

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
CITY OF ST MARY'S POINT
ST MARY'S DRIVE
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
January 6, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 pm

Roll Call for Attendance Councilmembers Williams, Grahek, Pierson, Freesmeier and Mayor Roettger

Others Presents: Attorney Sandstrom, Engineer Parotti, Clerk Reiter and Treasurer Pinski, Joe Dvorak, Beth Olfelt-Nelson, Jon Nelson, Robert Brooke, Don Jones, Fire Relief Assn (FRA) members: Kevin Malecek, Mike Cruz & Kevin Wall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said

SHERIFF REPORT 4 Medical and other minor items as presented by Mayor Roettger

ANIMAL CONTROL invoice only

FIRE DEPARTMENT Beth Olfelt-Nelson presented that she has been on the Fire Board as an appointee and asks that she not be appointed to the board due to time constraints. She does support the FRA increase presented tonight. She also spoke in support of resolving the department's challenges presented in the Fitch Study. She noted some great opportunities to meet in the future, especially the staffing issues. She referenced her time of living in the cities compared to the services of our local Fire Department. She noted administrative duties at the Fire Department need attention as well as operations. She asked the city to maintain the support. Mayor Roettger thanked her for her service and communication being the best the city has ever had. Kevin Wall also commented favorably of her time she gave to the department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob Brooke 16875 St Marys Dr has printed up some examples for park signs with 3 bullet points and hopes to use with the new lock and key program. He also spoke to his occupation and his work plans. He wants a date set for when the key/lock program starts. There was discussion by Council on key purchase and how to roll out. He hopes to hear of a date by next meeting.

Don Jones, Representing WA CO Historical Society, asks for donation in this fiscal year. It has been a few years since getting \$250 and hopes to get some this year. He spoke to what Heritage Society does with school. He also offered a donation of a part of the contribution.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PIERSON TO CONSIDER THE \$250 DONATION TO WASHINGTON CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY THIS FISCAL YEAR.

ROLL CALL: 5 AYES

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PIERSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. ROLL CALL: 5 AYES

TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer Pinski presented claims for approval with EFTs #3729-3740 and checks #7225-7241 and transfers of \$17,159 for a total: \$44,610.53

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER PIERSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS TO APPROVE AND PAY EFT 3729-3740, CKS 7225-7241 AND TRANSFERS OF \$17,159 FOR TOTAL OF \$44,610.53
ROLL CALL: 5 AYES**

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LSCV FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENIFIT INCREASE - Resolution 2026-01-1

Fra department member Mike Cruz noted Pancake Breakfast information and that there is no SMP resident is on the FD so is asking for recruits. FRA Treasurer Kevin Malechek explained the supporting documentation that allows for a benefit increase from \$5500 to \$5925 per year of service for retirement. The FRA closed 2025 at a 125.6% funding ratio. He responded to Councils questions on the funding ratio. Councilmember Williams notes this is not taxpayer money but that the city resolution guarantees the funding.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR ROETTGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-01-1 APPROVING BENEFIT INCREASE TO \$5,925. ROLL CALL: 5 AYES

Councilmember Freesmeier and the Council thanked the Fire Department Representative.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING DATE SCHEDULE

Clerk Reiter explained changes in typical dates for either elections or holidays. Councilmember Williams asked about swearing in date, as the January meeting in 2027 is not until the 5th . Per the Attorney you can be sworn in before the meeting in January.

Planning Commission meeting change date to 12/14/26 as liaison Freesmeier feels the 21st is too close to the Christmas holiday and note that fire department meeting is at 6pm

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER FREESMEIER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILEMEMBER WILLIAMS TO APPROVE MEETING DATES WITH CHANGES. ROLL CALL: 5 AYES

2026 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS (2025 LIST PROVIDED FOR REVIEW)

Remove Beth Olfelt-Nelson from Fire Dept. and add Jay Roettger as regular appointee and Tom Grahek as alternate. The mayor will look for others interested in serving on the Planning Commission.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER FREESMEIER AND SECONDED BY MAYOR ROETTGER TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS. ROLL CALL: 5 AYES

2026 FEE SCHEDULE

Per Engineer Parotti the ROW permit fee fits pretty well. Discussion on escrow in the Riverway –perhaps doubling escrow in Riverway. The Clerk gave examples of the current and previous zoning expenses that needed to be collected.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR ROETTGER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PIERSON TO APPROVE FEE SCHEDULE AND THE CHANGES MADE WITH DOUBLE ESCROW IN RIVERWAY. ROLL CALL: 5 AYES

Joe Devorak stated that he would rather have higher escrow given his bill.

Old Business: NOTHING

STAFF REPORTS

City Engineer: John Parotti

He provided that he sent comment to Valley Branch Watershed that isolated SMP and LSCB area and also that he addressed last month's report and spoke to chloride as addressed at last meeting. The permit application has little or no changes. He reminded Council if they have comments by January 23rd they can submit comments direct, or to John or Clerk. He noted that there has been no response from WA CO regarding grant for Quebec.

The River is at 675.9

Building inspector, Stensland Inspection

No December permits

CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Sandstrom provided info on new council members to take affect 1st Monday in January. Also reminded Council of OML and Data Practice issues of "Reply All" also use City provided or separate emails. He continues to search railroads for the property on Upper 23rd.

CITY CLERK-CINDIE J. REITER reported on the following:

- CenturyLink – Request for actual check expected check to be received by mid-December, not yet received
- Animal Impound is fully converted to the Companion Animal Care & Control Facility Oakdale MN for all contracted cities in WA County now use this facility for impound.
- Recycle Coordinator meeting attended/County Admin meeting attended & toured new shelter (Food Scraps up to 13% of county, 20K pumpkins collected, 70k mattresses collected, and I am asking any interest/opportunity for mattress collection event at clean-up day? Council indicated that the city should check into this option.
- Visited the WA County housing shelter - noting that it is very functional and calming. Also noted there is a locked area of cage like bins for all personal items of the residents.
- Possible tear-down/rebuild on hold for updated septic info – still waiting on info and expects to hear in spring.
- Elections for 2026 – Primary Tuesday August 11 and Tuesday November 3rd
- Disturbance of new sod at ROW Permit location. The snowplow displaced newly laid sod – ROW Permits require the ROW be restored for disturbance.
(Mayor asked John about sod being in ROW question as to snowplow damage, a little more of a problem and don't want to set a precedence) The clerk noted this resident owes city money for the balances of expenses on the zoning application, this will be something to work out this spring.
- Out of office for time share week of 1/12/26
- Approximately \$9,500 invoiced to zoning and/or other projects for contracted services reimbursement
- Inquired if STS-possibly paint interior of City Hall before elections - Council approved STS to paint a white color (alabaster) under Clerk's direction before the election.

Standing Committee – updates

Fire District –Williams provided that the insurance claims for electric and septic are still being worked on.

Cable Commission Williams: nothing

Planning Freesmeier: nothing

WMO- Grahek-nothing

VALLEY BRANCH: Pierson, nothing

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Gary Williams spoke to Flock camera data privacy, \$ leave policy – 13K applicants 80% approved

Joe Freesmeier spoke to key program, 25 keys plus 10 spares, cost of key plus \$10 charged to residents - Clerk to put key on fee schedule at next meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER FREESMEIER AND SECONDED BY MAYOR ROETTGER FOR CLERK TO PURCHASE 25 KEYS (WITH SURPLUS OF 10) WITH BRASS LOCK THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS PURCHASE PLUS ADMINISTRATION COST OF \$10.

Discussion: \$35 per key cut off cost.

ROLL CALL: 5 AYES

Joe Freesmeier proposes a sign - see the sample of note provided about signage.

Gary Williams feels that The MN Paid Leave cost of \$.66/\$100 of payroll be absorbed by City – place on February agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR ROETTGER TO CONTRIBUTE TO WASHINGTON CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY \$250 WITH DON JONES TO MATCH \$125.

ROLL CALL: 5 AYES

Meeting adjourned at 8:38


Cindie J. Reiter, City Clerk




Jay Roettger, Mayor