City of ROSEVILLE Minnesota, USA

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, July 6, 2026

1. **Roll Call**

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Approve Agenda**

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

Roll Call

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

4. **Public Comment**

Mayor Roe called for public comment by audience members on non-agenda items.

Mr. Roger Hess, Wagener Place, addressed two issues he hoped the council would consider in the future. First, he expressed disappointment with the updated graphics on Roseville Police Department squad cars. He explained that the previous design prominently displayed the word "Roseville," making the vehicles easily recognizable from a distance. He believed the new design emphasized the department badge while making the city name much less visible, reducing community recognition. He encouraged the council to compare the two designs side by side and consider returning to the previous appearance.

Mr. Hess also discussed the recently canceled Hamline Avenue construction project. He questioned why side streets remained barricaded for approximately nine days after the city knew the project would not proceed. He explained that motorists experienced unnecessary detours despite there being no construction near many of the intersections. He suggested the city review its policies governing road closures during construction projects to ensure intersections remain open whenever work is not actively occurring nearby. He specifically cited the closures at C2 and Hamline, as well as the entrances to a nearby church, as examples of unnecessary inconvenience.

Several representatives of the Roseville Juneteenth Committee appeared before the council to thank the city for its continued partnership and support during the 2026 Juneteenth celebration.

Committee representatives, including Mr. Rick Sanders, Mr. Ettiene Djevi, and Mr. Keith Allen, reported that attendance exceeded 500 participants, making the event one of the most successful celebrations to date. They credited the city's financial support, staff assistance, police presence, parks personnel, and numerous city departments for helping the event operate smoothly. They emphasized that the celebration would not have been possible without the city's partnership.

The committee also thanked Mayor Roe and Councilmember Groff for attending and participating in the event, noting their presence demonstrated the city's commitment to building an inclusive community. They described the event as an opportunity to unite residents around shared values while celebrating Black history and culture.

Committee members further highlighted the participation of the Roseville Police Department, observing that interactions between officers and children helped strengthen community relationships and illustrated positive community policing efforts.

Mr. Keith Allen reflected on his experiences living in Roseville after growing up in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood. He explained that Roseville had become a community where people of all backgrounds felt welcome and safe. He noted that other cities had begun asking how Roseville had created such a successful Juneteenth celebration and praised the city for becoming known not only for its parks but also for its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Mr. Rick Sanders also thanked the council and city staff for their partnership and recognized the Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce as an important new partner in planning the event.

Mayor Roe thanked the committee for its volunteer efforts and acknowledged that each year's celebration continued to improve. He specifically recognized the contributions of Sustainability Specialist Noel Bakken and Devonte for their participation in the planning process.

5. Recognitions, Donations, and Communications

a. Kiwanis Peanut Day Proclamation

Mayor Roe introduced the annual proclamation recognizing the Northeast Metro Golden K Kiwanis Club and invited representatives of the organization to address the council before the proclamation was read.

Mr. Jim House, a longtime Roseville resident and member of the Northeast Metro Golden K Kiwanis Club, described the organization's mission of serving children and youth throughout the northeast metropolitan area. He explained that the club consists primarily of retired professionals who meet weekly at the John Rose Center and devote their time and resources to community service projects.

Mr. House highlighted the club's financial support for numerous nonprofit organizations, including Northeast Youth and Family Services, Community Partners with Youth, Kids in Need, Every Meal, Keystone Community Services, the Kiwanis International Children's Fund, and other organizations serving young people. He also described the club's volunteer efforts at organizations such as Bridging and noted that members regularly tutor students in local schools. He further reported that the organization awards numerous scholarships each year to graduating seniors from Roseville Area High School, Fairview Alternative School, Mounds View High School, Irondale High School, and White Bear Lake Area High School. Over the past 15 years, the organization has contributed more than $500,000 to scholarships, youth programming, and community service projects.

Mr. Max DeLong, co-chair of the annual Peanut Day fundraiser, introduced fellow committee member Nancy Height and explained that the annual peanut sale serves as the club's principal fundraising effort. Representatives distributed boxes of peanuts to attendees while encouraging donations to support the club's charitable activities.

Mayor Roe then read the official proclamation recognizing July 6, 2026, as Roseville Golden K Kiwanis Peanut Day. The proclamation acknowledged the organization's longstanding commitment to improving the lives of children and young people. It recognized that proceeds from the Peanut Day fundraiser support programs that address youth development and food insecurity throughout the community.

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, proclaiming July 6, 2026, Golden K Kiwanis Peanut Day.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Schroeder remarked that Peanut Day had become an annual tradition she looked forward to each year and praised the organization for making community giving both simple and meaningful.

Councilmember Groff thanked the volunteers for their continued dedication to Roseville's youth and specifically acknowledged the organization's longstanding partnership with Northeast Youth and Family Services, noting that the organization's contributions have positively impacted many young people throughout the community.

Mayor Roe also recognized the club's volunteer tutoring efforts within local schools, describing educational mentoring as another valuable service that extends beyond financial donations.

Mr. House responded that tutoring in mathematics, science, and reading remains an important part of the club's volunteer mission and continues to be well received by local schools.

Roll Call

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

6. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

7. Business Items

a. **Draft Climate Equity Action Plan**

Sustainability Specialist Noel Bakken briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated July 6, 2026.

Sustainability Specialist Noel Bakken presented the final draft of the Climate Equity Action Plan, explaining that it builds on years of sustainability efforts and approximately ten months of formal planning. She thanked the consultant, advisory groups, city staff, and community members who contributed to the plan's development.

Consultant Ted Redmond explained that the plan supports the City's Strategic Plan by establishing greenhouse gas reduction goals of a 54 percent reduction by 2036 and net-zero emissions by 2050, consistent with regional and state climate goals. He reviewed the planning process, which included research, community engagement, collaboration with staff and advisory groups, and public review.

Consultant Redmond reported that additional public outreach since April included workshops, commission and staff reviews, and an online comment period. Public feedback was generally supportive, leading to the addition of a "Plan at a Glance" summary, sustainability guidance for future data centers, and several editorial revisions. He concluded by explaining that, if adopted, the plan would be implemented through annual work plans identifying priorities, funding opportunities, staffing needs, and future budget recommendations.

Mayor Roe opened Council discussion by thanking staff, the consultant, the Climate Justice Advisory Group, and residents who participated throughout the planning process. He emphasized that the document represented the culmination of years of work rather than a stand-alone project and invited questions from the Council.

Councilmember Schroeder began by noting she had exchanged several emails with staff regarding minor revisions to the document over the holiday weekend. She asked whether additional wording changes discussed with staff, including references to "No Mow May," could still be incorporated, even though the council was considering adopting the final draft.

Ms. Bakken confirmed that minor edits could still be made before publication. She explained that staff were also completing several storytelling projects with community members and Roseville Area High School students that would be included as appendices and on the city's future Climate Action webpage. She encouraged councilmembers to continue identifying any typographical or editorial corrections before the final version was published.

Councilmember Schroeder explained that she appreciated the implementation framework in the plan, particularly the section requiring staff to evaluate potential unintended impacts before implementing any action. She said it was important that every recommendation be examined to determine whether it might inadvertently burden lower-income residents, communities of color, senior citizens, or individuals with disabilities. She remarked that good intentions alone do not always prevent unintended consequences and believed the implementation review process would help ensure equity remained central throughout future decision-making.

Councilmember Schroeder also identified one sentence she believed should be removed from the section on electric-vehicle-ready requirements for affordable housing. While she supported reviewing Roseville's EV-ready ordinance, she believed the language recommending a specific technical solution was too prescriptive, as city staff was already evaluating ordinance revisions and anticipated changes to state building code requirements. She suggested leaving flexibility for future policy decisions rather than embedding a single preferred solution in the Climate Equity Action Plan itself.

