



Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Lalone

b. Roll Call

Council members Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone

2. Approval of Minutes for City Council meeting December 15, 2025.

Attachments:

- **City Council Minutes December 15, 2025** (12-15-2025_City_Council_Minutes.pdf)

3. Public Hearing

4. Open Forum

(The City Council invites residents to share new ideas or concerns related to city business; however, individual questions and remarks are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. No City Council action will be taken, although the Council may refer issues to staff for follow up or consideration at a future meeting. The Mayor may use discretion if speakers are repeating views already expressed or ask for a spokesperson for groups of individuals with similar views. Speakers should state their name and home address at the podium before speaking.)

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

6. Consent Agenda

a. Payment of Claims \$696,458.37

b. Motion to approve final payment request to Levanen Underground LLC in the amount of \$3,875.37.

Attachments:

- **2026-01-07 Final Pay Est 2024 Parking Lot Improvement - Levanen Underground** (2026-01-07_Final_Pay_Est_2024_Parking_Lot_Improvement_-_Levanen_Underground.pdf)

c. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-001 accepting a donation to the City of Dassel from an Anonymous donor in the amount of \$5,000 for the Fire Department.

Attachments:

- **2026-001 Resolution Accepting Donation-FD \$5000** (2026-001_Resolution_Accepting_Donation-FD_5000.pdf)

d. Adopt Resolution 2026-002 Designation Official Newspaper & Financial

Institutions

There are 2 financial institutions that have been removed from the list which are First National Bank of Cokato and Kensington Bank.

Attachments:

- **2026-002 Resolution Designating Official Newspaper and Financial Institutions** (2026-002_Resolution_Designating_Official_Newspaper_and_Financial_Institutions.pdf)

e. Adopt Resolution 2026-003 Ratifying Mayoral Committee Appointments for 2026

Attachments:

- **2026-003 Resolution Appointing Committee Members** (2026-003_Resolution_Appointing_Committee_Members.pdf)

f. Motion to schedule the 2nd City Council meeting of 2026 on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Due to President's day on the 3rd Monday of February 2026. The City Council regular meeting needs to be rescheduled.

g. Adopt Resolution 2026-004 Assigning Citizen and Staff Committee Appointments for 2026

Attachments:

- **2026-004 Resolution Assigning Citizens and Staff Committee Appointments for 2026** (2026-004_Resolution_Assigning_Citizens_and_Staff_Committee_Appointments_for_2026.pdf)

h. Adopt Resolution 2026-005 Making Council Assignments for 2026

Attachments:

- **2026-005 Resolution Council Appointments** (2026-005_Resolution_Council_Appointments.pdf)

i. Adopt Resolution 2026-006 Allowing Wire/Automated Bank Payments & Authorizing Pre-Payment of Claims

Attachments:

- **2026-006 Resolution Allowing Wire Transfers & Pre Payment of Claims** (2026-006_Resolution_Allowing_Wire_Transfers_Pre_Payment_of_Claims.pdf)

j. Adopt Resolution 2026-007 Establishing and Approving Public Works Employees Annual Stipends

Attachments:

- **2026-007 Resolution Setting Public Works Employees Annual Stipends** (2026-007_Resolution_Setting_Public_Works_Employees_Annual_Stipends.pdf)

k. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-008 Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Trained Board Member Certification

The online Board of Appeal & Equalization Training is 45 minutes on the Department of Revenue website.

It is good to have multiple City Council members trained. The training closes on January 31, 2026, for the current year. Please give Renee Eckerly, City Administrator a copy of your certificate so she can forward it to the Meeker County Assessor.

Attachments:

- **2026-008 Resolution Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Trained Board Member Certification** (2026-008_Resolution_Local_Board_of_Appeal_Equalization_Trained_Board_Member_Certification.pdf)

l. Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-009 Appointing the City Assessor and City Building Official for 2026

Attachments:

- **2026-009 Resolution Appointing Assessor & Bldg Official** (2026-009_Resolution_Appointing_Assessor_Bldg_Official.pdf)

m. Motion to approve the City mileage rate of 72.5 cents per mile effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

In the past the City has used the IRS mileage rate. The IRS has set the 2026 mileage rate at 72.5 cents per mile. In 2025, the IRS mileage rate was .70 cents.

7. Council & Committee Reports

- a. Red Rooster Committee meeting, Thurs. Jan. 15, 2026 - Eckerly**

8. Staff Reports

- a. Museum Director**

Attachments:

- **Museum Directors report** (Museum_Directors_report.pdf)

- b. Liquor Store Manager**

Attachments:

- **Liquor Store Report - Dec 2025** (Liquor_Store_Report_-_Dec_2025.pdf)

- c. Fire Chief**

Attachments:

- **Fire Calls December 2025** (Fire_Calls_December_2025.pdf)

d. Public Works Director

Attachments:

- **Public Works Report January 2026** (Public_Works_Report_January_2026.pdf)

e. City Engineer

Report on the drain tile move/cost & the solar garden.

Consider Motion to acknowledge City Waiver still works at new location that was previously approved in November 2023.

Attachments:

- **11-19-25 Sound Pond Draintile Relocation Figure** (11-19-25_Sound_Pond_Draintile_Relocation_Figure.pdf)
- **11-19-25 South Pond Draintile Relocation - Prelim Estimate** (11-19-25_South_Pond_Draintile_Relocation_-_Prelim_Estimate.pdf)
- **ICE HOUSE SOLAR 2 LLC_SITE LAYOUT_v1.6** (ICE_HOUSE_SOLAR_2_LLC_SITE_LAYOUT_v1.6.pdf)
- **November 2023 Ice House Solar 2 Solar Setback Waiver Request for Dassel** (Ice_House_Solar_2_Solar_Setback_Waiver_Request_for_Dassel.pdf)

f. City Administrator

Attachments:

- **Monthly Report** (20260120_City_Administrator_Report.pdf)

g. City Attorney - not present

h. Sheriff's Department

Attachments:

- **Meeker Co Sheriffs Monthly Stats - December 2025** (Meeker_Co_Sheriffs_Monthly_Stats_-_December_2025.pdf)

9. Business Items

- a. Motion to rescind the December 15, 2025 action to approve a new liquor license and Sunday liquor application for Thirsty's Bar & Grill under GTown LLC Sara Cassidy for January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2027, pending background check by Meeker County Sheriffs.**

Motion to approve new liquor license and Sunday liquor application for Thirsty's Bar & Grill under GTown LLC Sara Cassidy for January 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026.

The MN Dept of Public Safety, Alcohol and Gambling only issued the license until the previous expiration date of September 30, 2026.

- b. Motion to approve the engagement letter for the 2025 audit with Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd. in the amount of \$10,850.00.**

Attachments:

- **12-26-25 Engagement Letter_encrypted_ Sent to Council 1-20-25** (12-26-25_Engagement_Letter_encrypted_Sent_to_Council_1-20-25.pdf)

- c. Discuss email from BNSF Railroad regarding replacement of surface at 3rd St S Crossing, cost \$40,000**

Alexis Jones, BNSF Railroad would like a response from the City at our earliest convenience and then a formal agreement would be generated.

Attachments:

- **1-15-26 Email from BNSF Regarding Replacement of Surface at 3rd St S Crossing** (1-15-26_Email_from_BNSF_Regarding_Replacement_of_Surface_at_3rd_St_S_Crossing.pdf)

- d. Review Code of Conduct - Annual Review**

The document was adopted January 21, 2025.

Attachments:

- **1-21-2025 Code of Conduct - SIGNED and Approved** (1-21-2025_Code_of_Conduct_-_SIGNED_and_Approved.pdf)

- e. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-010 Appointing Data Practices Compliance Official for 2026**

This is a new appointment for the City of Dassel but is required by State statute.

Attachments:

- **2026-010 Resolution Appointing Data Practices Compliance Official for 2026** (2026-010_Resolution_Appointing_Data_Practices_Compliance_Official_for_2026.pdf)

- f. Motion to approve Pay Equity Compliance Report**

Report will be distributed and added to the agenda prior to the meeting.

- g. Motion to approve the 2026 Final Budgets for Water, Sewer & Liquor Store Enterprises funds**

Report will be distributed and added to the agenda prior to the meeting.

- h. Update on RFP for Engineering/Architect firm for costs on designing new Fire**

Station

i. Resolution 2026-007 Establishing and Approving Public Works Employees Annual Stipends

10. Announcements / Dates to Remember

2026 Elected Leaders Institute Feb. 6-7, 2026, in Plymouth and Feb. 20-21, 2026, in Alexandria
NEED TO REGISTER AND BOOK HOTELS ASAP

2026 LMC City Day on the Hill - St Paul March 11
NEED TO REGISTER AND BOOK HOTELS ASAP

Charter Communication - Upcoming Change 1-12-2026
Xcel Energy Natural Gas Rate Increase Proposal for 2026 12-31-25

DAHS Annual Membership meeting, Tues. Jan. 27, 2026, 10:00 a.m. History Center
Fire Advisory Board Meeting, Wed. Jan. 28, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Dassel Fire Hall
Dassel Business Group, Feb. 2, 2026, noon City Hall
Precinct Caucus Feb. 3, 2026, No Meetings can be held this date
Dept Head meeting, Tues. Feb. 10, 2026, 7:00 a.m. at City Hall
Community Education meeting, TBD
Presidents Day, Feb. 16, 2026, City Hall closed
City Council meeting, Tues. Feb. 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
DAHS meeting, Tues. Feb. 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m. History Center
Joint Meeting with City of Cokato, ISD 466, and City of Dassel, Mon. Mar. 2, 2026, 5:30 pm. Dassel
Elementary School tour
Annual Audit, March 9-11, 2026

Attachments:

- **2026 LMC Elected Leaders Institute -Plymouth Feb 6-7 - Alex Feb 20-21** (2026_LMC_Elected_Leaders_Institute_-Plymouth_Feb_6-7_-_Alex_Feb_20-21.pdf)
- **2026 LMC City Day on the Hill - St Paul March 11** (2026_LMC_City_Day_on_the_Hill_-_St_Paul_March_11.pdf)
- **Charter Communication - Upcoming Change 1-12-2026** (Charter_Communication_-_Upcoming_Change_1-12-2026.pdf)
- **Xcel Energy Natural Gas Rate Increase Proposal for 2026 12-31-25** (Xcel_Energy_Natural_Gas_Rate_Increase_Proposal_for_2026_12-31-25.pdf)

11. Adjourn

The agenda packet with all background material is located at the side table for viewing by the public. The agenda is subject to change without notice. Information and materials relating to the above items are available for review at city hall by appointment.