



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, July 21, 2025

1. Roll Call

Mayor Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe. City Manager Patrick Trudgeon and City Attorney Rachel Tierney were also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

Groff moved, Bauer seconded, approval of the agenda as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Roe invited audience members to provide public comments on non-agenda items.

A resident living near North Heights School expressed concern about the absence of a school zone near a playground and requested information on zoning standards.

Mayor Roe said he would have staff follow up on that question, hopefully during the item about County Road C.

5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

a. Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary Observance Proclamation

Mayor Roe read the Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary Observance Proclamation.

Strahan moved, Schroeder seconded, proclaiming July 26, 2025, Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary Observance Day.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Strahan recognized the Parks Department and all the great work they are doing, including installing playground equipment. She believed it was a key effort for the city to show its support for this and to keep moving forward.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.

b. Kiwanis Peanut Day Proclamation

Mr. Jim Blair, representing Golden K Club, addressed the city council.
Mayor Roe read the Kiwanis Peanut Day Proclamation.

Groff moved, Schroeder seconded, proclaiming July 21, 2025, Kiwanis Peanut Day.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Schroeder expressed gratitude to the Golden K Club for all the work they have done and appreciated the organizations the club supports.

Councilmember Strahan thanked Dr. Jim House, who, although retired, remains dedicated and passionate about his involvement with the Golden K Club. She believed that those who work with him share the same enthusiasm. She appreciated his ongoing commitment to the city.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.

6. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

- a. Receive Presentation from Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire**
Mayor Roe briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated July 21, 2025.

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire introduced herself and provided an update on Ramsey County, highlighting various services and partnerships with Roseville. She discussed the impact of federal and state budget cuts on county services, as well as the need for public-private partnerships.

County Manager Ling Becker discussed the financial pressures the county faces, including the effects of Medicaid and SNAP from the reconciliation bill.

Mayor Roe thanked Commissioner McGuire and Ms. Becker for providing all the information. He also appreciated Commissioner McGuire's and County staff's

follow-up with residents around McCarron's Park about the incident that happened a couple of weekends ago.

Mayor Roe stated that one key takeaway from that incident in the park was that county parks adhere to the alcohol policy outlined in the ordinance for their respective local community. He added that city staff will review whether any updates are necessary for Roseville's ordinance.

The discussion addressed the challenges of maintaining public safety and mental health services despite budget constraints.

- b. Award the Sale of the City's 2025 General Obligation Equipment Certificates**
Finance Director Michelle Pietrick briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 21, 2025.

Mr. Jason Aarsvold from Ehlers explained the process of issuing and selling general obligation equipment certificates. He noted that the city received a triple-A rating from Standard and Poor's, which helped attract seven bidders for the bonds.

Councilmember Strahan asked about the ownership of TD Securities, and Mr. Aarsvold clarified the bidder's affiliation.

Councilmember Groff inquired about the history of TD Securities, and Mr. Aarsvold confirmed their previous involvement with bond issues.

Mr. Aarsvold explained that TD Securities was chosen as the lowest bidder, and the resolution for issuing and selling the bonds was presented.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment, but no one came forward.

Schroeder moved, Bauer seconded, adoption of Resolution No. 12167 (Attachment 1) entitled, "Resolution For the Issuance and Sale of \$1,880,000 General Obligation Equipment Certificates, Series 2025A Providing for Their Issuance and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof."

Council Discussion

Councilmember Schroeder thought this item was straightforward and was happy to see seven firms bidding on it.

Councilmember Bauer agreed with Councilmember Schroeder and viewed this as a good use of bonds for this long-term asset.

Councilmember Strahan welcomed another move toward a city with an electric fire truck, setting an example as a forward-thinking community in clean energy.

Mayor Roe explained to members of the public what equipment certificates are.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None

c. Consider Approval of Aldine ROW Vacation

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 21, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer submitted the petition to vacate part of Aldine Street's right-of-way. Residents initiated the petition due to the low priority given to the pathway and the associated environmental and financial costs of building an ADA-accessible path. He explained the history of the right-of-way, the survey results, and the potential costs of constructing a city path. He mentioned that the council was asked to either approve the vacation or to retain the right-of-way and designate it as a public pathway.