Ms. Bakken agreed with the recommendation. She explained that Minnesota's building code revisions would likely supersede portions of Roseville's current EV-ready ordinance, making it prudent to remove language that might quickly become outdated. She noted staff was already working with the Planning Commission to evaluate ordinance revisions that would better align with anticipated state requirements while remaining practical for developers.

Councilmember Schroeder next asked about the financial projections included within the appendix. She wanted clarification that the projected savings shown throughout the document reflected estimated savings experienced by the entire Roseville community rather than savings to the City of Roseville's operating budget.

Mr. Redmond confirmed that the calculations represented estimated cumulative savings for residents, businesses, and the community as a whole. He emphasized they were intended only as order-of-magnitude estimates illustrating potential long-term community benefits rather than projections of municipal budget savings.

Councilmember Schroeder further clarified that the document did not estimate the cost to the city of implementing each recommendation.

Ms. Bakken confirmed that implementation costs would be evaluated individually, as projects are considered over time rather than estimated collectively in the current plan.

Councilmember Schroeder concluded by thanking staff for the extensive effort invested in the document and noted that, although she wished more residents had participated in the public comment period, she recognized that community engagement is often challenging. She also praised staff for beginning the planning process well in advance of the Comprehensive Plan update, allowing Roseville to develop a thoughtful strategy rather than rushing to satisfy future planning requirements.

Councilmember Bauer questioned several of the economic benefit calculations, specifically referencing projected savings associated with reducing vehicle miles traveled. He explained that one of the underlying assumptions was an average vehicle operating cost of approximately 77 cents per mile. He argued that much of that figure reflected ownership costs, such as depreciation, licensing, and insurance, rather than actual operating expenses avoided through reduced driving. In his opinion, using a lower operating cost would significantly reduce the projected community savings.

Consultant Redmond acknowledged that the calculations relied on nationally recognized research and historical transportation cost data, but agreed that assumptions could vary depending on the methodology.

Councilmember Bauer then turned to the implementation strategy itself. He observed that the plan contained well over 100 recommended actions, yet included no estimates of what implementing them might cost. He explained that without an understanding of implementation costs, it would be difficult for the council to prioritize projects or determine which recommendations were financially feasible. Using electric vehicle charging infrastructure as an example, he noted that adding charging stations to multifamily housing developments can require substantial electrical upgrades, transformer capacity, and utility improvements. He expressed concern that these additional requirements could substantially increase development costs.

Ms. Bakken acknowledged that implementation costs would vary considerably depending upon each project. Some recommendations might require significant investment, while others would involve little more than staff time, educational outreach, or coordination with partner organizations. Because every recommendation would eventually return to the council individually, staff believed detailed cost estimates would be more meaningful when developed for specific projects rather than attempting to estimate costs for every action decades in advance.

Councilmember Bauer responded that implementation costs would ultimately determine whether many recommendations could realistically move forward. He emphasized that successful implementation depended not only on meeting environmental goals but also on ensuring projects were financially sustainable for taxpayers, developers, businesses, and residents.

Ms. Bakken agreed that affordability would remain an essential consideration throughout implementation. She explained that staff intended to use annual implementation plans to identify achievable priorities, available grant funding, partnerships, and existing city initiatives that could reduce costs. Rather than pursuing every recommendation simultaneously, the city would gradually implement projects that aligned with available resources and community priorities. She also pointed out that many recommendations involved collaboration with outside agencies, including Metro Transit, Ramsey County, utilities, nonprofit organizations, and state agencies. Because numerous actions depended upon regional partnerships rather than city funding alone, implementation would naturally occur over many years.

Councilmember Bauer acknowledged that explanation but reiterated that the council would eventually need meaningful financial information before authorizing individual projects.

Councilmember Strahan thanked staff, the consultant, and the numerous volunteers who participated throughout the development of the Climate Equity Action Plan. She explained that she appreciated the document because it transformed broad sustainability goals into practical actions rather than simply identifying problems.

Councilmember Strahan referenced the City's earlier Vulnerable Populations Report, noting that while it contained valuable information, it lacked clearly defined implementation strategies. In contrast, she believed the Climate Equity Action Plan provided a practical roadmap with measurable actions to guide future decision-making.

Councilmember Strahan also addressed concerns about the relatively few residents who submitted formal comments during the online review period. She cautioned against judging public participation solely by the number of online responses, explaining that community engagement had occurred over many months through advisory committees, workshops, stakeholder meetings, staff discussions, and public presentations. She emphasized that hundreds of residents had contributed ideas throughout the planning process, even if only a smaller number submitted comments during the final review period.

Turning to one of the newest additions to the plan, Councilmember Strahan asked Ms. Bakken to explain why staff had added language regarding data centers.

Ms. Bakken explained that multiple public comments expressed concern about the increasing number of data centers being developed throughout the metropolitan area and the significant electrical and water demands associated with those facilities. Because Roseville contains substantial industrial land, she believed the city should begin discussing sustainability expectations before future data center proposals arrive. She emphasized that the plan encouraged the development of policy guidance and did not establish new regulations.

Councilmember Strahan responded that she supported beginning that conversation but stressed that any future data center policies should involve extensive public engagement. She noted that residents would likely hold differing opinions regarding data center development and believed any future ordinance should be developed through a transparent public process.

Ms. Bakken agreed, explaining that every major implementation action contained in the plan would involve additional community engagement before council consideration. She emphasized that adoption of the Climate Equity Action Plan did not automatically implement any specific recommendation.

Councilmember Strahan then addressed comments regarding taxes and implementation costs. She explained that discussions should not focus solely on whether residents were willing to pay more taxes for climate initiatives. Instead, she believed the city should continually evaluate how existing resources are allocated and determine whether sustainability investments should receive greater priority alongside traditional infrastructure projects.

Councilmember Strahan observed that the city routinely invests significant resources in roads and other public infrastructure because those investments are considered necessary. Climate resilience, she argued, deserves similar consideration as an investment in Roseville's long-term future rather than being viewed solely as an additional expense.

Councilmember Groff explained that he viewed the Climate Equity Action Plan as a planning document rather than a commitment to implement every recommendation exactly as written. He praised the detailed research contained throughout the report and particularly appreciated the practical suggestions directed toward individual residents. He noted that recommendations such as rain gardens, rain barrels, energy conservation, and other voluntary actions demonstrated that climate goals would require participation from the entire community rather than the city government alone.

Councilmember Groff indicated that estimating implementation costs through 2050 would be unrealistic because technology, regulations, funding opportunities, and construction methods would change significantly over time. Instead, he believed the plan should serve as a framework allowing future Councils to evaluate projects individually as opportunities arise.

Councilmember Groff expressed confidence that implementation would evolve gradually as projects naturally aligned with scheduled infrastructure improvements, facility upgrades, ordinance revisions, and available grant funding.

Mayor Roe largely agreed with Councilmember Groff's comments, emphasizing that he viewed the Climate Equity Action Plan as a long-term guide rather than a rigid blueprint. He explained that implementation would occur in several different ways.

Mayor Roe noted that the Plan made recommendations focused on city operations, including municipal buildings, fleet purchases, renewable energy installations, and infrastructure improvements. Others involved regulatory decisions such as development standards and ordinances. Still others depended upon voluntary actions by residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, utilities, and regional partners. Because responsibility would be shared across many organizations,

Mayor Roe emphasized that meaningful progress would require collaboration throughout the community.

Mayor Roe also highlighted potential funding opportunities. Roseville continues to receive Local Affordable Housing Aid funds from the State of Minnesota, and future grants from state and federal agencies may support many sustainability initiatives. Rather than viewing every recommendation as a new burden on taxpayers, he believed the city should remain prepared to leverage outside funding whenever opportunities arise.

Mayor Roe further stressed that annual implementation plans must be closely coordinated with the city's annual budget process. He explained that implementation priorities should be evaluated alongside other municipal spending decisions so the council can appropriately balance available resources.

Ms. Bakken informed the council that the Climate Justice Advisory Group had intentionally evaluated every proposed action using equity criteria developed specifically for the project. Among those criteria were affordability, implementation feasibility, impacts on vulnerable populations, and potential unintended consequences. She explained that implementation decisions would continue to use those same evaluation standards to ensure projects remained financially viable while advancing the city's sustainability goals.

The council continued discussing affordable housing as an example of balancing competing priorities.

Councilmember Bauer expressed concern that additional sustainability requirements, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, might increase development costs and ultimately reduce affordable housing opportunities.

Ms. Bakken acknowledged those concerns, explaining that each development proposal presents unique circumstances. She pointed to current discussions about Roseville's EV-ready ordinance, noting that flexibility, incentives, partnerships, and state funding programs would all play a role in determining appropriate requirements.

Consultant Redmond added that many "EV-ready" requirements involve thoughtful planning during initial construction rather than installation of expensive charging equipment. Providing conduit, electrical capacity, and designated future charging locations often adds relatively little cost during construction while making future upgrades substantially less expensive.

Councilmembers Schroeder and Strahan both emphasized that protecting affordable housing opportunities remained a priority and agreed that future implementation decisions should carefully weigh environmental benefits against housing affordability.

Mayor Roe concluded that no housing project, whether market rate or affordable, would ultimately proceed unless it remained financially feasible. He expressed confidence that future implementation discussions would appropriately balance environmental objectives with economic realities.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment.

Ms. Donna Peterson
Ms. Donna Peterson spoke in favor of the plan, drawing upon her professional experience working with businesses through the University of Minnesota to reduce waste and pollution. She explained that many environmental improvements ultimately save money while improving operations. She encouraged the city to continue investing in sustainability and suggested using interns to assist with future implementation projects.

Ms. Allison Campbell Jensen, Eldridge Ave
Ms. Allison Jensen addressed the council as a private resident rather than in her official capacity as a Planning Commission member. She described the Climate Equity Action Plan as an important community roadmap that would help Roseville

prepare for future environmental challenges. She acknowledged that individual wording changes could always be made, but believed the overall direction of the plan remained both thoughtful and worthwhile.

Following public comment, Mayor Roe summarized the requested action before the council: adoption of the Climate Equity Action Plan with authorization for staff to make final non-substantive revisions incorporating comments received during the meeting.

Strahan moved, Groff seconded, adopting the Climate Equity Action Plan.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Groff reiterated that the plan represented a statement of community values rather than a fixed list of mandatory projects. He emphasized that every future implementation decision would still return to the council for discussion, public input, and formal approval. As technology, grant opportunities, regulations, and community priorities evolve, he expected the plan itself to evolve as well.

Councilmember Schroeder noted that everyone shared the common goal of protecting clean air and a healthy environment. She reiterated that the implementation framework requiring evaluation of unintended impacts provided her confidence that future decisions would remain flexible and responsive to changing conditions.

Councilmember Bauer explained that while he continued to have concerns regarding implementation costs, he was comfortable supporting the document as a guiding framework. He emphasized that future success would depend upon ensuring projects remained economically sustainable for residents, businesses, and developers.

Mayor Roe concluded by noting that the City had already achieved a significant portion of its interim greenhouse gas reduction goals through existing policies and ongoing community efforts. He explained that while additional work remained, adopting the Climate Equity Action Plan established a clear direction for future decision-making.

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

b. **Consider Future 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 July 6, 2026.

Mr. Freihammer presented an updated evaluation of the Roseville Leaf Recycling Center, explaining that the council postponed a decision on closure during the 2025 budget process to allow staff to collect additional operational data. After monitoring the 2025 season and reviewing the findings, the Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission voted 4-3 to recommend closing the facility after the 2026 season, and staff continued to support that recommendation.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the facility's history and current operations, noting that it processes 30,000 to 35,000 cubic yards of leaves annually and produces compost for residents. He reported that the 2025 season was the busiest on record, with increasing traffic, greater contractor use, suspected use by nonresidents, and operational challenges including congestion, illegal dumping, aging equipment, maintenance costs, and neighborhood concerns.

