



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, March 2, 2026

1. Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

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

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Strahan, Schroeder, 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

6. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. Conduct Public Hearing and Certify Unpaid Utility Charges to the Property Tax Roll

Finance Director Sam Magureanu briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated March 2, 2026.

Mayor Roe reviewed public hearing protocol and opened and closed the public hearing at approximately 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public input on the above-referenced unpaid utility charges, with no one appearing for or against.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Strahan raised questions about several accounts with high outstanding balances, noting that some dated back to 2022 and asking whether additional action or charges should be considered, particularly for residential

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properties that had gone a long time without payment. She also pointed out a property at 2507 Walnut Street, where it appeared multiple businesses might be operating, and noted that one of those businesses was not authorized to operate. She suggested investigating the situation, especially if the property was using significant amounts of water despite the business not being authorized to use it.

Mr. Magureanu explained that unpaid utility balances are typically certified to the county every quarter and then collected through property tax statements. He said that once certified, the balances are marked as collected in the city's system because the county is responsible for collecting them through the tax process. If taxes remain delinquent, the county handles enforcement. He added that if outstanding balances dated back to 2022, they would require further review to determine why they had not yet been certified. Still, the listed balances would be sent to the county for certification. Any new unpaid utility charges after that point would be added to a new balance.

Mr. Trudgeon explained that although some accounts were noted as dating back to 2023, the city had still certified those unpaid balances to the county every quarter. He clarified that the notation meant the customers had not paid their bills on time since that year, not that the balances had gone uncertified. He noted that some residents and businesses regularly pay late and are subject to a standard penalty.

Mr. Trudgeon added that the council could consider a different penalty structure, such as a sliding scale or higher penalties for larger delinquent balances, particularly for businesses. He emphasized that water service costs the city money because the City pays St. Paul Regional Water Services for the water usage even if the City is not yet paid by the account holder, so timely payments are important to ensure the city can cover those expenses.

Councilmember Strahan wondered if anything on those accounts had been paid since 2020.

Mr. Magureanu clarified that the notations referenced on page three indicated that certain properties had a pattern of not paying their utility bills on time since 2022. He explained that this did not mean the balances had not been certified to the county, but rather that the utility billing clerk was noting a recurring habit of late payment for those accounts.

Mr. Trudgeon noted that when the resident pays the tax, it is paid in full.

Mr. Magureanu clarified that the listed balances were the current balances as of the time the report was prepared, not amounts accumulated since 2020. He noted that the comment attached to those accounts was meant to indicate a history of late payments rather than the length of time the balance had been outstanding. He explained that once the balances were certified to the county for collection through

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property taxes, they would be marked as zero in the city's system, and any new unpaid charges after that point would be added to a new balance.

Mayor Roe suggested it might be worthwhile for the council to discuss how the city handles frequently delinquent commercial properties. He said the council could consider whether additional measures beyond the current system should be explored to address repeated nonpayment and recommended bringing the topic back for further discussion.

Councilmember Groff asked whether unpaid utility balances could continue accumulating if a property owner failed to pay their property taxes, noting that the debt might remain unpaid until the property eventually went through the tax forfeiture process.

Mr. Magureanu explained that if property taxes remain unpaid, the county ultimately handles the foreclosure process. He said the city certifies unpaid utility balances to the county to help ensure the city can recover those funds, especially if the property is sold or foreclosed. He added that certification protects the city because if a property is sold without the balance being certified, there may be no way for the city to recover the unpaid utility charges.

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, adoption of Resolution No. 12220 (Attachment 1) entitled, "Resolution Directing the County Auditor to Levy Unpaid Water, Sewer and Other Charges for Payable 2010 or Beyond."

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

b. Consider Adopting Updated Snow & Ice Control Policy

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated March 2, 2026.

Mr. Freihammer presented an overview of the city's current and proposed snow and ice control policy, noting that the policy had last been formally updated in 2014 and applies to city streets and parking lots, while pathways are addressed separately by the Parks and Recreation Department. He explained that staff reviewed the policy primarily to simplify and update it, reducing it from seven pages to four while maintaining most operational practices that have worked well and generated few complaints.

Mr. Freihammer outlined key elements that would remain unchanged, including the goal of plowing streets and critical parking lots to full width within 10 hours after snowfall ends when accumulations reach two inches or more, and beginning plowing during larger storms once snowfall reaches about six inches. He also noted

that the city does not follow a “bare pavement” policy like Ramsey County or MnDOT, meaning residents should expect some snow or ice to remain during winter months, even after plowing.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed existing roadside policies regarding items in the right-of-way, explaining when the city would repair damage caused directly by plowing, such as striking a mailbox, versus situations that remain the responsibility of the property owner, such as damage caused by snow weight or irrigation system issues.

Mr. Freihammer also stated that the proposed updates included clarifying terminology by replacing “collector routes” with “priority main routes,” adding a 14-hour maximum work limit for plow operators within 24 hours to reflect industry standards and ensure adequate rest for staff, and incorporating the city’s snowplow parking pilot areas into the policy. He provided an overview of how plow routes are organized throughout the city, explaining that crews are assigned to specific geographic zones and assist other crews once their routes are completed.

Mr. Freihammer also described de-icing practices using brine before certain storms when conditions allow, as well as coordination between Public Works and Parks staff to clear city parking lots. He concluded by noting that the Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission had reviewed the proposal at its January meeting and recommended adoption of the updated policy.

Mayor Roe suggested a minor improvement to the map included in the policy materials, recommending that the legend identifying state and county roads include a heading clarifying that the city does not plow those routes. He noted that he was not making the suggestion a condition of approving the policy update, but believed it would help provide clearer information to the public.

Mr. Freihammer indicated that staff could do that, and it was a good suggestion for clarity.

Mayor Roe explained that adding a clearer label to the map legend would help prevent confusion, noting that without it, someone might mistakenly think the county roads shown on the map were plowed by the city.

Public Comment

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

Strahan moved, Schroeder seconded, adoption of the revised Now & Ice Control Policy.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Strahan expressed appreciation for the staff's efforts to review and simplify the snow and ice control policy, noting that making policies shorter and easier to read improves clarity. She also supported the mayor's suggestion about clarifying the map and noted that community discussions sometimes focus on road conditions at intersections that are actually county roads. Strahan said it is helpful for residents to understand how many county roads exist within the city and that the city is not responsible for maintaining those routes.

Councilmember Groff commented that he appreciated the policy review and simplification, noting that removing unnecessary wording made the document clearer. He said it was also helpful for both councilmembers and the public to revisit and understand the city's policies, since residents often ask questions about them, and having the information clarified makes it easier for councilmembers to explain how the city handles snow and ice control.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

c. Consider Adopting an Ordinance Amending Chapter 404 of the Roseville City Code

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated March 2, 2026.

Mr. Freihammer presented a proposed update to the city's noise ordinance, explaining that the last major revision occurred in 2018 when exemptions were added for certain city-led projects. He said the city typically receives one or two requests each year for noise variances related to construction projects that require night work, often from agencies such as Ramsey County. He noted that these requests sometimes arrive late in the project planning process, and the current requirement for a full public hearing and variance process can delay the project.

Mr. Freihammer explained that to address this, staff proposed adding a limited administrative exemption process for short-term projects conducted by public agencies, such as Ramsey County or the Metropolitan Council. Under the proposal, staff could approve night work for projects lasting up to three days when there is a clear public benefit, eliminating the need for a formal public hearing in those cases.

Mr. Freihammer emphasized that the exemption would apply only to public agency projects and not to private construction. He also explained that residents would still receive notification at least seven days in advance, and the ordinance would update the notification radius from 350 feet to 500 feet to match other city notification standards.

Mr. Freihammer provided examples of situations where staff might approve a short-term exemption, such as overnight paving at an intersection to minimize traffic disruption or a 24-hour infrastructure repair by the Metropolitan Council. He also described situations that would still require the traditional variance process, including projects lasting longer than three days or requests from private construction companies seeking extended work hours. He concluded by noting that the Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission reviewed the proposal in January and recommended adoption of the revised ordinance.

Mayor Roe asked staff to clarify whether there could be situations in which staff would attach specific conditions or limitations when granting a noise ordinance exemption, such as restricting the work to certain overnight hours or applying other requirements related to the project.

Mr. Freihammer responded that staff could include conditions when granting a noise ordinance exemption, such as limiting the specific hours when work could occur. He explained that in many cases the request would involve slightly extending normal work hours, such as working a few hours past the usual cutoff time or starting a little earlier in the morning, rather than allowing disruptive work during the middle of the night when it could reasonably be avoided.

Mayor Roe said he believed it was important for staff to have the flexibility to adjust exemption conditions based on the specific situation. He also suggested that, similar to the city's special event permitting process, the council could be included in notifications when these exemptions are issued. Hence, councilmembers are aware when projects with extended work hours are planned in the community.

Mr. Freihammer confirmed that the ordinance already requires that notifications be sent not only to nearby residents but also to the city council and the city manager when these exemptions are granted.

Public Comment

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

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, enactment of Ordinance No. 1699 (Attachment 2) entitled, "An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Chapter 404 "Noise Control", to Exempt Certain Public Projects from Restrictions and Clarify Other Requirements."