City Attorney Tierney submitted a memo on the legal issues of designating dedicated right-of-way as parkland without a specific transportation connection.

Mayor Roe thanked Mr. Freihammer for the presentation. He also expressed appreciation to Attorney Tierney for the memo, as he believed that after the last meeting about this matter, the idea of possibly considering a park-based solution had occurred to him and might have occurred to others as well. The question was whether that could be a possibility.

Mayor Roe summarized the memo from the city attorney.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Mindy Erickson, Mid Oaks Lane

Ms. Erickson requested that the Council vacate the Aldine Street right-of-way. She explained that in 2022 and again over the past few months, city staff used the city's own criteria, processes, and plans to determine whether there is a city purpose for retaining the right-of-way. In 2022, city staff determined that this segment, along with many others across the city, was no longer needed for its original city use. The 1938 Mid Oaks plat described the segment as Aldine Street. This portion of Aldine Street was never built and is no longer planned. More recently, staff and city officials evaluated the construction of a city path. The June 10 path feasibility

memo reports that building an ADA-accessible city path in the right-of-way would be both environmentally damaging and expensive. The memo also notes that the segment ranked extremely low compared to paths already planned across the city. And finally, the recent land survey by the city shows that about three-quarters of the length of the much-discussed dirt shortcut was on private property west of the right-of-way, in the open, flat, low corridor around the storm sewer alignment. The city establishes processes and plans, in part, to guide fact-based decision-making amid misinformation, conflicting opinions, and emotion. Please cast your vote to respect the city's processes and plans, to preserve dozens of mature trees, to recognize the city investments already made in paths along Fairview and Snelling, and to redirect the city's limited resources—both time and money—toward critical infrastructure, housing, public safety, and other city-wide challenges facing our community. Please vote to vacate the Aldine Street right-of-way promptly.

Mr. John Reinart, 1667 Ridgewood Ln S

Mr. Reinart urged the Council to vote against the petition. He explained he and his wife bought their starter home on Ridgewood Lane 35 years ago and have enjoyed living in the neighborhood ever since. As long as he could remember, they had used that path. For the past decade, he has had a home office for his employer, Oracle, where he works as a software engineer. He stated he uses the path multiple times a day, enjoying it and using it daily for medical reasons, taking walks, and reaping the health benefits. The city, considering closing the path, does not benefit the neighborhood. It seems to benefit only a few people, but it does a disservice to the much larger majority.

Mr. Dan Gallaher, 2009 Herschel Street

Mr. Gallaher stated that his family had lived about two blocks away from the north entrance to the trail since 1989, using the path in question frequently during that time. To understand the issues at hand and explore the potential justification for vacating public land for private use, he explained that he conducted online research to determine the basis for this decision and found a Minnesota statute that speaks to the vacation of streets. It is 412.851; the critical part that's relevant to this discussion is that it says no vacation shall be made unless it appears in the interest of the public to do so. This path is frequently used. It's used by many people in the neighborhood. The petition that you received addresses this point, and consequently, it's challenging for him to understand how making that path unavailable by vacating the land for private ownership would be in the public interest. And so, he would ask the city council not to do that, not to vacate the land, but to take public land and give it to people who have been occupying it for 60 years, perhaps longer. So that's one point. The second point is simply that you're all familiar with the 2040 comprehensive plan. He would like to draw their attention to the final part of the first sentence of that plan, where it states that the plan is intended to develop over the coming decades and reflects the desires of the entire community. And he would argue that the overwhelming number of people in this community favor maintaining a path of some sort through there. He has heard

several times references to trees and damage to trees. He stated it was nonsense. It's very easy to put a path through there without damaging any trees. No trees need to come down. He thought that was obvious to anybody who would walk the path and look at it. So, he would urge the council not to vacate the land. It belongs to the public now, and it should remain so. The city should be allowed to make a path through that area for the continued enjoyment of the many dozens, perhaps 100 people, who use that path. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Anne Lottie, 90 Mid Oaks Lane

