

Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall
Tuesday, February 17, 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 Consent Agenda
 - a. Bills: Checks #29784 – 29806, 1708E – 1725E (1-6)
 - b. Payroll: Checks #69329 – 69371
 - c. Approve January 12 Lake Commission Minutes (7-8)
 - d. Approve January 22 Utilities Commission Minutes (9-10)
 - e. Approve February 2 City Council Minutes (11-12)
 - f. Approve 2026 Fire & Ambulance Contracts (13)

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. City Administrator
 - a. Discussion/Action – Tobacco Ordinance #3-26– 3rd & Final Reading (14-15)
 - b. Discussion/Action – Tiny Houses Ordinance #4-26 (16-17)

5. Roundtable
 - a. Discussion – Commissions/Boards Update

6. Adjourn

Lake Commission Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Randy Loewen, Chad Klassen, Dave Bucklin, Stan Bennet, Janell Bargaen

Members Absent: Jon Beyer

Interim Member: Jean Haberman

Guests Present: Mike Nelson, Caleb Klassen, Rachel Yoder

Chair Loewen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. M/S/P Buklin/Klassen to approve the agenda and minutes of the December 8, 2025 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Weed Harvester Income/Expense:

Beginning Balance:	\$31,239.36
Weed Harvester Grant	20,000.00
Ending Balance:	\$51,239.36

Trail Income/Expense:

Beginning Balance:	\$12,083.72
Thin Ice Ad (November)	-187.40
Fuel	-85.02
Elbow/bushing/couplings	-29.72
Riser Stand/table – aerator	-374.91
2 nd Half 2025 Property Taxes	3,725.00
Aluminum can recycling	732.00
Interest Earning (October)	146.01
Interest Earning (November)	156.45
Ending Balance:	\$16,166.13

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

Aerator: There are four big lines sent out from the pump house into the lake. One of those lines is completely cut. This line will need to be fixed before next winter. The "Thin Ice" signs, which were placed earlier and had fallen down due to the warmer weather, have been put back in place. The DNR passed the inspection of the aerator.

To prevent lines being cut in the future, the DNR officer suggested placing buoys on the lines, stating no boats allowed – from the end of the line all the way to shore.

Can Bin Gloves: Haberman brought in gloves to be used when cleaning out the can bin, so that hands do not get cut by the cans and other items in the bin.

Lake Raft for the Beach: Loewen informed us that the company in Iowa that produced rafts is now out of business. We need to find another supplier that we could use for a raft.

Concrete around the Beach Fire Pit: 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 event is scheduled for this Saturday, January 17, 2025. Anyone can start their walk anytime between 5 – 7 p.m. and will start at the parking lot by the north boat ramp.
- The plan is to start set up at 3:00 p.m.
- Borgen has all the supplies
- There will be a fire in the beach's firepit
- There will be hot chocolate available
- For this year, we will have buckets set out for a free will donation.

MNDOT Grant: Haberman shared with the committee the Executive Summary Priority Infrastructure Projects that are in the plans for Mountain Lake trail system. The final plan will be available in February.

A few names were shared for a possible Lake Commission member to replace Jean.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Janell Borgen, Secretary

Mountain Lake Utilities Commission Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall
Thursday, January 22, 2026
7 AM

Members Present: Todd Johnson; Dean Janzen; Mark Langland; Sue Garloff

Members Absent: David Savage; City Council Liaison Jeff Jack

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

Others Present:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 AM.

Approval of Minutes and Bills

Motion by Garloff, seconded by Johnson, to approve January 8th Minutes and Check Numbers 24609 - 24636 (854E-865E). Motion carried.

Electric Department

Due to the weather, the power plant has been put on hold until March 1st. The goal is to have the substation decommissioned by then as well. The 69kv line will need to be cut, and the original power plant will have to generate for the town. With the new power plant set to be completed by September, a decision needs to be made about what will be done with the original plant. The wires will need to be pulled for the new plant, and most of the generators and switch gear are over forty years old, so it may not be worth selling. The cost of removing the Fairbanks generators is more than what they are worth. It is a historic building, and the hope is that it can be restored. Watkins will reach out to Rod Hamilton to see if he can get some help from the EDA.

