

**MINUTES**  
**Lake Crystal City Council**  
**Monday, May 4, 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: City Administrator, Angela Grafstrom; Kenzie Doering, Administrative Assistant; Finance Director, Megan Kurkowski; and Dean Tibbetts, Street Department

Others present: Dave Calson, Tim Smith, Dale Schmidt, and Elizabeth Blonigan

**Staff Reports**

Police Department Update: Reported that in April, information was shared on Facebook regarding recent burglaries, attempted burglaries, and suspicious activity involving individuals casing local businesses. The posts were well received by the public and resulted in increased engagement and growth of the department's social media presence. This outreach helps promote community awareness, encourages residents to secure their properties, and supports overall crime prevention efforts. Following the April 13 hailstorm, the department assisted in monitoring contractors operating within the city and provided related information to the public via Facebook.

Sargent Gangelhoff and Officer Bottelson completed the required Use of Force and Taser recertification training on April 22. Chief Prescher and Officer Killion are scheduled to attend the training on April 29. On April 26, Sargent Gangelhoff assisted the Mankato Department of Public Safety with a homicide investigation, serving as a liaison to a family known to him and providing support. The department expressed appreciation for his assistance.

Fire Department: The fire department shared the incident type report by District in the council package for review.

Street & Maintenance: Reported that they are still cleaning up parks and streets from the storm the city had.

Parks Department Update: Cross-training efforts continue within the office, particularly in Accounts Payable and other assigned duties, to maintain continuity of operations during the absence of the Utility Billing Clerk. Spring cleanup activities are underway, including preparation and maintenance of softball and baseball fields for the upcoming mowing schedule and summer season. Arbor Day was held on April 24. Community members and the City Council were encouraged to attend and participate in this annual event focused on environmental stewardship and community engagement.

City Administrator Update: The PUC substation project is scheduled for completion the week of April 27–May 3, with little to no interruption of service expected. An informational article was submitted to the newspaper (published 4/16/26) outlining current projects, their purpose, and potential costs as part of ongoing efforts to improve public communication regarding utility operations. Regarding Madelia Health, Grafstrom met with Ambulance Director Ryan Marti and Rhonda Ingebritson on April 20, 2026, followed by a confirmation phone call from CEO Dave Walz on April 27, 2026, confirming that while overall operations remain stable, clinic utilization in Lake Crystal is very low. The clinic will remain open through July 31, 2026, but will close effective August 1, 2026. CEO Walz will attend the June 1, 2026, City Council meeting to address questions from Council and the public. Arbor Day 2026 was held with favorable weather and strong community participation. The event featured multiple vendors, giveaways, and activities for all ages. Food vendors reported strong sales, with some selling out. The event was well attended,

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well-received, and included local media coverage with photos expected to be published.

**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 of April 6, 2026, Regular Meeting of the City Council
2. Payment of bills totaling \$636,858.12
  - reviewed by Councilor Hanson and Councilor Windsperger prior to the meeting
3. Approve Cemetery Deed- Glenn Gerlitz

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

**Action Items**

Accept \$12,250 Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant

EDA representative Josh Schuetz received notification that the city has been approved for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant in the amount of up to \$12,250 for a solar project. Council reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding.

***Motion made by Councilor Bierma to accept the \$12,250 Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant and approve the Memorandum of Understanding, motion*** seconded by Councilor Cooper and carried unanimously.

Approve Mankato Comprehensive Watershed Management Joint Powers Agreement

This Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) has been reviewed by the City Attorney and by all members of the Steering Committee (Grafstrom) and Policy Committee (Cooper). The document is in final form and ready for City execution. The agreement is a cooperative arrangement between the participating parties and does not establish a separate legal entity.

***Motion made by Councilor Cooper to approve the Mankato Comprehensive Watershed Management Joint Powers Agreement, motion*** seconded by Councilor Windsperger and carried unanimously.

Fire Pension Increase

Chief Paul provided supporting information outlining potential increases to the volunteer firefighter pension benefit levels. The documentation included projections showing the impact per volunteer at the current benefit level of \$2,500, as well as proposed increases ranging from \$2,600 to \$3,000. The Council previously approved benefit increases of \$2,300 in 2022 and \$2,500 in 2025. These benefits do not result in an immediate cash outlay from the City unless a member retires and the relief association funds are insufficient, or if the actuarial formula triggers a required contribution. Grafstrom had the auditors review the proposed increases to see if any would trigger a required contribution. According to the auditors, proposed numbers did not at this time trigger a required contribution. Carlson reviewed the numbers presented by Chief Paul, and Dale Schmidt addressed the council requesting an approved increase from the

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current \$2,500 to \$2,700.

***Motion made by Councilor Hanson to approve a Fire Relief Pension Increase to \$2,700 effective January 1, 2027, motion seconded by Councilor Bierma and carried unanimously.***

Creating 1 Staff Day per Week

There was no discussion provided other than to schedule a workshop in the near future to address this matter.

***Tabled the Review of Creating One Staff Day per week.***

LMCIT Insurance Claim

Grafstrom reported extensive storm damage to City property as indicated by the report from LMCIT Claims and provided information for Council discussion on repair options. LMCIT indicated damage to metal roofs is primarily cosmetic and subject to a 30% co-pay. At this time, City Administrator Grafstrom noted that limiting repairs to visible areas (such as dugout roofs and lift stations) would be appropriate and would not impact future insurance claims. The City's insurance deductible remains at \$500 regardless of how repairs are structured. Council did not feel we needed to repair the visible areas, such as the dugout roofing or the bleachers, either. City Administrator Grafstrom recommended separating repairs by location rather than combining them into one project. This would improve tracking, allow clearer cost allocation between City and Public Utilities Commission assets, and enable department heads to obtain targeted estimates. It would also allow the use of specialized contractors for different repairs. Combining all work into one project may limit contractor options and could require an architect under LMCIT guidelines if costs exceed \$175,000. LMCIT requires of least two quotes per repair item. Grafstrom was Council direction on how to proceed with storm-related repairs, and she will proceed with individual projects starting with the Rec Center and City Hall.

***No motion was needed by council.***

**Information/Discussion Items**

EMS Remodel Plan Draft

Council reviewed and discussed the Bolton & Menk blueprint layout of the EMS Building.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Monday, May 18, 2026, 7:30 PM Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, June 1, 2026, 7:30 PM Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, June 15, 2026, 6:30 PM Audit Presentation (Mayor will be gone)
- Monday, June 15, 2026, 7:30 PM Regular Council Meeting

**Council Comments and Observations**

Mayor Wiens commented on the April 9th Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting held in Madison Lake, MN. Representative Rich Draheim spoke at the meeting, noting that this will be his final year in the role. He addressed questions regarding the wastewater treatment plant. Eric Weller was also present and provided updates on the Digital-mapping of schools. Lake Crystal

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Wellcome Memorial has been completed. The next meeting may be held at the new Blue Earth County facility.

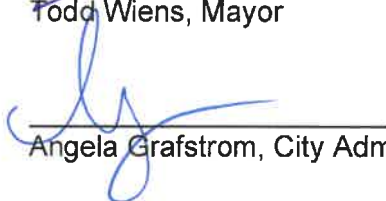
Mayor Wiens addressed the trees near the park, noting that multiple residents have signed off in support of removing the poplar trees.

**Adjournment:**

***There being no further business of the Lake Crystal City Council, Councilor Hanson motioned to adjourn the regular meeting of Monday, May 4, 2026, motion seconded by Councilor Windsperger and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.***

Minutes prepared by: Kenzie Doering

  
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Todd Wiens, Mayor

  
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Angela Grafstrom, City Administrator