

**MINUTES**  
**Lake Crystal City Council**  
**Monday, March 16, 2026, 7:30 pm**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**100 E. Robinson St.**

Mayor Todd Wiens called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Members present: Councilors Brett Hanson, Gina Cooper, Michael Windsperger, and Jennifer Bierma.

Staff members present: Tonia Turner, Administrative Assistant; Police Chief Robert Prescher

Others present: None

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Wiens opened the Ordinance 2026-03 Vacating a Public Right of Way hearing at 7:31 PM. The hearing closed at 7:33 PM.

Mayor Wiens opened the regular meeting of the City Council at 7:33 PM.

**Staff Reports**

Fire Department:

Mayor Wiens reported that he spoke to Chief Paul about the fire training at the school on March 14, 2026. He said everything went well, and many people attended.

Police Department Update:

Chief Prescher reported that the team completed the cold-weather firearms qualification. They will conduct radar calibrations on March 12th. On March 13th, officers will work at the school to participate in reunification training. Chief Prescher also mentioned that Marco will come to install the new computer at the Police Station on March 13, 2026. Additionally, they discussed the processes for future ordinances related to violations. Chief Prescher stated that the storm had left only one vehicle on the street, and someone had moved it.

Street & Maintenance: No Report

Parks Department Update:

Beth prepared for Arbor Day and compared prices for plant materials at the rain gardens at the Boat Landing. She worked with the Administrative Staff to stuff envelopes for the Utility Department and assisted the Streets Department with routine maintenance to keep city equipment in good shape. Additionally, Beth completed and implemented a Near Miss Report for the city departments to enhance workplace safety. Beth shared her experience at the Southern Minnesota Lakes Convention, highlighting the opportunity to learn and network. She also mentioned her meeting with Councilor Bierma to discuss updates to the website materials regarding Lake Crystal Parks amenities. Beth also reported that we will be celebrating Earth Day on April 22, 2026. There was also some discussion about creating a skating rink in the coming years.

City Administrator Update

Administrator Grafstrom reported that the PUC has been very busy with major projects in all three departments. For the electric department, she is working with BENCO and RESA to schedule the removal of the transformer with minimal disruption to the public. Additionally, she is working with DGR and the DNR to confirm the new park location to offset the land that will be used for the new

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substation in Jones Park. Grafstrom has also been busy working on providing Bolton-Menk with information needed for the PSIG grant for the Wastewater Regionalization Project. Bolton & Menk indicated that we are within the funding range for the PSIG grant. As part of this project, the city needs to clean up the property boundaries in the project area and we have had emails and meetings with the property owners as we get a quiet title drafted. Superintendent Hutchens and Administrator Grafstrom were interviewed by the Free Press since we applied for a bonding bill for the regionalization. The article appeared in The Free Press on February 27, 2026. The water department plans to seal well #2, and they will install a new pump and fittings in well #4. The PUC will hold a work session on the Empowering Small MN Communities Grant in April.

**Consent Agenda** *(The following agenda items are considered to be non-controversial and routine innature. They will be handled with one motion of the City Council. Councilors may request that specific items be removed from the Consent Agenda and be acted upon separately)*

1. Minutes March 02, 2026, Regular Meeting of the City Council
2. Payment of bills totaling \$831,519.68
  - reviewed by Councilor Cooper and Councilor Hanson prior to the meeting.
3. Approve 2024 CSAH 20/RR Utility Crossing Pay Request 3 \$ 63,447.20 (final)

**Motion made by Councilor Hanson to approve consent items 1 through 3**, motion seconded by Councilor Cooper and carried unanimously.

**Action Items**

Ordinance 2026-03 Vacating an Unbuilt Public Right-of-Way (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

The Council reviewed an ordinance that vacates an unbuilt public right-of-way in Robinson's Addition No. 4, located within the City of Lake Crystal, MN.

The council did the first reading of Ordinance 2026-03.

**Motion made by Councilor Cooper to approve Ordinance 2026-03** Vacating an Unbuilt Public Right-of-Way

Approve LJP Garbage Contract

The Council reviewed the LJP contract. LJP has agreed to a 3% annual increase and a 5-year term. Grafstrom reported on her discussion and letter from the county regarding the Blue Earth County potential landfill rate increases.

**Motion made by Councilor Hanson to approve the 5-year contract with LJP beginning July 1, 2026 and running through June 30, 2031.** motion seconded by Councilor Bierma and carried unanimously.

Approve PPE Policy

The city reviewed the PPE Policy which clarifies what PPE is required by each department and will be provided by the city to meet OSHA requirements.

**Motion made by Councilor Windsperger to approve the new PPE Policy effective upon approval,** motion seconded by Councilor Bierma, and carried unanimously.

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Approve Seasonal Hires:

The Council discussed hiring Nolan Nasse at a rate of \$17.21 per hour with a start date of May 4, and Charles Gengler 17.21 per hour with a start date of June 1.

***Motion made by Councilor Cooper to approve hiring Nolan Nasse with a start date of May 4, 2026 and Charles Gengler with a start date of June 1, 2026 as seasonal employees for summer 2026, both at the rate of \$17.21 per hour, motion seconded by Councilor Hanson and carried unanimously.***

**Information/Discussion Items**

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Monday, April 6, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Thursday, April 9, 2026, following Regular Meeting PUC Work Session on Local Energy Plan
- Wednesday, April 22, 2026, Earth Day
- Friday, April 24, 2026, Arbor Day Celebration
- Tuesday, April 28, 2026, Board of Appeal and Equalization, 9:00 am
- Monday, June 15, 2026, Audit Presentation for the Council and PUC

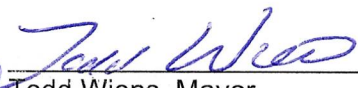
**Council Comments and Observations**

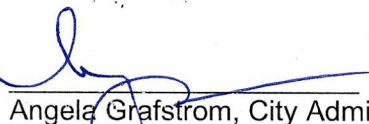
Councilor Cooper wanted to thank the Fire Department for keeping the public informed by posting information online.

**Adjournment:**

***There being no further business of the Lake Crystal City Council, Councilor Hanson motioned to adjourn the regular meeting of Monday, March 16, 2026, motion seconded by Councilor Windsperger and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.***

Minutes prepared by: Tonia Turner

  
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Todd Wiens, Mayor

  
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Angela Grafstrom, City Administrator