Mr. Freihammer outlined five alternatives for the Council's consideration: continuing current operations; operating with reduced hours and tighter access controls; collecting leaves while outsourcing composting; closing the facility after the 2026 season; or transferring operations to Ramsey County. He explained the costs, service impacts, and operational considerations associated with each option, noting that while staff recommended closure after the 2026 season, all five alternatives remained available for council consideration.

Mayor Roe thanked Mr. Freihammer and the Public Works staff for collecting an additional year of operational data, noting that the council now had substantially more data than it had during the previous year's discussion. He began by asking several clarifying questions regarding equipment replacement costs.

Mr. Freihammer explained that if the city retained compost production while reducing annual leaf volume, a smaller compost turner could likely be purchased for between approximately $300,000 and $500,000 instead of the much larger machine originally estimated. Staff believed a smaller machine would adequately serve Roseville if contractor traffic and unauthorized dumping were reduced.

Mayor Roe also asked whether repairs completed during the previous year had permanently addressed the site's deteriorating surface conditions.

Mr. Freihammer responded that staff had regraded portions of the site and added gravel after the facility opened for the 2025 season, significantly improving conditions. However, because of poor underlying soils, those improvements represented ongoing maintenance rather than a permanent solution. The site would always require periodic rehabilitation unless reconstructed entirely.

Mayor Roe also questioned staff about the annual operating budget and noted apparent discrepancies between the operating costs shown in budget documents and those discussed during the presentation.

Mr. Freihammer explained that equipment depreciation and internal equipment charges are tracked separately from direct operating expenditures. Consequently, actual operating costs and budgeted expenditures appear different even though both reflect legitimate costs associated with operating the facility.

Mayor Roe asked how much of the site would actually be needed if compost production ceased and Public Works used portions of the property for other maintenance purposes.

Mr. Freihammer estimated that only a portion of the site would likely be needed for storage of wood chips, emergency utility repairs, and temporary staging associated with future Public Works operations.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked Public Works staff for the considerable amount of additional work completed since the council first reviewed the issue in 2025. She commented that the additional operational data, traffic counts, photographs, and cost information provided a much clearer picture of the site's challenges and the options available moving forward. She asked why staff proposed matching Ramsey County's operating schedule under Options B and C.

Mr. Freihammer explained that mirroring Ramsey County's schedule would reduce confusion for residents while discouraging nonresident use. Because Ramsey County facilities are closed Tuesdays and Thursdays, Roseville currently experiences increased traffic on those days. If Roseville adopted a significantly different schedule, staff believed many nonresidents would continue to seek out Roseville simply because it remained open while county facilities were closed.

Councilmember Schroeder asked whether the city had considered eliminating spring leaf collection while maintaining fall operations.

Mr. Freihammer responded that spring activity represents only a small percentage of annual use. Most spring visitors are cleaning landscape beds or collecting leaves that accumulated over the winter. While eliminating the spring collection could slightly reduce costs, it would not substantially reduce overall operating expenses because approximately 90 to 95 percent of annual leaf volume arrives in the fall.

Councilmember Schroeder also asked about Roseville's compost delivery program, noting that she remembered community gardens benefiting from the service.

Mr. Freihammer confirmed that approximately twenty-five complimentary compost deliveries are made annually to community gardens and nonprofit organizations, particularly the Rice Street Community Garden and the Oasis Garden. Those organizations have relied on Roseville compost for many years, and eliminating compost production would affect those partnerships.

Councilmember Schroeder asked how staff intended to prevent illegal dumping if the leaf site were ultimately closed.

Mr. Freihammer explained that much of the illegal dumping currently occurs because the walk-in gate allows unrestricted access into the site. Closing or relocating the gate closer to the property line would significantly reduce opportunities for dumping, while improved security cameras would provide additional enforcement.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked staff for the explanations, stating that preserving community benefits while addressing operational problems would be an important consideration during council deliberations.

Councilmember Groff focused much of his discussion on protecting Roseville taxpayers while maintaining a valuable community service. He observed that many residents had suggested operating the facility on days when Ramsey County facilities are closed to improve convenience. However, he recognized the staff's concern that doing so would likely increase unauthorized use by nonresidents.

Councilmember Groff asked whether staffing the entrance would allow employees to verify residency through driver's licenses or other identification.

Mr. Freihammer responded that entrance attendants would check identification much like Ramsey County currently does. Staff anticipated the greatest challenges would occur during the first season as residents, contractors, and nonresidents adjusted to the new procedures. Once expectations became clear, staff believed unauthorized use would decline substantially.

Councilmember Groff explained that because the facility is funded through Roseville's Storm Water Utility, he believed Roseville residents should receive the primary benefit. He supported stronger residency verification if the city chose to continue operating the site.

Councilmember Strahan explained that she remained undecided after reviewing the staff report. She acknowledged the financial challenges of maintaining the aging facility but also recognized the substantial public support for continuing the program. She asked whether reducing annual leaf volume might allow the city to purchase an even smaller compost turner.

Mr. Freihammer explained that significant reductions in leaf volume would be necessary before a substantially smaller machine could be used. Simply reducing contractor traffic would likely return annual collections to approximately historical levels, but the city would still require equipment capable of processing approximately 25,000 cubic yards annually.

Councilmember Strahan also asked whether concerns about invasive jumping worms or other contaminants had affected public demand for Roseville compost.

Mr. Freihammer replied that while those issues occasionally arise, resident demand remained strong. Most compost is distributed through resident self-loading rather than delivery service, and the city typically has very little surplus compost remaining at the end of each season.

Councilmember Strahan asked whether funding already existed within the Storm Water Utility to replace the compost turner.

Mr. Freihammer confirmed that replacement funding had already been included in the Capital Improvement Program for several years. Staff had repeatedly postponed replacement by extending the useful life of the existing equipment, but additional delays would become increasingly difficult.

Councilmember Bauer questioned staff regarding the long-term commitment associated with purchasing new compost equipment. He asked whether approval of a new compost turner would effectively commit future Councils to maintaining the facility for decades.

Mr. Freihammer responded that while the equipment would certainly represent a long-term investment, it could be sold if future Councils eventually decided to discontinue operations. However, resale value would naturally be substantially lower than the original purchase price.

Councilmember Bauer also returned to previous discussions regarding affordable government services, observing that although residents clearly valued the compost site, every municipal amenity ultimately competes with other budget priorities. He indicated he was still weighing whether maintaining the facility represented the best long-term use of Storm Water Utility resources.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Andy Johnson, 218 County Road C
Mr. Andy Johnson described the compost program as one of Roseville's most valuable community services. As an avid gardener, he explained that Roseville compost had dramatically improved his property while saving thousands of dollars

over many years. He estimated that comparable commercial compost would cost substantially more than what residents currently receive through the city's program.

Mr. Johnson suggested that while operational changes, such as limiting contractors, might be appropriate, the compost program itself represented an extraordinary value to residents. He encouraged the council to adopt a modified operating model rather than close the facility.

Mr. Roger Hess, Wagener Place
Mr. Roger Hess urged the council to continue operating the site, arguing that many residents depend upon the service. He suggested the city could better advertise the availability of compost and questioned whether repairing existing equipment might be more economical than purchasing a replacement machine.

Ms. Norma Jurgensen, Lovell Ave
Norma Jurgensen explained that she and many of her neighbors regularly use both the leaf drop-off site and the finished compost. She described the facility as an important gathering place where residents often meet to garden and exchange ideas. She suggested charging commercial contractors for use of the site if doing so could offset operating costs.

Ms. Cynthia Warzecha, 2700 Oxford Street N
Cynthia Warzecha also spoke in support of maintaining the facility. She explained that she had reviewed numerous public comments submitted during the previous year and believed overwhelming public sentiment favored keeping the site open. She described the compost facility as one of the unique amenities that distinguish Roseville from neighboring communities and strengthen neighborhood connections.

Following public testimony, Mayor Roe summarized several questions raised by residents.

Mr. Freihammer clarified that closing the facility would not significantly reduce stormwater utility rates but could help moderate future rate increases by reducing operating expenses. He also explained that staff had already invested significant funds in repairing the existing compost turner and that ongoing repairs would become increasingly expensive, leaving the City with aging equipment.

Councilmember Strahan explained that she remained uncomfortable with the choice between complete closure and continued operation exactly as proposed. She suggested additional analysis of reduced operating hours and seasonal operations before committing to a final long-term operating model.

Mayor Roe suggested that the council could identify a preferred direction while continuing to refine operational details through the upcoming budget process.

Strahan moved to direct staff to proceed with Option B and requested additional information before purchasing replacement equipment.

Councilmember Strahan withdrew her motion after further discussion by the council regarding equipment replacement, which represented a significant commitment.

Schroeder moved, Groff seconded, supporting Option B. Directing staff to:

- Continue operation of the Leaf Recycling Center
- Install additional security measures
- Require staffed entrance monitoring and residency verification
- Restrict authorized contractor use
- Develop modified operating hours
- Proceed with planning for the replacement of the compost turning equipment through the Capital Improvement Program, subject to future council approval during the budget process

Council Discussion

Councilmember Schroeder explained that testimony from residents had reinforced her belief that the compost program represented more than a simple leaf collection service. It had become a valued community amenity supporting gardens, neighborhood beautification, nonprofit organizations, and environmental stewardship.

Councilmember Groff indicated that the city's responsibility extends beyond operating as efficiently as possible. Roseville has long distinguished itself by providing services that improve residents' quality of life, and he believed the compost program remained one of those unique community benefits.

Mayor Roe agreed, observing that although the Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission had recommended closure, the council had also heard compelling testimony regarding the value residents place on the program. He concluded that a modified operation with stronger security, residency verification, and improved management struck an appropriate balance between fiscal responsibility and community expectations. He thanked residents, Commissioners, and Public Works staff for the thoughtful discussion, noting that the final decision reflected the Council's effort to preserve a valued community service while improving operational efficiency and protecting public resources.

Roll Call

Ayes: Schroeder, Bauer, Groff, Strahan, 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 June 8, 2026, and June 15, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

Groff moved, Bauer seconded, approval of the June 8, 2026 & June 15, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Schroeder, Bauer, Groff, Strahan, 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 June 6, 2026, and related attachments.

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

Roll Call

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

a. Approve Payments

ACH Payments	$519,909.26
11803-11855	1,731,492.76
TOTAL	**$2,251,402.02**

b. EMS Standby Contract for Parkinson's Walk

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

City Manager Patrick Trudgeon reviewed the July 13, 2026, City Council Work Session; the July 20, 2026, EDA and City Council meetings; and the August 2026 City Council meeting.

Mayor Roe informed the council that he and City Manager Trudgeon recently attended a regional meeting involving communities participating in the Operation Metro Surge coalition. He explained that member communities were considering the continuation of the collaborative legislative advocacy effort in a more limited capacity. Because continued participation would require council direction and modest financial support, he anticipated bringing the matter forward during the July 20 meeting.

Councilmember Strahan thanked the many city employees, volunteers, and community organizations responsible for the success of the recent Rosefest celebration.
She explained that she attended several Rosefest events and was impressed by the professionalism and coordination demonstrated throughout the festival. She specifically complimented Public Works staff, Parks staff, Public Safety personnel, Volunteers, and event organizers.

Councilmember Strahan noted that accessible parking near Central Park functioned particularly well this year and was greatly appreciated by residents with mobility limitations. She also observed that additional bicycle parking had been provided, making it easier for residents to attend events without driving. She concluded by thanking everyone involved for creating another successful community celebration that reflected positively on Roseville.

12. Adjourn

Strahan moved, Schroeder seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:37 p.m.

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

Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager