas Peter Fletcher	Program Payment	434	\$400.00
Maynards	Account Payment	434	\$58.59
Ingram	Monthly Ingram Order	590	\$871.19
Hy-Vee	Feat and Cheese Platter for program	434	\$74.66
Kelber Catering	Conference Meal	331	\$20.44
Jimmy Johns	Conference Meal	331	\$17.08
Casey's	Gas during Conference	331	\$49.00
The Loften Hotel	Conference Rooms	331	\$1,189.74
Metropolis Parking	Conference Parking	331	\$159.98
Amazon	Book-4498613	590	\$16.77
Amazon	Kraft Paper-2573046	200	\$110.37
Amazon	Duster Refills-5914623	400	\$24.99
Amazon	Book-5372251	590	\$10.47
Amazon	Book-4566660	590	\$7.57
Amazon	Book-5484233	590	\$11.99
Amazon	Book-4377840	590	\$14.99
Etsy	SRP Beads	434	\$18.00
ExpoPrint	Canopy	434	\$2,586.37
ExpoPrint	Refund	434	(\$2,586.37)
Etsy	SRP Shirts & Beads	434	\$194.72
Pixella	Image Editing for Canopy	434	\$1.49
Fiverr Inc	Canopy Layout Created	434	\$37.57
Taste of Home	Renewal	591	\$30.00
Magazine Renewal	Journal, PEOPLE, Better Homes &	591	\$328.00
OpenAI	SRP Image Creation	434	\$20.00
Amazon	Necklace Cords-9125029	434	\$31.98

CASH EXPENDITURES

Expenditure	Description		Total
		Sub-Total:	\$0.00
		Final Total:	\$4,684.47

Lake Commission Meeting**Monday, April 20, 2026, 6:30 p.m.****Members Present:** Randy Loewen, Dave Bucklin, Stan Bennett, Ny Sayachack, Janell Bargaen**Members Absent:** Jon Beyer, Chad Klassen**Guests Present:** Mike Nelson, Michael Mueller

Chair Loewen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. M/S/P Buklin/Bennett to approve the agenda and minutes of the February 9, 2026 meeting.

Treasurer's Report**Weed Harvester Income/Expense:****Beginning Balance:** \$71,239.36**Ending Balance:** \$71,239.36**Trail Income/Expense:****Beginning Balance:** \$16,454.54

Cut Resistant Gloves -29.97

Pink Spray paint -8.54

Interest Earning (January 2026) 231.03

Ending Balance: \$16,647.06

M/S/P Bennett/Bucklin to approve the Treasurer's Report

Aerator: There is a pipe broken, so the aerator did not work well this winter and caused some winter kill. Loewen has some inquires out for recommendations in fixing the aerator before next winter. DNR has give permission to buoy the lines, so boats do not hit the pipes.

Can Bin: Monday, April 27, at 5:30 is the scheduled day to empty the can bin.

Trail Cracks: Bargaen Inc. will be working at filling the cracks on the north side of the lake.

The Lake Dam: There is about a 2' x 2' chunk on the north side of the dam that has potential of breaking off. Bucklin will follow-up with DNR to see about how to get this repaired.

Fishing Pier: The City boat is ready to be used to move the pier. When the weather cooperates and schedules work out, the pier will be placed in it summer location. The anchor spot for the pier needs a little fixing. We will put this on the schedule for winter, in order for machinery to get down by the anchors and fixed.

Thin Ice Signs: Loewen, Bennett and Sayachack are planning to meet tomorrow to boat around the lake to find hopefully all 30 thin ice signs.

Concrete around the Beach Fire Pit: Vern Peterson is donating money for the concrete to be put in place around the fire pit by the beach. This is to be placed in memory of Jim Peterson. Nick Kulseth of Kulseth Lawn Landscape & Concrete will work on getting the concrete put in place this coming summer.

Candlelight Walk Around the Lake:

- This is an event put in place by Mountain Lake Active Living with help from the Lake Commission.
- This event is scheduled for this Saturday, April 25, 2026. Anyone can start their walk anytime between 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. and will start at the parking lot by the north boat ramp.
- The plan is to start set up at 6:00 p.m.
- Bergen has all the supplies
- There will be a fire in the beach's firepit
- There will be hot chocolate and NA beer available
- For this year, we will have buckets set out for a free will donation.

Next meeting will be Monday, May 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Janell Bergen, Secretary

Economic Development Authority
Monday, April 20, 2026
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Mt. Lake City Hall

PRESENT: Steve Syverson, Eileen Augustin, Mike Nelson, Phil Skow, Travis Smith, Kyle Smith and Darla Kruser. Vern Peterson and Clara Johnson, Advisors.

ABSENT: n/a

STAFF: Rod Hamilton and Tabitha Garloff

CITY ADMINISTRATOR: Michael Mueller

GUEST: Bob Macachek, Troy Wagner and John Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER. President Syverson called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.
2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda
Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approval of March 16, 2026, Meeting Minutes.
 - b. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills. Motion made by Mike to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Phil. Motion carried.
3. Highway 60 Billboard Discussion. Discussed the request Summit Locations to install an advertising billboard on county road 1 and highway 60 intersection by Pop'd Kerns. Rod stated the previous request had been denied by the board. A new person took the position and reached out to the EDA about reconsidering. The EDA would receive an estimated \$4,000 annually for rent on the location. The sign would be vinyl and would eventually be digital. Steve asked if it would obstruct vision for the highway. Rod stated it would meet all legal requirements. Motion made by Darla to deny the request for the proposed location but would be willing to work with them on another Hwy 60 location. Seconded by Mike. Motion carried.
4. Update from Hall's Handy Heating & Cooling shop roof repair. John stated that the roof repair was completed shortly after the last EDA meeting.
5. Update from Troy Wagner on shop roof repair. Troy gave an update on the roofing project and stated the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of May.
6. Spec Home Incentive Extension. Motion needed. Rod reported that the spec home incentive is expired and reported that the incentive was successful in helping sell the spec homes at Lakeview Estates. Rod stated extending the spec home incentive for 12 months would assist in selling the final home. Motion made by Mike to approve extending the incentive for 12 months. Seconded by Travis. Motion carried.
7. Land for Sale. Discuss purchasing vacant lot jointly with City. Parcel #224130030. Discussed the benefit of the EDA purchasing the property jointly with the city. After continued discussion the EDA suggested the city work with the landowner and renter. The EDA elected not to purchase jointly with the city.

8. Post Office Requirement for Cluster Mailboxes at Lakeview Estates update. Tabitha stated she was notified by the post office that Lakeview Estates and Heritage Estates would need to install cluster boxes at both locations. Motion made by Phil to approve the purchase/installation of cluster boxes for Lakeview Estates and Heritage Estates. Seconded by Darla. Motion carried.
9. Apartment Mowing Bids. Motion needed. Rod stated that he received 3 bids for mowing and that he would present the bids to avoid any conflict of interest, real or perceived. Rod presented the 3 bids. Barnett Pro Care at \$1,920 a month, Kulseth Lawn Landscape \$1,280 and Don Garloff at \$1,140. Bids are for weekly mowing and trimming; any additional services are additional charges. Motion made by Mike to approve the bid from Don Garloff. Seconded by Kyle. Motion carried. The board requested that snow removal for 2026-2027 be put out for bids.
10. GENERAL DISCUSSION:
 - a. Next Regular Board Meeting is May 18, 2026.
 - b. Other Business. The EDA receive an offer on lot 7 block 2 of \$3,000 from Josh Jack. It is listed on Zillow for \$13,511 and there are no assessments on the property. Motion made by Eileen to make a counteroffer of \$10,000. Seconded by Kyle. Motion carried.
 - c. Rod asked for approval of a \$20,000 loan, 4% interest for 10 years, to the chamber to rehab the Falk Station for the chamber office/visitor center. Motion made by Mike to approve the loan request. Seconded by Travis. Motion carried.
 - d. Michael gave an overview of the CVB (Convention and Visitors Bureau) and how the funds can be used. These funds are received from hotel occupancy taxes, that acts as a destination marketing organization to promote tourism, conventions, and business travel. It assists in promoting a city or region to increase tourism and economic development.
 - e. Vesta's. Rod stated Vesta's has leased a Balzer building and they are in the process of remodeling the building to fit their needs. Vesta's will bring 40-50 people working in Mt. Lake.
11. ADJOURN. Steve adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

**Mountain Lake Utilities Commission Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall
Thursday, April 23, 2026
7 AM**

Members Present: David Savage; Dean Janzen; Mark Langland; Sue Garloff; City Council Liaison Jeff Jack

Members Absent: Todd Johnson

Staff Present: Michael Mueller; City Administrator; Jill Falk; Utility Office Manager; David Watkins; Electric Superintendent; Steve Peters; Lineman; Taylor Nesmoe; Water/Wastewater Foreman; Scott Pankratz; Water/Wastewater

Others Present: Phillip Harder

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 AM.

Approval of Minutes and Bills

Motion by Janzen, seconded by Garloff, to approve April 9th Minutes and Check Numbers 24767 - 24797 (937E-948E). Motion carried.

Electric Department

Phil Harder was present to discuss his demand usage and the invoice received for underpayment. It appears that the demand reading remained the same for three consecutive months, despite variations in total usage. Peak demand is intended to reset automatically after each meter reading, but this does not always occur. Watkins noted that there are instances when the demand fails to reset and will look into the issue further.. With some meters not resetting properly or reading properly, Garloff stressed that the situation needs to be corrected. The residents' trust in the city is dwindling. It was discussed to get Banyon and/or Core and Main out to correct all of the issues.

The Power Plant is moving along as planned. An engineer was out this week to do a final inspection of the building before they began caulking. The conduit work has begun on the flooring, and then the next step will be to dig up the street for water and sewer lines. The old substation transformer has been removed at no cost. An additional question was raised about a possible policy update for new services for rural customers. The policy states that new services will be brought in at no cost to the customer and does not distinguish between the types of customers. When a new rural home is being built, the charges for a new transformer should not be covered by the utilities, as it only helps one the new build. Since the project in question is already in progress, it was decided that no changes to the policy will be made at this time, but it will be reviewed in the future.

Water/Wastewater

Nesmoe mentioned that they were able to demo the new Jetter this week. There is another town that may be interested in this model. The demo Jetter is 2019, however, there may be a second

one available that is 2022. A price quote with trade-in will be calculated and presented. The issue with the reclaim tank should be corrected, and the new membranes for the RO have been ordered. They should be installed in the next week or two. The discoloration of the water should be resolved, and the hardness of the water will improve once the new membranes are installed. Additionally, Thein Well is here this week to work on Well #6. It will be jetted and flushed, and Automatic Solutions has a new antenna as well. Once the work is completed, it will run more smoothly, and the antennae will correct any communication issues. Nesmoe is aware of the pond smell. He is working diligently with the engineers to get it under control. The sludge bugs were placed in the pond, but do not seem to have the same impact as before. Electric Pump is in town today, checking on all of the Lift Stations.

City Administrator

The energy service agreement for the AAIM Data Center was presented. The contract was created by the CMPAS attorney, who created similar contracts for both Glencoe and Blue Earth. Mueller stated that the data center will be 5MWh, with an additional 5MWh guaranteed by December 2026 once the new substation is operational. The discussion will be tabled for a special meeting to provide ample time for all questions to be answered.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jill Falk, Utilities Office Manager

**Mountain Lake Utilities Special Commission Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall
Monday, April 27, 2026
7 AM**

Members Present: David Savage; Dean Janzen; Mark Langland; Sue Garloff; City Council Liaison Jeff Jack

Members Absent: Todd Johnson

Staff Present: Michael Mueller; City Administrator; Jill Falk; Utility Office Manager; David Watkins; Electric Superintendent

Others Present:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM.

Special Meeting

The Special Meeting was held to discuss the contract for the AAIM Data Center. The business name has been updated to C-MN Data Centers. CMPAS has been working with them for the last year and a half with Blue Earth. Billing will be completed through CMPAS and will not go through Banyon. C-MN will be required to prepay bills every two weeks. The deposit is estimated to be around \$404,000, which is the expected monthly usage including the adder. They are required to use at least 70% of the 10MWh or a penalty will be applied. They are expecting to use at least 90% of the service provided. An adder has been included in the contract for an additional 0.005/KWh on top of the charges. This could provide over \$390,000 each year in revenue to help cover costs for the power plant. No water or sewer lines will be needed, as all water for the center will be brought in. **A motion was made by Janzen to approve and sign the contract. The motion was then seconded by Savage and opposed by Langland.** The motion passed. Langland was concerned about the cost of energy in the future and how the profits would affect rates going forward. A new rate study will be completed, and hopefully no electric rate increases will be needed in the next few years. **A motion was made by Langland to approve the WAPA REC contract.** The motion was then seconded by Janzen and motion passed.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jill Falk, Utilities Office Manager

**City of Mountain Lake
Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave
Monday, May 4, 2026
5:45 p.m.**

Members Present: Andrew Ysker, Jeff Jack, Mike Nelson, Bryan Bargaen, Darla Kruser

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Michael Mueller City Administrator

Others Present: Doug Regehr, Deanna Anderson, Matt Fast, Karina Bryant, Adam Bryant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 5:45 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

Motion by Bargaen, seconded by Kruser to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

- Bills: Checks #29935 – 29967, 1802E – 1816E
- Payroll: Checks #69492 – 69506
- Approve April 9 Utilities Commission Minutes
- Approve April 20 City Council Minutes
- Approve April 21 Board of Appeal & Equalization Minutes
- Approve April Street Department Report – *Daron Friesen, Street Superintendent*
- Approve Resolution #8-26 Arbor Day
- Approve rehire of Jacob Samdal, temporary police officer, effective 05/05/26

Public

No comment

Building Official

Steve Carson will be retiring at the end of the year, and recommended hiring Matt Fast as the next building official. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Bargaen to approve the independent contractor agreement for the certified building official position with Matt Fast. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Pow Wow – Beer Garden Request

Adam and Karina Bryant requested approval for a “Party in the Park” beer garden during Pow Wow. The proposal would combine crowds from local establishments into one centralized event featuring music and refreshments.

They noted that over the past five years, the Den has sponsored concerts and expanded entertainment offerings during Pow Wow. Last year, the Pow Wow Committee hosted Red Dirt Road, but attendance was low on Tuesday evening. The intent of this proposal is to consolidate entertainment into a more accessible, community-focused event, with promotion through the website, social media, and posters.

The applicants would like to pilot the event during Pow Wow weekend and evaluate its success, with the possibility of developing “Party in the Park” into a standalone event in the future to attract bands and support local businesses.

Motion by Bergen, seconded by Ysker to approve the “Party in the Park” beer garden proposal, contingent upon clarification of laws regarding the allowance of underage individuals within the beer garden with differentiated wristbands. The motion also noted that City Code 5.16, relating to the consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages within the city park, would be waived for this event. Motion carried 5 – 0.

City Administrator

The City of Mountain Lake personnel policy was updated to reflect recent changes of state statute regarding MN Paid Family Leave. Motion by Ysker, seconded by Jack to approve the updated personnel policy. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Annexation of several parcels owned by the City of Mountain Lake that are currently located outside the city limits was brought back for City Council discussion. Item was tabled for further discussion.

A potential land purchase was discussed. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Jack to approve the purchase of land, Parcel ID 22.413.0030, for \$44,500. Motion carried 5 – 0.

The Board of Review and Equalization oversees property tax assessments to ensure they are fair and accurate. The City Council discussed the option of transitioning to an Open Book process, which would direct property owners to work directly with the county assessor. While the Council expressed concerns with the current assessment metrics, they indicated a preference to continue the Board of Review, hearing from the public to address questions and concerns.

The City of Mountain Lake is a member of the Midwest Municipal Gas Agency (MMGA). The Agency’s member representatives have determined that the Agency no longer serves a useful purpose and therefore have recommended that the members approve termination of the Agency Agreement with the intent of effectuating the dissolution of the Agency. Motion by Kruser,

seconded by Ysker to approve Resolution #9-26 Terminating the Agency Agreement of the Midwest Municipal Gas Agency. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Concerns were raised regarding prevailing wage requirements and tax status in the power plant bidding process with Barr Engineering. The City Attorney will address these matters at a special meeting with the City Council.

Roundtable

An update was given to the council regarding board and commission meetings.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

Michael Mueller, Administrator/Clerk