Water/Wastewater

The VFD for Well #7 has been ordered. However, at this time, there is no estimated time for repairs to be completed. Nesmoe has been working on the lead service line data to keep in compliance. There are approximately thirty-five letters to be mailed to homeowners of unknown service lines. Nesmoe has also been working with Ziegler Energy to prepare for the solar power project. The panels will be placed on the east side of the water treatment plant and the north side of the treatment pond, inside the fence. Approximately one hundred panels will be placed at each location.

City Administrator

The building permit has been approved for the Data Center. The agreement with Balzer is in the works, but the actual cost will need to be determined. Engineering is working on the best option to get the 10 MWH connected. The most common option would be for a 69kv line to go directly to the site and then have a private substation. CMPAS does have concerns since the substation is not owned by the utilities, but they would still be responsible if something happened to the grid.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jill Falk, Utilities Office Manager

**City of Mountain Lake
Regular City Council Meeting
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave
Monday, February 2, 2026
5:45 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: Bryan Bargaen

City Staff Present: Michael Mueller City Administrator; Louis Norell Police Chief

Others Present: Deanna Anderson, Doug Regehr

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

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

Motion carried 4 – 0.

Bills: Checks # 29752-29783, 1688E-1707E

Payroll: Checks #69311-69328

Approve January 8 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve January 20 City Council Minutes

Approve January Street Department Report

Public

No comment

Mountain Lake Community Partners – Pow Wow

No representatives were present, and the item was tabled while awaiting confirmation of whether a request will be submitted for City Council consideration.

City Administrator

Third and final reading of the Disruptive Intoxication Ordinance. Motion by Jack, seconded by Kruser to approve Ordinance #2-26 Disruptive Intoxication. Motion carried 4 – 0.

There was a second reading to update to the city’s tobacco ordinance.

The 2026 chip sealing program was discussed, map of the roads and chip sealing of Mountain Lake Trail. City Council agreed to chip seal Mountain Lake trail next year, after the cracks have

been repaired. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Jack to approve the 2026 street chip sealing. Motion carried 4 – 0.

Federated Broadband is expected to begin building out fiber throughout Mountain Lake in May 2026. There will be no cost to residents to bring fiber to their homes. Federated has sent out the required paperwork, and the City will also notify residents through the utility newsletter.

Roundtable

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

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Michael Mueller, Administrator/Clerk

	2026- Actual	2026- Actual
	221-42200-35250	221-42200-34210
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$240.00	\$180

		<u>Contract @ \$240</u> per section	Township Equipment @ \$180 per section	
Kimball Township	14	\$3,360.00	\$2,520.00	
Carson Township	18	\$4,320.00	\$3,240.00	
Mountain Lake Township	36	\$8,640.00	\$6,480.00	
Midway Township	35	\$8,400.00	\$6,300.00	
Selma Township	5	\$1,200.00	\$900.00	
Lakeside Township	11	\$2,640.00	\$1,980.00	
Total of 119 sections		\$28,560.00	\$21,420.00	\$49,980.00

Ambulance	\$10 per capita charge	Amount
Mountain Lake Township	442	\$4,420.00
Delton Township	53	\$530.00
Carson Township	145	\$1,450.00
Midway Township	208	\$2,080.00
Selma Township	150	\$1,500.00
Lakeside Township	<u>139</u>	\$1,390.00
	1137	\$11,370.00

CITY OF MOUNTAIN LAKE, MN

ORDINANCE #3-26

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN LAKE AMENDING CHAPTER 6, SECTION 31, SUBDIVISION 8 & 11, CONCERNING TOBACCO REGULATIONS – COMPLIANCE CHECKS & INSPECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

The City Council of the City of Mountain Lake ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 6.31, subdivision 8 and 11, of the Mountain Lake City Code is hereby amended to add the following underlined language and delete the ~~strikethrough~~ language as follows:

Subdivision 8. Compliance Checks and Inspections. All licensed premises shall be open to inspection by local law enforcement or other authorized city official during regular business hours. From time to time, but at least twice per year, the city shall conduct compliance checks. In accordance with state law, the city will conduct at least one compliance check that involves the participation of a person at least 17 years of age, but under the age of 21, ~~between the ages of 15 and 17 and at least one compliance check that involves the participation of a person between the ages of 18 and 20~~ to enter licensed premises to attempt to purchase licensed products. Prior written consent is required for any person under the age of 18 to participate in a compliance check. Persons used for the purpose of compliance checks will be supervised by law enforcement or other designated personnel. No person used in compliance checks shall attempt to use a false identification misrepresenting their age, and all persons lawfully engaged in a compliance check shall answer all questions about their age asked by the licensee or his or her employee and shall produce any identification, if any exists, for which they are asked. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit compliance checks authorized by State or Federal laws for educational, research, or training purposes, or required for the enforcement of a particular State or Federal law.

