



Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes  
City Hall ~ March 12, 2025 ~ 5:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Council Members Chris Schmit, Joe Benda, Michael Brunkhorst, Jeannine Nagel

**Absent:** Mayor Ernie Valenzuela

**Guests:** Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman, Jason Mandelkow, Todd Kieffer, McCrae Olson, Treyben Kehren, Nick Gravemann, Dave Kylo

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**Call to Order**

Acting Mayor Schmit called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Agenda**

No additions or deletion, only changes to the order of current agenda placing the Variance to the Zoning Ordinance first, Junk Violations second and Fire Department third. Agenda accepted as read.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the February 26, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.

Resolution 25-07 with conditions listed for the Variance for 203 and 215 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street apartments was reviewed by council and agreed to put on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Council discussed the current situation with the Nuisance/Junk Violations and how to proceed if the resident continues to be noncompliant even after receiving a citation. The council decided that documentation is key in continuing the violation process by sending a new violation each time it is not corrected, hoping that the County will see the multiple non-compliance violations and find a way to make them comply. The way we are doing this is correct. There may be some new legislation that involves a City's rights that may change soon for enforcing ordinance violations.

Council Member Brunkhorst shared that the main question the Fire Department had was, why did the City stop submitting invoices to the MBFTE for grant reimbursement as part of the process that was always done in the past. In the past the City was submitting them possibly because they had a full-time staff member to do it. The City is still paying for the training. The question is who should be doing that process of determining what is qualified for reimbursement and what needs to be paid by the City. Council Member Brunkhorst recommends that a member from the Joint Powers Board, Fire Truck Association Treasurer and Fire Chief should meet with City Staff and figure out what is the best way to get bills to the City that need to get paid. There were some bills not getting submitted or paid and incurring late fees. The Fire Department does not have a person dedicated to training and processing bills. The wording in the Joint Powers Agreement can be interpreted differently. The wording in question is under number **5. Labor and education** "Labor to operate the equipment" and shall be responsible for all training that may be required. And under **6. Accounting and Financial matters**, the Association Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for all financial matters. Council also discussed the wording under **4. A. Division of costs/purchase and maintenance of building**. The City is responsible for the first 22.5%. The City of Goodhue is not listed in section 4. B. It was discussed at the fire meeting dividing everything evenly within these divisions. This year the Fire Department is getting a new roof and the City's 22 ½% of that \$122,000 will be around \$27,000. It was also discussed that the City will be an equal share in this instead of just paying for the building and maintenance. The amount for the City would be their share, minus the cost of Workers Compensation that is paid by the City. The training portion has not been assessed yet. When the Fire Department purchased a new fire truck, the City of Goodhue paid nothing. The missing portion of the 22 ½% on the section 4. B. remains unknown to staff and council. If the City was an equal member of this agreement,

it would be easier for our City to budget. Nobody knows why the City wasn't originally an equal part in both sections of the agreement. This agreement needs to be made this year. Council also agreed that both entities need to look at this agreement every five years and reassess the agreement and percentages of cost distribution. **The City plans to continue to process the bills, but requests that there be a Fire Department/Executive Board Member or Treasurer; someone be a representative or liaison to the City to help facilitate the bill processing.** Council agreed to add this process to the consent agenda for the next meeting.

An Ad for Lifeguards and summer help will be posted in April. Pool Manager, Torrie Rehder, will be returning this year along with most of the lifeguards. Lifeguards will receive fifty cent increase from the prior year worked. Summer help increases will be handled the same. They will be mowing and other jobs as assigned. Summer help reports to the Public Works Director. Interviews will be in May for start date in June. An orientation will take place for summer employees.

Council discussed the request to revise a few fees on the Fee Schedule. First to change **Water Minimum/Base to Water minimum/Base/Per Unit Charge.** This correction explains how we are currently billing the service. It clarifies the number of charges on a bill for number of units provided with service. Council agreed to add this change to consent agenda.

There has not been a fee charge on the Fee schedule for the Lions City Gambling permit and City Dance Permit. They questioned the two-year City Gambling Permit for the Lions that ceased to happen after the last one found was dated 2017. Council will confirm if the Lions need an Alcohol license when meeting with them on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 prior to the council meeting. Council tabled the discussion to the next meeting.

Currently the EDA board is looking at working on a mission statement and what they want to accomplish. Some suggestions were to work on a tree program, facade project, frisbee golf, upgrading horseshoe pits and improvements to the shelter at Heritage Park.

Resolution 25-05 approving raffle application from the Jaycees for May 5, 2025, located at Heritage Park, was agreed to move to the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Council agreed to keep the fees the same for the Goodhue County Rental Agreement for use of space at City Hall and agreed to have Administrator Redepenning and Mayor Valenzuela visit with Goodhue County Sheriff's Office to establish an agreement.

At some point Goodhue will be getting a bond for the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District. The City must show an increase in the rates to put money away to pay for the new sanitary sewer facility for the next three years. Council requested staff to find out how much the other communities are increasing their rates over the next three years. The rate increase was tabled until the next meeting.

The 2025 Volksfest request was submitted. Request included road closures for the event and parade, fireworks permit, liquor licenses for Jaycee's and Goodhue Community Fund. Council confirmed placement of the beer tent for the Goodhue Community Fund and placed the event on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Public Works Director informed Council that well #1 repairs need to be done. I recommend going with Quality Flow so we can utilize the dialer on the other well since this new meter has its own dialer. Piping, meter, wiring and Scada system will all get upgraded. The sealcoat street project is for those streets that are still worth maintaining. There is also a quote for crack sealing. The alley behind the Habitat for Humanity needs to be blacktopped to maintain it. Various places on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue need to be fixed. A new house is going in on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and a homeowner on Broadway is building a garage. There are a lot of stumps that need grinding. Public Works can rent a grinder at \$1500 per week and we can do it ourselves. The lift station was fixed.

**Approval of Bills**

A motion was made to approve the bills by Brunkhorst, seconded by Benda, motion carried 4-0-0.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:17 p.m. by Council Member Benda, seconded by Brunkhorst 4-0-0.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk