

**MINUTES**  
**Lake Crystal City Council**  
**Monday, October 20, 2025, 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, Jennifer Bierma, and Michael Windsperger

Staff members present: City Administrator, Angela Grafstrom; Tonia Turner, Administrative Assistant and David Paul, Fire Chief

Others present: Four Members of the Chamber of Commerce: Amy Gasswind, Jennifer Wiens, Ann Lang, Jackie Graham, Sarah Swedburg of Bolton-Menk, Dave Schmidt of CEDA

**Citizen Robert Bunde to discuss Cat Problem:** Rescheduled to 11-3-25 at Mr. Bunde's request

### **Staff Reports**

Ambulance Service Update: No Report

Fire Department: Chief Paul reported that Fire Prevention Week went very well, and the pizza delivery was a success. He noted that Harvest has been quite quiet this year, with few calls coming in. Chief Paul and Fireman Gary Reed attended the Fire Chiefs Convention in Duluth, where they took several classes and found the convention productive. New Volunteer Firefighters will begin their 1001 classes in a few weeks. Chief Paul also mentioned that the Fire Department will soon start their preschool visits.

Police Department Update: No Report

Street & Maintenance: Administrator Grafstrom stated that the Weed report is being completed.

Parks Department Update: Administrator Grafstrom indicated that the Conservation Corps took over the Ampact program. Ampact operated the forester and climate corps program. They are interested in providing a forester to the city again, but they are now requiring a monetary donation. Their ask is \$40,000, but will take less, just not zero. They have not yet set a bottom. This discussion is still in the preliminary stages. Mayor Wiens inquired about the status of the Scout Cabin, and Administrator Grafstrom noted that Beth is awaiting a second bid for remodeling and an assessment from Bolton-Menk on the structural integrity.

City Administrator Update: Administrator Grafstrom noted the DNR rescheduled the upcoming meeting, which will now take place on October 29, 2025. She also mentioned Northland would like to have a joint meeting prior to the December 01, 2025 City Council Meeting, to get approvals for bonding.

**MINUTES**  
**Lake Crystal City Council**  
**Monday, October 20, 2025, 7:30 pm**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**100 E. Robinson St.**

**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 from October 6, 2025, Regular Meeting of the City Council.
2. Payment of bills of \$1,348,280.48. (Reviewed by Councilor Windsperger and Councilor Bierma prior to the meeting)
3. LELS MOU to Remove Comp Time (in keeping with other agreement/policy).

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

**Action Items**

Review Zoning Estimates from CEDA and Bolton-Menk

As our town becomes busier with numerous ongoing projects, Grafstrom would like council to consider hiring someone to assist with Planning & Zoning and Shoreland Management. Often what is required, especially for shoreland management is beyond her skill set. Grafstrom asked both CEDA and Bolton-Menk for proposals. David Schmidt from CEDA and Sarah Swedburg from Bolton-Menk, who were both present to answer questions and present what they could offer. The Council decided to table the discussion until we gather more information from CEDA.

Approve On-Call Law Enforcement Services Contract with Blue Earth County

The Council discussed the On-Call Law Enforcement Agreement with Blue Earth County for 2026. Administrator Grafstrom noted that this Service Contract would activate only in an emergency.

***Motion made by Councilor Hanson to approve the On-Call Law Enforcement Services Contract with Blue Earth County***, motion seconded by Councilor Cooper and carried unanimously.

Approve Ambulance Hire Ashten Cink at EMT Pay Rate

Mayor Wiens discussed hiring Ashten Cink at an EMT Rate. Administrator Grafstrom stated that Cink was ready to start immediately, and Madelia Health agreed to take on the EMT staff.

***Motion made by Councilor Winsperger to approve Ambulance New Hire Ashten Cink at the EMT Rate of pay***, motion seconded by Councilor Cooper, and carried unanimously.

Discussion with the Chamber of Commerce

**MINUTES**  
**Lake Crystal City Council**  
**Monday, October 20, 2025, 7:30 pm**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**100 E. Robinson St.**

Members of the Chamber of Commerce were present to ask for ideas and suggestions, as Julie Reed is retiring on January 30, 2026. They are not sure they should continue operating as a chamber or how they should hire a staff person as Julie Reed put in many volunteer hours. The Chamber of Commerce highlighted a few items, including the Cruz Ins. They suggested disbanding the chamber and organizing as something else, maybe forming partnerships with the EDA, Rec Center, Community Ed, and other organizations that might want to help, support, or volunteer. Councilor Cooper emphasized the importance of building on successful initiatives and cost-sharing. An EDA meeting will be scheduled for November 10, 2025 so Chamber Members to attend and further discuss options.

**Information/Discussion** Upcoming meetings and events:

The EDA meeting next month will be moved to November 10, 2025, due to the Veterans Day Holiday.

November 3, 2025, 7:30 pm Regular Meeting of the City Council

The Lake Crystal City Website is not functioning correctly. Staff will add "under construction" and ask people to let them know what they tried to use that was not working on the site.

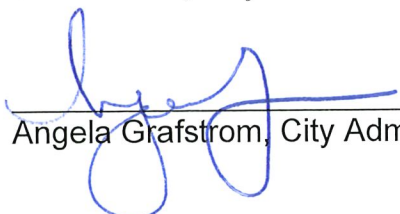
Mayor Wiens mentioned he and Josh Schuetz, the EDA Director, will attend the REDA annual meeting in St. Peter on October 21, 2025.

**Adjournment:**

***There being no further business of the Lake Crystal City Council, Councilor Hanson motioned to adjourn the regular meeting of October 20, 2025, motion seconded by Councilor Bierma and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.***

Minutes prepared by: Tonia Turner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Wiens, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Grafstrom, City Administrator

