

**City of Mountain Lake  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Mountain Lake City Hall – 930 Third Ave  
Monday, March 16, 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; Owen Todd & Jordan Albrecht City Engineer

Others Present: Deanna Anderson, Doug Regehr, Rachel Yoder

**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 # 29834-29866, 1741E-1758E

Payroll: Checks #69392 – 69429

Approve January 13 Library Board Minutes, Report & Expenditures

Approve February 17 EDA Board Minutes

Approve February 26 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve March 2 City Council Minutes

Hire Carolina Gonzalez, Library Assistant, effective 2/23/26, Step 1

**Public**

No comment

**Bolten & Menk**

Owen Todd and Jordan Albrecht of Bolten & Menk, City Engineers, addressed the City Council regarding the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. They explained that the City of Mountain Lake is applying to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (MPFA) for a loan and/or grant through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund to support the replacement of all lead and galvanized service lines within the community. The estimated MPFA-financed portion of the project is \$1,000,000, or the final as-bid cost of the project. The entire project would be paid by MPFA, no cost to the homeowner or the city.

Motion by Kruser, seconded by Jack to approve Resolution #3-26 Application for Lead Service Line Replacement Project. Motion carried 4 – 0.

### **Police**

Police Chief Louis Norell discussed staffing shortages resulting from Paid Family and Medical Leave, noting that this has made it difficult for other officers to schedule vacation time. Norell requested that LELS members be temporarily allowed to exceed their maximum vacation accrual without limitation during the year. This accommodation would expire at the end of the fiscal year on December 31, 2026. At that time, vacation accruals would be capped at 200 hours, with any excess hours required to be used or forfeited.

The City currently has a five-year contract with Axon for body cameras, which began in August 2024. The contract includes 2 TB of cloud storage, and the City is nearing that limit. Norell is exploring options to transition to an unlimited data plan, as well as pricing for a potential 10-year contract with Axon extending through April 2036.

Additionally, Axon offers a virtual reality (VR) training program that could be beneficial for officer training and for demonstrating real-life scenarios to the public during community events. The VR program would cost \$1,051.68 a year, with a total contract cost of \$3,943.80 over a 45-month term.

Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker to approve Chief Norell's requests to temporarily allow LELS members to exceed vacation accrual limits through December 31, 2026, to secure an Axon unlimited data plan and 10-year contract extension through April 2036, and to purchase Axon's virtual reality training program at a cost of \$3,943.80 over 45 months. Motion carried 4 – 0.

### **City Administrator**

The owner of Uncle's B's Liquor is selling to his son; they filled out an application for a new liquor and cigarette license. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Ysker to approve Uncle B's 2026 Liquor and Cigarette License. Motion carried 4 – 0.

City Council discussed building code violations in the community.

### **Roundtable**

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

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Michael Mueller, Administrator/Clerk