Ms. Lottie explained she lived at 90 Mid Oaks Lane with her husband and three children. She stated that her family's perspective is somewhat unique, as they used to live in one of the Mid Oaks homes that abutted the path for 17 years; the path was a quiet, lightly used feature of their backyard. It gave them a chance to say hello to the occasional passerby and their kids a place to explore and play in the woods. At the start of the pandemic, they relocated 30 minutes away to an outer-ring suburb, where neighbors were farther apart and tended to keep to themselves. Four years later, this last summer, they moved back to the Mid Oaks neighborhood just around the corner from their old house. She noted they missed their village, its warmth, its walkability, and most of all, its strong sense of community. She thanked the city for conducting a survey and providing clarity regarding property lines. Since the last meeting, her family has effectively stopped using the path. Their school route is now uncertain. If the remaining 30 feet are vacated, she feared they would lose the opportunity for a practical, common-sense path solution. She explained she would happily clear buckthorn, lay mulch, etc, to create a clearly defined path that is fully on the right of way. If a path ceases to exist, it would be a great loss, not so much for her, even though she enjoyed passing through the woodland, but for all the kids. Yes, they can ride the bus to school or walk the longer, less safe route along Fairview or Snelling Avenues to friends' houses. And while those options are feasible. They don't offer the same joy, freedom, or connections. The Aldine path has been in existence for decades. Over the years, the route has shifted, fences have been erected, vegetation has encroached, and epic stick battles have ensued. Native woodlands have been restored, and their community has felt a connection. Please vote against vacation tonight, not to take sides, but to give the city and its community time to come together and find a thoughtful solution, one that preserves a simple footpath and the spirit of connection it represents.

Ms. Mary Parnell, 1760 Ryan

Ms. Parnell stated she lives at 1760 Ryan. If Wheeler were extended from Brimhall to Roselawn, it would run along the east side of their property. She noted that they currently experience traffic from Roselawn through their home on Wheeler because there are hard-surface walkways between Schreyer and Skillman, and again, between Eldridge and the school. She explained they haven't discouraged anyone from doing that. They have a similar wooded area, which she called no man's land, between their home and the home on Roselawn, but she asked the council to vote

against vacating it. She mentioned that it might be better to find a creative solution for the existing easement rather than increasing traffic, as there is a need for schoolchildren to travel from those neighborhoods to their school. There is no fence right at Roselawn. There's about a six-foot piece of fence that needs to be removed. The fence running north and south could stay in place, and the path could be placed on the other side of that fence. Creating a simple, natural path instead of a paved one wouldn't have to cost much, and maybe neighbors could help with that.

Ms. Janet Risinger, 1797 Schreyer

Ms. Risinger explained that she lived at 1797 Schreyer, which is not very close, but close enough to the pathway that they have used since moving into their home in 1991. She stated that they love that path, but ever since she discovered it, she has never understood why the chain-link fence is up at the end. And to her, the simple solution is to have that fence put where the line should be, so that you can walk where it is and not where the path should be, instead of going through the driveway of that neighbor. She noted she would like to know the reason why that chain-link fence is there. It doesn't seem like it's in the right place.

Mr. Donald Gault, 2021 Herschel Street

Mr. Gault explained that he lives at 2021 Herschel Street here in Roseville. He stated that he and his wife moved into their house 32 years ago, so they have lived there for nearly half their lives. He noted he would not go into details about that, but he has truly been living in Roseville for almost half of his life. One thing he wanted to start with was saying that they love living in Roseville. He was reading the city newspaper, which talks about the work this city does that all of you lead, which is to connect us. You create a connected, caring community. He has walked on that path thousands of times—literally thousands. If you take 32 years, multiply that by two or three times a week at a minimum, and by 52 weeks a year, it totals 16,384 walks down that path. During those times, he has seen neighbors with homes bordering the path, and everyone waves and smiles at each other. There has never been any concern he's known of until this issue of vacation came up. He said this should be funny because vacation always sounded like a happy word to me, but this situation has caused great harm. He was not saying that to judge anyone here or to criticize city staff or any of you. No one truly understood what you were doing, and he thought at the time that this vacation request went through, there were probably dozens or hundreds of similar requests. One question he had was, have any other communities come forward with concerns and care about vacation requests like this one has raised? He was not asking the council to say yes or no tonight. What he was asking was for the council to help find and lead a healing process for our community. When they drove to City Hall tonight, he noticed, and he thought many of the residents did, that they were looking at each other, wondering, "Are you on my side or the other side?" He explained that they are neighbors, and our country is struggling right now, and everyone needs to be the adults who show how people can live and care for each other. So, whatever happens tonight, we must move forward and find ways to be caring neighbors again.