Subdivision 11. Administrative Penalties.

1. Licensees. Any licensee found to have violated this ordinance, or whose employee shall have violated this ordinance, shall be charged an administrative fine of ~~\$200~~300 for a first violation; An administrative fine of \$5600 shall be imposed for a second offense at the same licensed premises within a ~~twenty-four~~ thirty-six month period after the initial violation.; and For a third violation at the same licensed premises within a thirty-six month period after the initial violation, an administrative fine of \$751,000 shall be imposed, and the license shall be suspended for not less than 30 consecutive days. ~~for a third or subsequent offense at the same location within a twenty-four month period or as the council determines in its fine schedule as amended from time to time. In addition, after the third offense, the license shall be suspended for not less than 30 consecutive days.~~ Upon a fourth violation at the same licensed premises within a thirty-six month period after the initial violation, the license shall be revoked.

2. Other Individuals. Individuals, other than persons under the age of 21 regulated by subdivision 11(3) of this Subdivision, found to be in violation of this ordinance shall be charged an administrative fine of \$50, or as the council determines in its fine schedule as amended from time to time.
3. Persons under the Age of 21. Persons under the age of 21 who use a false identification to purchase or attempt to purchase licensed products shall only be subject to non-criminal, non-monetary civil penalties such as tobacco-related education classes, diversion programs, community services, or another penalty that the city determines to be appropriate. The City Council will consult with court personnel, educators, parents, children and other interested parties to determine an appropriate penalty for persons under the age of 21 in the city. The penalty may be established by ordinance and amended from time to time.
4. Misdemeanor. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the city from seeking prosecution as a misdemeanor for any alleged violation of this ordinance by a person 21 years of age or older.

SECTION 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and publication.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Mountain Lake, Minnesota this 17th day of February, 2026.

Mike Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Michael Mueller, City Administrator

CITY OF MOUNTAIN LAKE, MN

ORDINANCE #4-26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 9.18 TO ALLOW TINY HOMES AS A PERMITTED USE IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

The City Council of the City of Mountain Lake ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Mountain Lake City Code Section 9.18 Residential Districts is hereby amended by adding the following subdivision:

SECTION 9.18 TINY HOMES ORDINANCE

Subdivision 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this subdivision is to allow the construction and placement of tiny homes as an affordable housing option, while maintaining the character, safety, and quality of existing residential neighborhoods.

Subdivision 2. Definition.

A *Tiny Home* is defined as a single-family dwelling unit built in compliance with the **Minnesota State Building Code**, having a total floor area of **not less than 400 square feet and not more than 800 square feet**, excluding loft space.

Subdivision 3. Permitted Use.

Tiny Homes shall be considered a **permitted use** within the residential district, subject to the requirements listed in this subdivision.

Subdivision 4. Lot Requirements.

1. **Minimum Lot Size:** 3,500 square feet per dwelling unit.
2. **Setbacks:** Must meet the same front, side, and rear yard setbacks as required for other residential structures within the applicable zoning district.
3. **Lot Coverage:** Must comply with the maximum impervious surface coverage permitted within the district.

Subdivision 5. Building and Design Standards.

1. All Tiny Homes must comply with the **Minnesota State Building Code** and be placed on a **permanent foundation**.
2. Off-site or factory-built Tiny Homes must be certified as meeting all State Building Code requirements prior to installation.

3. All units must be connected to City utilities, including water, sewer, and electric service.
4. Exterior design, materials, and roof pitch shall be compatible with surrounding residential structures.

Subdivision 6. Parking.

Each Tiny Home shall provide at least **one (1) off-street parking space.**

Subdivision 7. Prohibited Uses.

1. Tiny Homes on wheels (THOWs) or those constructed on trailers shall not be permitted as permanent dwellings.
2. Recreational vehicles, campers, or similar structures shall not qualify as Tiny Homes under this section.

SECTION 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and publication.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Mountain Lake, Minnesota this 17th day of February, 2026.

Mike Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Michael Mueller, City Administrator