Council Discussion

Councilmember Groff commented that residents generally prefer construction work to be completed as quickly as possible and said allowing limited extensions to work

hours could help projects finish sooner and reduce overall disruption. He stated that he believed the proposed approach was a good policy.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Strahan moved, Bauer seconded, Adoption on Resolution No. 12221 (Attachment 1) entitled, “A Resolution Approving Publication of an Ordinance Summary of ORD No. 1699, Amending Title 4, Chapter 404 “Noise Control”, to Exempt Certain Public Projects from Restrictions and Clarify Other requirements.”

Roll Call (Super Majority Required)

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

Nays: None

d. Appoint Commissioners to the Equity and Inclusion, Finance, Planning, and Public Works Environment, and Transportation Commissions

Mayor Roe briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request For Council Action and related attachments dated March 2, 2026.

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, appointing Narayan Dhakel to the Equity and Inclusion Commission for a partial term ending March 31, 2028, and appointing Martin Jeffers, Matthew Kaney, and Kyle Randolph to the Finance Commission for a term ending March 31, 2029, and appointing Luke Sandstrom the Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission for a term ending March 31, 2029.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Strahan stated that the city had received many strong applicants and said the selected individuals would be valuable additions to the various committees and commissions.

Councilmember Groff commented that the selection process was challenging because there were many strong applicants with diverse skills. He encouraged those who were not selected to apply again in the future or consider volunteering in other ways. He said he believed the final group of appointees was a strong slate.

Mayor Roe noted that councilmembers were involved in reviewing all applicants for the commissions, not just those ultimately appointed, which he said reflected the overall quality of the candidates. He explained that some commissions had only one vacancy despite receiving more than a dozen applications, making the selection process difficult. Roe expressed appreciation for residents willing to serve and encouraged those not selected to apply again in the future, noting that the city

typically conducts another round of appointments in the fall in addition to the primary appointment period each spring.

Roll Call

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

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, Appointing Rose Linday and Ben Schaefer to the Planning Commission for a term ending March 31, 2029.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Strahan stated that the city had received many strong applicants for the positions and noted that the selection cycle was unusually competitive due to the high level of community interest. She encouraged residents who were not selected to apply again in the future, saying the large number of qualified candidates reflected strong public engagement in the community.

Roll Call

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

Mayor Roe announced that the appointments had been approved and congratulated those selected to serve on the commissions. He said the appointees would contribute to city decision-making over the next two to three years, depending on the term length.

Mayor Roe also thanked everyone who applied and encouraged those not selected to apply again in the future, sharing that he personally needed multiple attempts before being appointed to the Planning Commission and later elected to the council, emphasizing the value of persistence in public service.

8. Council Direction on Councilmember Initiated Agenda Items

9. Approve Minutes

10. Approve Consent Agenda

At Mayor Roe's request, City Manager Trudgeon briefly reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda, as detailed in specific Requests for Council Action dated March 2, 2026, and related attachments.

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

Roll Call

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

a. Approve Payments

ACH Payments	\$182,009.74
114979-115030	275,061.72
TOTAL	\$457,071.46

- b. Approve General Purchases or Sale of Surplus Items Exceeding \$10,000**
- c. Approve Ramsey County Cooperative Agreement for Fairview Avenue from Larpenteur Avenue to County Road B2**
- d. Adopt a Resolution Approving Ramsey County License Agreement for Wayfinding Sign**

11. Future Agenda Review, Communications, Reports, and Announcements – Council and City Manager

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon reviewed the EDA and City Council meetings for March 16, 2026, March 23, 2026, and the City Council meetings in April and May 2026.

Councilmember Schroeder indicated that she and Councilmember Bauer would be traveling to the Minnesota State Capitol on March 12, 2026. She said they had been communicating with state representatives and asked councilmembers to let her or Councilmember Bauer know if there were any city priorities or issues to raise during those discussions.

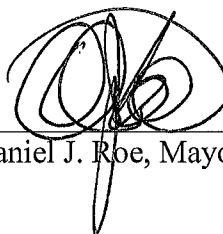
Councilmember Groff updated the council on the recent Northeast Youth and Family Services meeting and announced that the Annual Youth and Leadership Lunch would be held on May 6, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Vadnais Heights Community Center. He noted that the organization was currently seeking volunteers to serve as table captains for the event. There is no charge, but donations are requested.

Mayor Roe explained that the Rice and Larpenteur Alliance is having their annual gathering at the Community School of Excellence on March 5, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m.

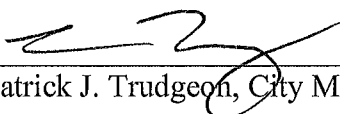
Roll Call

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



Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:


Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager