

**BELLE PLAINE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026**

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, January 5, 2026 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, City Attorney Vose, City Engineer Duncan, Assistant Public Works Superintendent Meyenburg, and Police Sergeant Vycital. Wanda Savage served as the video recording operator.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Mayor Ladd moved Consent Agenda items 5.2. and 5.5. to the Business portion of the meeting.

MOTION by Councilmember Ladd, second by Councilmember Stacey, to approve the Agenda as with the changes. 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.*

Mark Keegan, 204 S. Elk Street, spoke regarding high taxes and his concerns of businesses closing, the new school, proposed budget, staff comments and Council conduct. Keegan stated he is pursuing a State Audit of the City and is in need of 400 signatures.

Mayor Ladd requested if anyone else would like to speak.

Tracy Hein, 315 S. Cedar Street, spoke with concern of the Council and staff working together, spoke on each councilmember, on city staff not living in town, that the school is not necessary and that the city cannot afford a police station.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1. Regular Session Minutes of December 15, 2025.

~~5.2. Resolution 26-001 Adopting Professional Appointments.~~

5.3. Resolution 26-002 Adopting Committee Appointments.

5.4. Resolution 26-003 Approving Retiree Monthly Insurance Benefit.

~~5.5. Resolution 26-004 Declaring the Official Intent of the City of Belle Plaine to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Bonds to be Issued by the City.~~

5.6. Resolution 26-005 Appointing Cynthia Smith Strack as Temporary Acting City Administrator.

5.7. Accepting Letter of Resignation from Clinton Herrmann, Firefighter with the Belle Plaine Fire Department, Effective January 1, 2026.

5.8. Resolution 26-006 Approving PERA Increase for the Fire Department.

5.9. Resolution 26-007 Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the City of Belle Plaine on Behalf of its City Attorney and Police Department.

MOTION by Councilmember Stacey, second by Councilmember Ladd, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: 5.1. Regular Session Minutes of December 15, 2025; 5.3. Resolution 26-002 Adopting Committee Appointments; 5.4. Resolution 26-003 Approving Retiree Monthly Insurance Benefit; 5.6. Resolution 26-005 Appointing Cynthia Smith Strack as Temporary Acting City Administrator; 5.7. Accepting Letter of Resignation from Clinton Herrmann, Firefighter with the Belle Plaine Fire Department, Effective January 1, 2026; 5.8. Resolution 26-006 Approving PERA Increase for the Fire Department and 5.9. Resolution 26-007 Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the City of Belle Plaine on Behalf of its City Attorney and Police Department. Councilmembers Stacey, Ladd and Otto VOTED AYE. Councilmembers Evans and Hartmann VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED 3-2.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

6.1. Public Works Department.

Assistant Public Works Superintendent Meyenburg highlighted the Public Works Report.

6.2. City Engineer Department.

City Engineer Duncan highlighted the Engineer Report.

6.3. Administration Department.

City Administrator Meyer highlighted the Administration Report.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None Scheduled.

8. BUSINESS.

8.1. Presentation of Claims.

8.1.1. Pay Request No. 8, Wm. Mueller & Sons, Inc. for the 2025 Street Improvement Project.

MOTION by Councilmember Otto, second by Councilmember Stacey, to approve the reviewed claims in the amount of \$3,099,359.64. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

8.2. Resolution 26-001 Adopting Professional Appointments.

Mayor Ladd asked clarifying questions.

MOTION by Councilmember Stacey, second by Councilmember Evans, to approve Resolution 26-001 Adopting Professional Appointments. Councilmembers Stacey, Evans and Hartmann VOTED AYE. Councilmember Ladd and Otto VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED 3-2.

8.3. Resolution 26-004 Declaring the Official Intent of the City of Belle Plaine to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Bonds to be Issued by the City.

Mayor Ladd asked a clarifying question.

MOTION by Councilmember Stacey, second by Councilmember Evans, to approve Resolution 26-004 Declaring the Official Intent of the City of Belle Plaine to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Bonds to be Issued by the City. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

9. ADMINISTRATION.

9.1. Upcoming Tentative Meetings.

1. EDA, 5:00 PM, Monday, January 12.
2. Planning, 6:00 PM, Monday, January 12.
3. Public Safety, 7:00 AM, Tuesday, January 13.

4. Public Works, 7:00 AM, Wednesday, January 14.
5. City Offices Closed in Observance of the Holiday, Monday, January 19.
6. Parks Commission, 5:00 PM, Tuesday, January 20.
7. City Council, 6:00 PM, Tuesday, January 20.
8. Work Session, 6:15 PM, Tuesday, January 20.

Mayor Ladd reviewed the upcoming meetings as listed.

10. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Councilmembers Stacey, second by Councilmember Otto, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Eyrich
Recording Secretary