



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, October 13, 2025

1. Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

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

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Roe called for public comment by audience members on non-agenda items. No one came forward to speak.

5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

a. Receive Presentation on the Roseville School District Technology Referendum

Mayor Roe introduced Roseville Area Public Schools Superintendent Doctor Jenny Loeck.

Dr. Loeck introduced Ms. Shari Thompson, Executive Director of Business Services at Roseville Area Public Schools.

Dr. Loeck and Ms. Thompson gave a presentation about the Roseville School District Technology Referendum.

Dr. Loeck presented information about a ballot issue for a capital projects levy. The levy would provide \$6 million annually for 10 years, totaling \$60 million, for technology and safety. She explained the importance of the levy, citing past successful bonding referendums and operating levies. The levy is needed because of the State's funding structure for public schools, which requires either legislative approval or voter consent.

A video was shown to explain the levy's impact on safety, technology, and communication, as well as to encourage voter approval.

Dr. Loeck and Ms. Thompson discussed the specific uses of the levy funds. Safety and security measures include secure entrances, video cameras, and cybersecurity. Technology investments include digital learning tools, career and technical education, and reliable online resources. Communication efforts involve translating information into multiple languages and maintaining website and app platforms.

Ms. Thompson provided a tax impact analysis, showing the monthly cost of a \$350,000 home would be \$18 per month.

Councilmember Schroeder commented on the ongoing costs of digital subscriptions and the importance of music and arts programs.

Councilmember Bauer asked about future funding requests and the plans for the 2017 and 2021 levies.

Mayor Roe thanked the school district for their partnership and encouraged community members to vote on November 4, 2025.

6. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. Consider a Request to Perform an Abatement for Unresolved Violations of City Code at 949 Brooks Avenue West

Building Official David Englund summarized the request as detailed in the Request For Council Action of this date. A bench handout was included with the request, providing an extract of City Council meeting minutes from October 13, 2025.

Mayor Roe asked if there was a representative of the property at the meeting, but the property owner was not present.

Public Comment

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

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, directing Community Development staff to abate the public nuisance violations at 949 Brooks Avenue W. This involves notifying a towing company to remove unlicensed and/or inoperable vehicles from the property and notifying a separate contractor to remove the referenced junk/debris.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Strahan thought it was unfortunate that someone from the property did not attend the meeting. She believed the Council could have discussed an extension with them based on the change in ownership. However, since the same

resident is still on the property and the city has seen no progress, she felt the city should move forward as requested to approve and resolve this situation.

Councilmember Groff agreed, saying it was frustrating because he knows Mr. Englund makes every effort to reach out to people. He explained that people need to take this seriously because it affects neighbors and neighborhoods, and the city has to maintain standards that everyone must meet.

Mayor Roe clarified that the action for abatement is not necessarily dependent on property ownership; it is related to the property itself.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

b. Consider Closure of Roseville Leaf Recycling Center

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated October 13, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer presented the proposal to close the leaf recycling center to save costs. He noted the site has been open since 1971 and collects about 30,000 to 35,000 cubic yards of leaves annually. The site's equipment, a 1997 model, is at the end of its life, and replacing it will be costly. Additionally, the site's location and lack of staffing lead to issues with illegal dumping and noise complaints.

The council discussed the potential impact on residents, including increased travel distances, and potential cost savings.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Roger Hess Jr., Wagener Place

Mr. Hess believed the city should limit the hours the center is open and start charging a small fee when people bring in pickup truck loads or multiple bags of leaves. He also suggested hiring a part-time worker for the hours the center is open. He thought the current equipment the city has is the right size and works well, but it just needs a complete refurbishment. He also asked if there are any non-leaf tasks that the Public Works department is neglecting because of the time spent on leaf piles.

Mr. John Hughes, Heinel Drive

Mr. Hughes explained that he lives within two to three miles of the center, has used it for 35 years, and loves it. He said their concern is the impact that closing the center will have on them and many others in the city. They don't have a way to

move many leaves at once, and his wife makes several trips a day, which would become impossible if she had to travel 14 miles per trip. He also believed the public was left out of the process and was unsure how anyone would know about tonight's meeting because there was no posting or mention of it through the city. He felt there was no transparency. He thought more public input was needed.

Mr. Richard Karlen, 693 Heinel Drive

Mr. Karlen discussed the historical background of the site and its link to stormwater management. He believed that people's behavior regarding their leaves would change if they had to travel 14 miles to the nearest disposal center. He thought this was the wrong incentive for the community and predicted it would lead to less aesthetic appeal in the city, as well as increased trouble for the storm sewer and drainage cleaning equipment. The city would end up spending the same amount of money to clean the storm sewers.

Mr. Joe Sax, 2642 Victoria Street

Mr. Sax explained that he runs a lawn mowing business only in Roseville. He said he offers curbside leaf cleanup mainly for his senior citizen customers. He believes the city's service is excellent for residents, making it easy for them to dispose of yard waste nearby. He noted that if he had to drive farther to dump leaves for his customers, it would increase his costs, which his customers probably couldn't afford. He also mentioned that the cost of compost is relatively small compared to other expenses the city has.

Mayor Roe closed the public comment and asked for council consideration of this matter.

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, to postpone the decision to close the site until 2026 to gather more information.

Mayor Roe clarified that the decision was to continue business as usual for another year.

Councilmember Strahan asked if Mr. Sax's use of this facility is an acceptable use.

Mr. Freihammer indicated that it was not. The center is for individual residents, not contractors, but there is no real way to enforce this. Staff do not check IDs. The county enforces this by requiring individuals to present ID and does not allow contractor dumping.

Councilmember Bauer said he thinks the extra year makes sense and will give the city more time to talk with the county.

Mayor Roe expressed some skepticism about how long the equipment will last, but the year will give the city time to consider other options and possibly purchase used equipment to replace what is currently in use.

The council discussed the possibility of reusing and repairing existing equipment.

Roll Call

Ayes: Schroeder, Groff, Bauer, and Roe.

Nays: Strahan

c. Consider Approving Streetlight Policy Update

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated October 13, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer provided updates on the street light policy based on recent implementation. The revised policy sets a standard for lighting levels in residential areas, measured in foot-candles. Studies were carried out at two locations to assess the lighting, with one location measuring below the recommended standard.

The council emphasized the importance of proper lighting for safety and its possible effect on residents. They also considered the necessity of adding staff and security measures to resolve lighting problems.

Mr. Freihammer suggested updating the street light policy to set an illumination target of 0.3 to 0.6 foot-candles, similar to Minneapolis' residential zones. The revised policy would also recommend installing lights at three locations that were previously delayed.

Mayor Roe asked whether residents could appeal the installation of lights.

Mr. Freihammer explained that most cities lack an appeal process because of standardized lighting requirements.

Councilmember Bauer questioned the placement of the luminescence target within the streetlight design.

Mr. Freihammer agreed to relocate it to the target section.

Councilmember Groff asked about the lighting standards used.

Mr. Freihammer explained that they are based on industry standards, particularly Minneapolis' documented practices.

Councilmember Groff raised concerns about over-lighting cities.

Public Comment

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

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, to approve updating the Streetlight Policy to add the Streetlight illuminance target, moving the standard up into the series of criteria.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Groff believed that one point not discussed was how safe people feel when walking. His neighborhood is quite dark, with some corners rarely illuminated. While many people appreciate darkness, walking a dog or doing other activities in winter can feel a little unnerving. He acknowledged that perspective. He also thought there was no input from the police department regarding lighting, as he had read before that they believe some areas should be lit, especially with downward lighting that illuminates corners where someone could be hiding behind a bush or in the shadows. It's about creating a sense of security.

Councilmember Strahan believed it was positive that the city has a consistent policy and prioritizes safety. She appreciated the downlighting and attention to standard changes. She was confident the city would learn more about lighting adjustments and likely modify the policy to ensure it is right.

Mayor Roe believed the primary purpose of the policy was to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety at intersections. He considered that illuminating areas for crime prevention was a secondary benefit, not necessarily the primary reason for street lighting. He prioritized intersection safety, especially given the differences in speed, weight, and other factors between vehicles and pedestrians.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

d. Select Construction Manager at Risk for Civic Campus Project

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated October 13, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer presented the process of selecting a construction manager at risk for the Civic Campus Project. He noted eight firms submitted qualifications, and five were shortlisted for proposals. Kraus Anderson was chosen as the top firm based on scoring criteria and interviews.

The Council discussed the cost and effort required for Kraus Anderson, which would be about \$3.6 million.

Public Comment

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

Bauer moved, Schroeder seconded, to divide the question between the dance studio and the Maintenance Center.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Schroeder, Bauer, and Roe.

Nays: Groff

Schroeder moved, Bauer seconded, approving the selection of Kraus-Anderson for Construction Manager at Risk services related to the Maintenance Center portion of the Construction Management at Risk Services.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, approving the selection of Kraus-Anderson for Construction Manager at Risk services related to the License Center, Passport Center, and Dance Studio portion of the Construction Management at Risk Services.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: Bauer, Schroeder

e. Approve Architect Agreement for Civic Campus Project

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated October 13, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer announced the agreement with LHB for architectural services on the Civic Campus Project. The contract covers basic services for the licensed passport center and the entire project, with an option to add sustainability costs later.

The council discussed the potential additional costs and the importance of regular communication regarding any changes.

Public Comment

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

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, approving the Agreement with LHB for Architectural Services.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Groff appreciated having the option to consider sustainability in the future. He thought it was something to keep in mind.

Councilmember Schroeder requested that, in the future, these contracts be divided between the two to allow for separate cost considerations. She emphasized the importance of clearly distinguishing what is included in the sales tax portion and what pertains to the actual levy bonding part. She believed it would be sensible to keep these as very separate items moving forward.

Mayor Roe said he wants to get legal advice to ensure there's a clear understanding about whether that approach is appropriate moving forward.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Groff, and Roe.

Nays: Bauer, Schroeder

f. Fire Department FEMA Safer Grant Acceptance

Fire Chief David Brosnahan briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated October 13, 2025.

Chief Brosnahan presented the FEMA Safer Grant for fire department staffing, explaining the grant's purpose and the competitive process. The grant will provide funding for frontline firefighters, with a local match required starting in 2028.

The council discussed the pros and cons of starting the grant in April versus September, with concerns about the additional cost to taxpayers.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comments.

Mr. Roger Hess Jr., Wagener Place

Mr. Hess thought the fire department was doing an excellent job with EMS. He requested this start in April so the city could get the best service it can as quickly as possible. He was not sure if there were enough employees in the fire department, but he thought it would be nice if they could switch to regular eight-hour shifts instead of their current longer shifts.

The council discussed the competitive nature of hiring firefighters and the importance of starting the recruitment process as soon as possible.

Chief Brosnahan explained the challenges of recruiting firefighters and the need for a comprehensive training academy.

The council agreed to have staff return with recommendations on how to achieve an April start date for the grant. The importance of maintaining consistent staffing levels and the impact of high call volumes on fire department operations were emphasized.

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, accepting the FEMA SAFER grant to bolster operational staffing in the fire department.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Schroeder, Groff, Bauer, 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 September 15, 2025, and September 22, 2025, EDA and City Council Meeting Minutes

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, approval of the September 15, 2025, and September 22, 2025, EDA and City Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Schroeder, Groff, Bauer, 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 October 13, 2025, and related attachments.

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

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

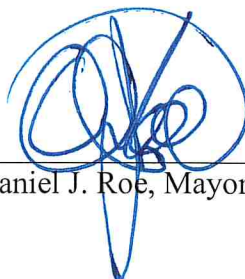
a. Approve Payments

ACH Payments	\$590,462.21
113707-113892	1,746,770.37
TOTAL	\$2,337,232.58

- b. Approve 1 Gasoline Station License and 1 Cigarette/Tobacco Products License
 - c. Consider Not Waiving Statutory Liability Limits for 2026
 - d. Approve 1705 Roselawn Avenue Drainage and Utility Easement Agreements
 - e. Approve Final Payment for Dale/Owasso Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Project 23-02
 - f. Resolution Requesting SCORE Funding from Ramsey County
 - g. Authorize Mayor and City Manager to Execute Metropolitan Livable Communities Act Agreement Permitting Redeployment Proceeds for Grant Funds as Loan Proceeds
11. **Future Agenda Review, Communications, Reports, and Announcements – Council and City Manager**
City Manager Patrick Trudgeon reviewed the October 20, 2025, City Council meeting, October 27, 2025, City Council meeting, November 10, 2025, EDA and City Council meetings, and December meetings.
12. **Adjourn**
Groff moved, Schroeder seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:24 p.m.

Roll Call

Ayes: Strahan, Schroeder, Groff, Bauer, and Roe.
Nays: None.



Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager