

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL
January 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Oakdale was held on January 13, 2026 at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Zabel at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Mayor Kevin Zabel

Council Members: Kari Moore
Andy Morcomb
Gary Severson
Katie Wrich

Staff Present: Christina Volkers, City Administrator
Sara Ludwig, City Clerk
Jim Thomson, City Attorney
Jake Foster, Assistant City Administrator
Andy Gitzlaff, Community Development Director
Ryan Stuart, Police Sergeant
Lori Pulkrabek, Communications Manager
Ivan Stepanov, Finance Director
Cory Tietz, Public Works Director
Kevin Wold, Fire Chief

PRESENTATION OF COLORS / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cub Scout Pack 580 conducted a Presentation of Colors flag ceremony and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

a) **Cub Scout Pack 580**

Mayor Zabel recognized Cub Scout Pack 580 and each made an introduction with their name and scout rank. Each scout member was presented with a City lapel pin.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MOORE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026.

5 AYES

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Workshop, December 9, 2025
Regular Meeting, December 9, 2025

Special Workshop, December 22, 2025

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WRICH TO APPROVE THE WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2025.

5 AYES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MOORE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2025.

5 AYES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WRICH TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 22, 2025.

5 AYES

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a) Request for New Secondhand Goods Dealer License for Shorties Appliances and More, LLC

Mayor Zabel opened the public hearing and welcomed comments from the audience. No comments were heard. Mayor Zabel closed the public hearing.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MOORE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF A SECONDHAND GOODS DEALER LICENSE TO SHORTIES APPLIANCES AND MORE, LLC DBA SHORTIES APPLIANCES AT 6922 55TH STREET NORTH.

5 AYES

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zabel invited comments from the audience. No comments were heard.

CONSENSUS MOTIONS

- a) Request that the City Council approve the Group 8 Fire Department Lexipol policies as presented.
- b) Request that the City Council designate the St. Paul Pioneer Press as the official newspaper for the City of Oakdale for calendar year 2026.
- c) Request per City of Oakdale Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article IV, Sec.2-36 (c) and per City Personnel Policy PE-031, Section 5.0, that the City Council appoint Anthony Wessel as a half-time probationary Community Service Officer effective on or after January 14, 2026, at a rate of pay consistent with the City base pay schedule conditioned on passing all background requirements.
- d) Request that the City Council waive reading and adopt Resolution 2026-02, Delegating Authority to Make Electronic Fund Transfers.
- e) Request that the City Council waive reading and adopt Resolution 2026-03, Designating Official Depositories and Investment Brokerages for the City of Oakdale for Calendar Year 2026.

- f) Request that the City Council approve the City of Oakdale 2026 Legislative Priorities as outlined in the attached document.
- g) Request that the City Council waive reading and adopt Resolution 2026-04, a Resolution of Support for the Designation of County State Aid Highway 27 in the City of Oakdale.
- h) Request that the City Council table the Conditional Use Permit application for 7684 Stillwater Way North until February 10, 2026.
- i) ~~Request that the City Council authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to enter into an agreement for final design and construction administration services between the City of Oakdale and LHB, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$274,000 for City Projects P2026-01 (Tanners Lake Park), P2026-02 (Tower Park), and P2026-05 (Golfview Park).~~

~~Request that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to approve amendments, such as term extensions, to the contract with LHB, Inc. for City Projects P2026-01 (Tanners Lake Park), P2026-02 (Tower Park), and P2026-05 (Golfview Park), provided that they do not exceed the contract dollar amount.~~

~~Request that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to approve individual change orders and purchase orders up to \$100,000 for City Projects P2026-01 (Tanners Lake Park), P2026-02 (Tower Park), and P2026-05 (Golfview Park), provided that they are within the approved CIP budget.~~

- j) Request that the City Council amend City Policy FR-010: Public Improvement Project Financing.
- k) Request that the City Council waive reading and adopt Resolution 2026-05, Municipal State Aid (MSA) Advance Request.
- l) ~~Request that the City Council waive reading and adopt Resolution 2026-06, Authorizing the Creation of Restricted TIF Fund (540) and Authorizing Ongoing Interfund Transfers between the Special Projects Funds and Special Projects Restricted TIF Fund.~~
- m) Request that the City Council appoint Michelle Rietgraf to the Tree Board to fill a vacancy for the period of January 14, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON TO APPROVE CONSENSUS MOTIONS A-H, J, K, AND M, AS PRESENTED.

5 AYES

ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- a) Acting Mayor Designation and Board and Commission Assignments for 2026

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WRICH TO AFFIRM THE 2026 APPOINTMENTS FOR COUNCIL LIAISONS AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS, AND DESIGNATE COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB AS ACTING MAYOR FOR 2026, AS NOTED ON THE ATTACHED.

Environmental Management Commission (no meeting, Council Liaison Zabel)

Planning Commission (met on 1/8/26, Council Liaison Severson)

Council Member Severson reported that the Planning Commission reviewed their 2026 Work Plan, elected a Chair and Vice Chair for 2026, held a public hearing for Zoning Ordinance amendments, and approved a site plan amendment for the Oakdale City Hall and Police Department Expansion and Renovation project.

Parks and Recreation Commission (no meeting, Council Liaison Morcomb)

Tree Board (no meeting, Council Liaison Moore)

AWARD OF BIDS

None

STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

a) **Donation to the City – Recreation, from Oakdale Residents John and Cathy Spencer**

Public Works Director Cory Tietz explained that Oakdale residents John and Cathy Spencer donated \$500 to fund giveaways for the 2025 Winter Wonderland event at the Discovery Center. The funds were used to purchase high-quality sleds which were given to children during the event.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MOORE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON TO WAIVE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-01, ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM JOHN AND CATHY SPENCER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500, TO FUND GIVEAWAYS AT THE 2025 WINTER WONDERLAND EVENT.

5 AYES

CITY ATTORNEY

No report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

a) **Updating the City's Unclaimed Property Governing Documents**

Ms. Volkers noted that the item up for approval seeks to align City policies and ordinances with State law, and expands the City's authority to allow auction or disposal of unclaimed property in certain situations.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB TO WAIVE READING AND ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 958, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF OAKDALE, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 6 – “CUSTODY AND DISPOSAL OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY”, TO FOLLOW THE PROCESS OUTLINED IN STATE LAW.

5 AYES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WRICH TO AMEND CITY POLICY FR-015: UNCLAIMED PROPERTY, AND RENAME AS FR-015: UNCLAIMED PROPERTY – UNCASHED CHECKS.

5 AYES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB TO ADOPT NEW CITY POLICY FR-015A: UNCLAIMED PROPERTY – ALL OTHERS.

5 AYES

COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Council Member Morcomb noted the presence of scout members in the audience working on a merit badge that requires observing public discourse and disagreement. He explained that while some City Council meetings move quickly due to consensus among the members, more in-depth discussion and debate typically occurs during earlier Workshop meetings, which are open to the public. These Workshop meetings take place every second and fourth Tuesday at 5 PM in the Hadley Conference Room.

Council Member Wrich thanked all the scout members that came out tonight. Council Member Moore echoed this sentiment.

Council Member Moore expressed sadness, anger, and heartbreak over troubling events affecting the community, particularly related to immigration issues. She emphasized that community members are not alone and that she is available to listen, help, and provide support to anyone impacted.

Council Member Moore also expressed appreciation for how her colleagues and staff worked collaboratively to explore possible solutions for an issue that was brought to her attention by a resident early last year.

Mayor Zabel made announcements about the following:

- For the first City Council meeting of 2026, and on behalf of the City, we wish you health, happiness, and success in the new year!
- As of today, Tuesday, January 13th, all City of Oakdale outdoor skating rinks and warming houses are closed until further notice due to poor ice conditions created by recent weather. An update will be provided when conditions improve, and rinks are safe for public use. That update will be available at www.oakdalemn.gov and on the City's social media.
- The Oakdale Indoor Market is open on Saturday, January 24th from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Discovery Center.
- Public Works is still disposing of natural Christmas trees for residents through January 30th. The disposal cost is just \$3 per tree. Drop off hours are Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 3:30 PM at 1900 Hadley Avenue N.
- City offices and facilities will be closed on Monday, January 19th, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Final touches on the new Public Works facility (located at 3200 Granada Avenue N) are underway. The expected move in date is March 2026 with a tentative grand opening slated for Spring. More information will be provided when details are finalized. To stay up to date on the project and sign up to receive updates, visit the project webpage at www.oakdalemn.gov.

CLAIMS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MOORE TO APPROVE CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 10, 2025 TO DECEMBER 23, 2025 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,252,848.95.

5 AYES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MORCOMB, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON TO APPROVE CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 24, 2025 TO JANUARY 13, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,793,072.80.

5 AYES

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MOORE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEVERSON TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026, AT 7:20 PM.

5 AYES

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Ludwig, City Clerk