

**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 Bargen, 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 Bargen, 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 Bargen 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:

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Michael Mueller, Administrator/Clerk