BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2025

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Ladd led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER. 2.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine City council met in Regular Session on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the council chambers of City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. Mayor Ladd called the meeting to order with Councilmembers Luke Otto, James Evans, Brady Hartmann and Rex Stacey present.

Also present were City Administrator Meyer, Community Development Director Smith Strack, Public Works Superintendent Otto, City Attorney Vose, City Engineer Duncan, Fire Chief Otto, Ambulance Director Burton, Police Chief Stier and Police Sergeant Vycital. Wanda Savage served as the video recording operator.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Mayor Ladd added Resolution 25-159 Approving Premise Permit for German Days Inc. at Steel Horse Tavern to the Consent Agenda.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Stacey, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Resolution 25-159. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. PUBLIC FORUM.

Anyone wishing to address the Council must sign up before the meeting and then have a seat in the audience. The signup sheet is removed 5 minutes before the start of the meeting. Maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. No official action will be taken.

Rachel Miller, Henderson Independent, 507 Main Street spoke about disparaging comments made by a Councilmember about her reporting on the Concerned Citizens Facebook Page and clarified newspaper deadline.

Tracy Hein, 315 S. Cedar St., inquired if the budget was passed.

Chris Lenz, 977 Farmers Ridge Trail, stated increases are not sustainable and the town has a spending problem.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1. Truth in Taxation Minutes of December 1, 2025.
5.2. Regular Session Minutes of December 1, 2025.
5.3. Work Session Minutes of December 1, 2025.
5.4. Resolution 25-147 Accepting a $2,000.00 Grant from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Foundation for the 2026 Hooks, Lines and Heroes Fishing Derby.
5.5. Resolution 25-148 Accept $4,000.00 Grant from Compeer Financial for the Belle Plaine Ambulance for Emergency Response Equipment.
5.6. Resolution 25-149 Accept $1,000.00 Donation from Chevy Drive Event for the Belle Plaine Police Department.
5.7. Resolution 25-150 Appointing Rick Krant as a Regular Member of the Economic Development Authority.
5.8. Resolution 25-151 Appointing Brian Romness and Genise Aretz as a Member of the Design Committee.

5.9. Resolution 25-152 Appointing Sheila Schmitz, Brian Romness and Jim Eggers as Regular Members and Appointing Antionette Walsh as Alternate of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
5.10. Resolution 25-153 Appointing Antionette Walsh as Members of the Parks Commission.
5.11. Resolution 25-154 Resolution Approving Terms of a ROSE Program Loan to Pankonin Enterprises LLC, 106 Main Street East.
5.12. Resolution 25-157 Accept a $1,000.00 Donation from Scott County Agricultural Society for the Belle Plaine Fire Department.

MOTION by Councilmember Otto, second by Councilmember Hartmann, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: 5.1. Truth in Taxation Minutes of December 1, 2025; 5.2. Regular Session Minutes of December 1, 2025; 5.3. Work Session Minutes of December 1, 2025; 5.4. Resolution 25-147 Accepting a $2,000.00 Grant from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Foundation for the 2026 Hooks, Lines and Heroes Fishing Derby; 5.5. Resolution 25-148 Accept $4,000.00 Grant from Compeer Financial for the Belle Plaine Ambulance for Emergency Response Equipment; 5.6. Resolution 25-149 Accept $1,000.00 Donation from Chevy Drive Event for the Belle Plaine Police Department; 5.7. Resolution 25-150 Appointing Rick Krant as a Regular Member of the Economic Development Authority; 5.8. Resolution 25-151 Appointing Brian Romness and Genise Aretz as a Member of the Design Committee; 5.9. Resolution 25-152 Appointing Sheila Schmitz, Brian Romness and Jim Eggers as Regular Members and Appointing Antionette Walsh as Alternate of the Planning and Zoning Commission; 5.10. Resolution 25-153 Appointing Antionette Walsh as Members of the Parks Commission; 5.11. Resolution 25-154 Resolution Approving Terms of a ROSE Program Loan to Pankonin Enterprises LLC, 106 Main Street East and 5.12. Resolution 25-157 Accept a $1,000.00 Donation from Scott County Agricultural Society for the Belle Plaine Fire Department. Councilmembers Otto, Hartmann, Ladd and Stacey. Councilmember Evans ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.
6.1. Community Services Department. (Report Only)

Community Services Director Koller was not present. The Council acknowledged the Community Services report.

6.2. Ambulance Department. (Report Only)

Ambulance Director Burton was not present. The Council acknowledged the Ambulance Report.

6.3. Police Department.

Police Chief Stier highlighted the Police Report.

6.4. Fire Department.

Fire Chief Otto highlighted the Fire Department Report.

6.5. Community Development Department.

Community Development Director Smith Strack highlighted the Community Development Report.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

8. BUSINESS.
8.1. Presentation of Claims.
8.1.1. Pay Request No. 12 (Final), Project One Construction, Inc. for the Fire Station Addition and Renovation.

MOTION by Councilmember Hartmann, second by Councilmember Stacey, to approve the reviewed claims as presented in the amount of $364,546.07. Councilmembers Hartmann, Stacey, Evans and Otto VOTED AYE. Councilmember Ladd VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED 4-1.

8.2. Resolution 25-155 Resolution Approving and Authorizing Execution Communications Site Lease Agreement with Ridgeview Medical Center.

Community Development Director Smith Strack highlighted the lease agreement.

MOTION by Councilmember Hartmann, second by Councilmember Otto, to approve Resolution 25-155 Resolution Approving and Authorizing Execution Communication Site Lease Agreement with Ridgeview Medical Center. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.3. Resolution 25-158 Approving Increase to PERA for the Fire Department.

City Administrator Meyer reviewed the process for the request from the Fire Department.

MOTION by Councilmember Hartmann, second by Councilmember Evans, to approve Resolution 25-158 Approving Increase to PERA for the Fire Department. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.4. Ordinance 25-20, Amend Fee Schedule. The City Council will consider proposed Ordinance 25-20, amending Section 108.00 of the City Code by emending the City's fee schedule. Proposed changes include, but not limited to: water and sewer utility, street lights and administrative fees.

City Administrator Meyer reviewed the ordinance and options for adoption.

Clarification questions were asked and answered.

8.4.1. Adopt Ordinance 25-20, amending Section 108.00 of the City Code by amending the City's fee schedule.

MOTION by Councilmember Otto, second by Councilmember Evans, to Adopt Ordinance 25-20, amending Section 108.00 of the City Code by amending the City's fee schedule. Councilmembers Otto, Evans, Stacey and Hartmann. Councilmember Ladd voted NAY. MOTION CARRIED 4-1.

8.4.2. Resolution 25-143 authorizing summary publication of Ordinance 25-20.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Stacey, to approve Resolution 25-143 authorizing summary publication of Ordinance 25-20. Councilmembers Evans, Stacey, Otto and Hartmann VOTED AYE. Councilmember Ladd voted NAY. MOTION CARRIED 4-1.

8.5. *Motion to reconsider* Resolution 25-146 Adopting the Final Tax Levy Collectable in 2026 and the 2026 Final Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

Mayor Ladd read a statement of his opinion of the budget process.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd, second by Councilmember Otto, to DENY Resolution 25-146 Adopting the Final Tax Levy Collectable in 2026 and the 2026 Final Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. Councilmembers Ladd and Otto VOTED AYE. Councilmember Hartmann, Evans and Stacey VOTED NAY. MOTION FAILED 2-3.

Councilmember Stacey gave a statement on his opinion of the budget process.

Mayor Ladd allowed resident Dale Loudermilk to speak on the need for an industrial park over beautification of the town.

Councilmember Evans read a statement of his opinion on the budget. Evans made a motion to reconsider Resolution 25-146 and a motion to approve Resolution 25-146 with further work in January for further cuts to the budget.

Councilmember Hartmann spoke on the budget and a process forward.

MOTION by Councilmember Evans, second by Councilmember Hartmann, to reconsider Resolution 25-146 and a MOTION to Approved Resolution 25-146. Councilmembers Evans, Hartmann and Stacey VOTED AYE. Councilmembers Otto and Ladd VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED 3-2.

8.6. Resolution 25-156 Approving City Employee Wages and Salaries for 2026.

MOTION by Councilmember Stacey, second by Councilmember Hartmann, to approve Resolution 25-156 Approving City Employee Wages and Salaries for 2026. Councilmembers Stacey, Hartmann and Evans VOTED AYE. Councilmembers Ladd and Otto VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED 3-2.

Mayor Ladd requested a consensus to add the Budget Work Sessions and minutes to the website. It was the consensus of the Council.

9. ADMINISTRATION.
9.1. Upcoming Tentative Meetings.

1. Library Addition Ribbon Cutting, Monday, December 22, 2:00 PM.
2. City Offices Closed at 12:00 PM in Observance of the Holiday, Wednesday, December 24.
3. City Offices Closed in Observance of the Holiday, Thursday, December 25.
4. City Offices Closed at 12:00 PM in Observance of the Holiday, Wednesday, December 31.
5. City Offices Closed in Observance of the Holiday, Friday, January 1.
6. Design, Monday, January 5, 5:00 PM
7. City Council, Monday, January 5, 6:00 PM
8. Work Session, Monday, January 5, 6:15 PM

Mayor Ladd reviewed the upcoming tentative meetings as listed.

10. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Councilmember Otto, second by Councilmember Hartmann, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Eyrich
Recording Secretary