Mr. Daniel Ruen, 20 Mid Oaks Lane

Mr. Ruen stated he lived at 20 Mid Oaks Lane. He noted he had lived there with his spouse, Claire, for the last four years. He wanted everyone to imagine a playground where kids have been playing together for years and have even grown to love each other. Then, a PTA Working Group and a playground use Task Force decided to allocate the tire swing area to only one group of kids, who happen to use it more frequently than others. Naturally, the kids will start fighting, but it's not the PTA Task Force's fault. They're just applying this rule across the school district. However, what those kids need at that moment is for the principal, school counselor, or some caring teachers to step in and say, "Hey, you know what? We didn't think this through. Let's bring everyone together and figure this out for everyone's best interest." He knew all analogies can break if stretched too far. He didn't see himself as a child who couldn't work things out with neighbors, but he hoped everyone would take away two important points from his analogy. First, this isn't their fault. As this gentleman said, "Well, this isn't our fault. The city imposed this situation." It's really on all of you to help us address it, not just legally but relationally. Second, we are trying to follow the rules given to us, but we need your support to think outside those rules with the help of a neutral third-party mediator. Because, beyond wanting a community walking path—which I support—we need positive, trusting relationships in our community. He truly enjoys his neighbors, especially Art and Sarah, who are here, and Tam, along that right-of-way. Our relationships are essential now, and will be more so in the future. Lastly, he believed the city was overlooking a key opportunity to build resilience as a trusting community. At the last meeting on this issue, he heard many say, "We want to work together on a compromise. We ask for your help to be creative. We want to slow this down. We can find a different way forward." He explained he was willing to volunteer his time, so he asked, if the city can't guide them through such situations, what will happen when they face 15 inches of rain, straight-line winds knocking down trees, or a tornado? Or what if ice accumulates and causes more people to disappear for ridiculous reasons? We just heard alarming reports from the county. These challenges are already here. It means they will need each other, and the residents will need the city. As a resident, he was not very encouraged by what he had experienced so far. So, he urged the council to look beyond this situation, beyond legal or policy issues, and think about the real investment in Roseville: our relationships. It's not purely about money; it's about our collective will. He explained he is a pastor at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, working closely with the Community Council and Community Foundation, which offers resources for pro bono, neutral third-party mediators, perfect for this kind of situation. He would be happy to share that info with the city. Please, slow down this process, work with the residents, and fulfill their roles as teachers, principals, and counselors, so we can strengthen our resilience and relationships.

Ms. Michelle Pribyl, 1738 Skillman Avenue W

Ms. Pribyl explained that she lives at 1738 Skillman Avenue West. She mentioned that she had emailed everyone over the weekend, so she wouldn't read her email now, but she wanted to highlight a few key points to ensure everyone heard them. First, she thanked Mr. Freihammer for answering her question about the path and the constellation related to the Parks Department. It's important to note that not only those present who signed the petition about using the path recognize its importance, but the Parks Department also acknowledged it as crucial for connecting the neighborhood to schools and the park system. In her work, she often navigates conflicting rules to find creative design solutions—that's what we need here: an innovative solution that can address multiple issues. There are precedents for options that are not necessarily what was initially proposed for the path. It doesn't need to be a six- to ten-foot-wide concrete or asphalt path; there are ADA-compliant paths made of crushed rock, which are much narrower, and we have examples of this in Roseville. Sunset Park, mentioned earlier, utilizes some of the crushed rock on County Road B, allowing you to see how it's applied there. Additionally, paths just north of this area, such as the one between Aldine and Ridgewood, are about four feet wide, narrower than the pathways shown. There's also precedent for pathway easements on private property. We have focused on creating a pathway within the existing right-of-way, which she understood was the topic tonight. However, she understood that an easement might be needed for utilities on the current private property, and there could be an opportunity to create a new pathway easement that follows the existing path. This could help preserve trees, fences, and other vegetation while allowing fences to remain intact for neighbors. She believes there is a way forward that can keep the community connected, and she hopes the council will consider it.

Mr. Tim Brown, 93 Mid Oaks Lane

Mr. Brown stated he lives at 93 Mid Oaks Lane. He explained they face the right-of-way, so they have frequent, ongoing experience with that area. What they mainly see is that it's a convenient shortcut, which adds value. It doesn't reach the recreational level that has been somewhat implied here, and honestly, they don't see much traffic there. Their position is that this public right-of-way was dedicated in 1938 and hasn't received any maintenance, improvements, or development for nearly 90 years. It is neglected—a no man's land—just a dirt path that comes and goes, cutting through private property and being freely used. Bikes race through, people walk their dogs off-leash, and they don't pick up after them. It's a chaotic and poorly maintained area, raising many questions about what should be done there. He explained that they strongly support the city's policy of adjusting property rights and management responsibilities, allowing property owners to benefit from releasing land from the right-of-way. They also see that the city's pathway plan doesn't prioritize this area highly in terms of value. He mentioned there are many projects around the city, some much larger in scope, that are prioritized for transportation purposes. When setting priorities, this should probably be low on the list due to its limited quality and usage. For these reasons, they ask the council to vacate that right-of-way so residents can properly

maintain it and move forward, as this has been a challenging process over the summer.

Mr. Richard McGehee, 77 Mid Oaks Lane

Mr. McGehee explained that he lives at 77 Mid Oaks Lane and has lived there for 50 years. He mentioned that he was somewhat surprised by what he heard tonight because he has lived near that path for the same 50 years, and he does not recall seeing so many people walking down there. There are occasional pedestrians, but it's not as busy as described, and he hasn't seen the romanticism being depicted. What he has observed there, besides some people walking their dogs, includes some kids in the past who gathered and used it as a spot to smoke marijuana. He knows it is legal now, but it wasn't back then. He has also seen kids causing mischief in that area. Finally, he thought it was quite harsh to suggest that those who bought the property without much knowledge should now have the fence taken down. It just seems like a particularly cruel thing to do to your neighbors.

Mr. Joe Pribyl, 1738 Skillman Avenue West

Mr. Joe Pribyl stated he lived at 1738 Skillman Avenue West in Roseville. He thanked the council for allowing more public comment on the issue. He just wanted to say that every time we have a public comment, the longer this process continues, the more information we learn, and it's important. To think that a decision could have been made weeks ago, or even longer, to vacate this property without the information we now have would suggest that we made a hasty decision. There probably needs to be more time to consider the options, especially given what we are learning now, tonight, and recently. He could see a real danger in vacating public land to private owners because once the discussion is closed, the land will likely never be available for public use again, and he did not know what process would be needed for it to be made available again. Many of the concerns expressed can be or have been addressed. He wanted to emphasize that we all come with goodwill. We can find reasons to vacate and reasons not to, but there is a clear majority opinion, if not consensus, about what to do with this connection. At the very least, he asked that the city avoid making hasty decisions or decisions based on ideology that may have already predestined the outcome for this right of way. Please consider the views of the majority of the public, especially those who live here, and strive to find a fair solution for everyone.

Ms. Rachel Brown, 1705 Roselawn Avenue W

Ms. Rachel Brown explained that she lives at 1705 Roseland Avenue West and wanted to thank the Mayor and Council members for the opportunity to speak again. She finds it interesting that the survey continues to be referenced or that people claim the majority, and she understands there's a large crowd here today. However, she has spoken to many who aren't present but have been respectful, kind, and thoughtful—people who have stopped walking on the private trail on their private land. She urges the council not to define what constitutes a majority based solely on the number of people present. Many have moved on after learning the

facts. She wanted to address three points. First, she asked the council not to do anything. As an English teacher by training, she intentionally used a double negative, "do not do nothing," because people act as if this issue is settled. She understands the sense of loss for those who enjoyed the shortcut trail. But many are not interested in the facts, and misinformation persists, particularly regarding the 20-foot detail. In some comments and documents, it was falsely claimed that land was ceded or given back, which is not true. The city did not return twenty feet; it was never the city's to give. The original ownership dates to the 1950s, when city officials considered some land exchanges but never finalized them. So, it has always been private land. It's troubling that some continue to spread this misinformation. It's also clear where her land begins, as you can walk right through the driveway past her house. What's less clear is the northern half, which Council Member Schroeder has seen, but she doesn't know if anyone else has, since the survey was completed. Nearly three-quarters of the shortcut runs on private property, and people continue to walk on it, often ignoring property lines. She has had to post signs and ask people to respect private property. She states she now sits on her front stoop, wondering if someone might just wander by. She's fine with the usual neighborhood sounds, but imagine someone walking along your home, backyard, or side yard. For the six property owners involved, the current or proposed trail would move closer to their yards, nearer to patios, play areas, and backyards. She has endured months of people walking over her bee balm, despite her efforts to deter them with signs. She thanks the council for listening. She asks the council to vote to vacate the land, respecting that this community, built around these eight property owners, has been gentle and respectful in its engagement with staff and the council. Please prioritize decisions that benefit those most impacted: the eight property owners.

Mr. Kevin Watson, Aldine Street

Mr. Watson explained that he lives a couple of doors down from the north end of the trail. He asked the council to consider two options. First, a prescriptive easement over the current path on private property, which would maintain public use of that path. You can consult your city attorney about what that process might involve, or the city could assist neighbors in establishing a new path on the existing right-of-way; a new dirt path could avoid trees if fences were relocated. It sounds like this plan is part of the constellation, although he was unsure what that meant. The constellation plan has been considered over the years and envisioned, perhaps not recently or by this council, but it exists. He sent the council an email with many examples of dirt paths and connections throughout the Northeast Metro. One example he wanted to highlight tonight was the final drive. At the end of Heinle Drive, near Lake Owosso, there's a path extending from the cul-de-sac, crossing the railroad, and serving as a dirt path between the railroad and County Road C, ending at County Road C. There's no ADA ramp or crosswalk, similar to the trail at the end of Aldine Drive. Some say this is a trail to nowhere because it terminates at Roselawn, but it connects the Mid Oaks neighborhood to Brim Hall and Evergreen Park. It also provides access for residents in Ridgewood and Woodside

neighborhoods to farm fields, the Roselawn trail, or the State Fair. Likewise, the Heinle trail probably links to Central Park or the County Road C trail. Recently, you learned this has been identified as a connection. He encouraged the council to honor that constellation plan and support the neighborhood. It seems that volunteers, including myself, are willing to help install a dirt path if fences can be moved to access the right of way. Thank you.

Mayor Roe closed the public comment period. He expressed gratitude to residents and acknowledged the need for further review and possible action on the petition.

Mayor Roe and councilmembers discussed the need for additional information and the potential benefits of a parkway woodland path.

Councilmember Strahan highlighted the absence of fence permits for certain properties and how it affects the use of the path.

Councilmember Groff apologized for the city's part in the issue and proposed focusing on shared solutions.

Councilmember Schroeder expressed concern about tree removal and the safety at the path's end.

Councilmember Bauer highlighted the importance of maintaining the neighborhood's beauty and discussed the challenges of developing a path.

Mayor Roe proposed delaying the issue so the Parks and Recreation Commission could review it.

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, to table this item until further information is received from the Parks and Recreation Commission about the possible use of the right-of-way as a park containing a more natural type of path.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: Bauer

Recess

Mayor Roe recessed the meeting at approximately 8:16 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 8:24 p.m.

- d. **Receive County Road C Project Update and Crossings to Acorn Park**
Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 21, 2025.

Ms. Lowry introduced key guests: Jon Mazzitello, Deputy Director of Public Works for the county; Luis Flores, county traffic engineer; and Joey Lundquist, project manager.

Ms. Lowry summarized the January 6th meeting where the neighborhood opposed the trail on the north side of the project, and the council decided to support the petition and recommend a protected crossing on the east leg of Matilda. She noted that the project team has met with Mr. Matt Johnson to discuss the impacts on the park and crossing concerns.

Mr. John Mazzitello provided an overview of the project, which includes a mill and overlay, a pavement replacement, and a four- to three-lane conversion. The project aims to improve safety for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists, and to reduce speeds. It features ADA pedestrian facilities and modifications at Rice and Lexington intersections, along with a study on intersection modifications at Victoria. The project began in 2023 with preliminary design work and public comment sessions held in May and October 2024.

Mr. Flores discussed the benefits of pedestrian islands for safety, mentioning that converting four lanes to three lanes alone already improved pedestrian safety. He shared data showing significant reductions in crashes and pedestrian crashes after similar projects.

Mr. Flores mentioned that the project team is considering two options for crosswalk modifications: one with a trail between Galtier and Matilda and another without a trail between Western and Rice. The team was seeking feedback from the city council on these options.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe provided a chance for public comment.

Mr. Greg Schroeder, 2646 Matilda Street

Mr. Schroeder, a former councilmember and retired civil engineer, expressed frustration with the proposed crosswalk changes, arguing that the current crossings are adequate and that the new proposals are unnecessary and could be harmful.

Mr. Jason Saari, 2721 Farrington Street

Mr. Saari agreed with Mr. Schroeder, emphasizing the need for simple solutions and questioning the necessity of the center islands.

Mr. Ron Kohner, 2872 Marion Street

Mr. Kohner explained that he is a retired civil engineer and believed the center island was a bad idea where the traffic, especially pedestrian traffic, comes through.

Mr. Mark Connolly, 240 County Road C W

Mr. Connolly agreed with the previous speakers and explained that people are not going to the middle of the block to cross. He was also concerned about safety when going back to his driveway and the possibility of someone hitting the back of his car.

Ms. Suzanne Wiatros, 186 West County Road C

Ms. Wiatros expressed her concern about the safety of children and people walking their dogs in the area. She supported the use of flashing lights at crosswalks, arguing that they are more effective at getting motorists to stop.

Mayor Roe thanked the public for attending the meeting. He ended public comment at 8:39 p.m. to allow for council discussion.

Mayor Roe and council members discussed the feedback received and the potential impact of the proposed crosswalk modifications on pedestrian safety and accessibility. The council encourages the public to attend the upcoming open house on August 28.

The council also emphasized the importance of addressing the community's needs, including those with disabilities, while maintaining a simple and effective design.

e. Consider Approval of PIK Easement Vacations

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 21, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer stated that the sewer easements were abandoned when the city built Twin Lakes Phase One.

Mr. Trudgeon confirmed that legal notices have been distributed for the public hearing.

Mayor Roe reviewed public hearing protocol and opened and closed the public hearing at approximately 9:10 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public input on the above-referenced PIK Easement Vacations, with no one appearing for or against.

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, adoption of Resolution No. 12168 (Attachment 1) entitled, "Resolution Approving the Vacation of Easements."

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None

f. Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission Joint Meeting with the City Council

PWETC Chair Bryant Ficek briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 21, 2025.

Chair Ficek introduced Vice Chair Edwin Hodder and Commissioner Alison Luongo. He provided an update on their activities over the past year.

Members voiced their appreciation for the opportunity to serve and highlighted topics they found particularly interesting. They discussed the importance of sustainability, interagency presentations, and updates on public safety.

The council and commission discuss possible areas for collaboration and emphasize the importance of community input. There was also discussion about potential projects, including the Civic Campus Master Plan and the Public Works maintenance facility.

Councilmembers stress the importance of public safety and the necessity for temporary solutions during construction projects.

The commission and the council consider holding joint meetings with other commissions to address overlapping topics.

Chair Ficek asked whether the commission was meeting expectations and addressing the necessary recommendations.

Mayor Roe and Councilmember Bauer commended the commission for their comprehensive and informative presentations.

Councilmember Bauer praised the commission's ability to raise important issues like mosquito control and encouraged commissioners to suggest their own topics. He complimented the commission for their work on recycling and other projects, highlighting their timely and cost-effective delivery.

Councilmember Strahan suggested the commission summarize their findings to assist the council in an advisory role. She proposed a way to make use of the commission's work without starting from scratch, such as a shared drive or summary document.

Mayor Roe and Councilmember Schroeder agreed that the commission was meeting expectations and highlighted the importance of bringing concerns to the council.

Mayor Roe expressed gratitude to the commission and staff for their dedicated work and contributions.

g. Approve RFP and RFQ Related to Civic Campus Master Plan

Mayor Roe briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated July 21, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer explained the process of advancing the project, including developing an RFP for architectural services and an RFQ for construction management services. He detailed the scope of the architectural RFP and the construction manager at risk model.

Mr. Trudgeon explained the process of requesting qualifications and proposals for the construction manager.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe provided an opportunity for public comments.

Mr. Roger Hess, Wagener Place

Mr. Hess asked whether the two documents in the packet, which are rough drafts, were going to be revised because he noticed many errors. He also wondered if there was any discussion about providing storage space for the youth athletic leagues in a basement, especially since installing an elevator makes adding a basement cost-effective and would increase the total square footage of the proposed fire station. Additionally, he inquired whether the city discussed utilizing geothermal and solar energy or how environmentally friendly the building should be. He also asked if the city had talked to the fire department about improving access to the building for their vehicles, particularly entering the garages. He thought the current design seemed tight for vehicle access and suggested that an entrance further west might be better. Furthermore, he asked if there was any discussion about choosing a construction manager at risk versus a standard construction manager. He expressed concern that the at-risk manager might have to estimate expenses three to four years into the future with extra padding, which could lead to significantly higher bids.

Mayor Roe thanked Mr. Hess for his comments and concluded the public comment period.

Mayor Roe and Mr. Freihammer responded to the questions from Mr. Hess, clarifying the design process and the possibility of additional services.

Mr. Trudgeon stressed the importance of being mindful of costs and involving stakeholders in the design process.

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, approving the RFP for Architectural Services and the RFQ for Construction Management at Risk Services.

Council Discussion

Mayor Roe mentioned that the council had earlier discussed the two models for construction management.

Councilmember Groff emphasized the need to move forward with the requests for proposals to refine the rest of the project.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None

Groff moved, Bauer seconded, extending the meeting curfew to cover the rest of the minutes.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.

8. Council Direction on Councilmember Initiated Agenda Items

9. Approve Minutes

The City Council submitted comments and corrections to the draft minutes prior to tonight's meeting, and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in the Council packet.

a. Approve July 7, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Groff moved, Bauer seconded, approval of the July 7, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.

10. Approve Consent Agenda

At Mayor Roe's request, City Manager Trudgeon briefly reviewed the items being considered under the Consent Agenda, as detailed in specific Requests for Council Action dated July 21, 2025, and related attachments.

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, approval of the Consent Agenda, including claims and payments as presented and detailed.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.

a. Approve Payments

Regular City Council Meeting

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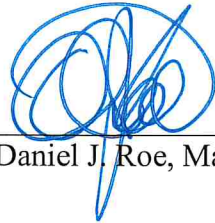
ACH Payments	\$625,474.26
113009 - 113140	1,433,622.75
TOTAL	\$2,059,097.01

- b. **Authorize Grant Agreement with the Metropolitan Council for the Community Tree Planting Grant Program**
 - c. **Approve Renewal of Short-Term Rental License for 257 South McCarron's Blvd W**
 - d. **Approve the Renewal of the Short-Term Rental License for 658 Belmont Lane.**
 - e. **Approve Final Contract Acceptance for the County Road B Reconstruction and 2024 Pavement Management Project**
 - f. **Approve Contract for 2025 Pathway Improvements-Tamarack Park Pathway Project 24-03**
- 11. Future Agenda Review, Communications, Reports, and Announcements – Council and City Manager**
City Manager Patrick Trudgeon reviewed the August 11, 2025, City Council meeting, the August 20, 2025, Special City Council meeting, the August 25, 2025, City Council meeting, and the City Council meetings for September, October, and November.
- 12. Adjourn**
Strahan moved, Groff seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 10:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Bauer, Strahan, Schroeder, and Roe.

Nays: None.



Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager