Owatonna City Council Minutes
October 7, 2025

On Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., City Council Vice President Voss called the regular session of Owatonna City Council to order in the Chambers of the Charles S. Crandall Center. Present were Council Members Voss, Dotson, Burbank, Boeke, McCann, and Svenby; Mayor Jessop; City Attorney Walbran; Public Works Director Murphy; Community Development Director Klecker; Finance Director Burns; Accounting Analyst Jean; IT Specialist Enz; Assistant City Administrator Thamert; City Administrator Tuma; and Administrative Coordinator Clawson. Council President Raney was unable to attend.

Following roll call, Council Member Dotson requested the length of Public Comments be changed to three minutes and made a motion to approve the agenda with this change, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Mayor Jessop

Mayor Jessop commented he has three proclamations to acknowledge:

1) 2025 Foundation Week – September 30 -October 4, 2025
In recognition and support the Owatonna Foundation as they raise the visibility and awareness of their role in improving the quality of life in Owatonna. The Owatonna Foundation makes the community stronger by distributing funds int eh form of grants for specific community projects and through scholarships to help further the educational goals of individuals.
2) 2025 Firefighter of the Year – Bonnie L. Hermel
The Exchange Club of Owatonna will host the 2025 Firefighter Banquet on Thursday, October 9th at the Owatonna Eagles to recognize Bonnie for this honor and also acknowledge all of our city's firefighters who risk their lives for us each day.
3) Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October 2025
The Crisis Resource Center of Steele has activities and programs planned that work toward improving victim safety and holding perpetrators of domestic abuse accountable for their actions against individual victims and our society as a whole.

Consent Agenda Items

Council President Raney explained council members review the Consent Agenda items prior to the meeting for approval in one motion. Consent Agenda items for this meeting include:

Minutes – Council Meeting – September 16, 2025
Library Board Meeting — August 21, 2025
Airport Commission Meeting - September 18, 2025
HRA Board Meeting - September 22, 2025
Fire - Monthly Dashboard and Activity Report - August 2025
Police - Crime Clock and Activity Report - September 2025
Building Inspection Monthly Report - September 2025
Weed/Nuisance Inspection Report - October 1, 2025

Temporary Liquor Permit - Owatonna Arts Center - November 14, 2025
Excluded Bingo Permit - Purse Bingo - Early Edition Rotary - November 14, 2025
Exempt Permit - St Mary's School of Owatonna Raffle - March 21, 2026
Tabled Item - Event Permit - Cedar Fest on October 11, 2025 - has been canceled
Amend Resolution 52-25 2026 Proposed City Budget and Levy

During the last council meeting, Council approved Resolution 52.25 setting the Proposed 2026 City Levy and Budget. A clerical error was noted in the amount shown as the Ad Valorem Tax, $21,940,620 (this is a combination of the Ad Valorem Tax, PER Rate Change and Debt Retirement)

$19,134,358	Ad Valorem Tax
2,537,000	PERA Rate Change
+ 269,262	Debt Retirement
$21,940,620	Total

The amount shown on Resolution 52-25 was corrected prior to submission to Steele County to meet the September 30th deadline. There is no change to the approved 2026 Proposed City Levy of 13%. The amended resolution shows the correct request for Direct Ad Valorem Tax in the amount of $19,134,358.

Lease Addendum - Wee Pals

Wee Pals Child Care leases space from the City of Owatonna in the Merrill Hall building. They would like to lease the last two rooms available in Merrill Hall to expand their childcare capacity. The lease payments will generate an additional $577 per month for November and December 2025 and will follow the yearly increases outlined in the original lease for the remainder of the lease term.

Commercial Lease Renewal - Accelerated Aviation

Accelerated Aviation has been operating a commercial flight school at the airport since February 2020 under a Commercial Use Terminal and Hangar Space Agreement. During the initial five years, the company has experienced significant growth. The renewal agreement is for an additional five-year term expiring on September 30, 2030. Included is rental of available office (1,880 SF) and hangar (4,500 SF) premises in the airport terminal area facilities. This will increase the rented office area by approximately 260 square feet to help accommodate growth and service area needs. The Airport Commission has reviewed the proposed agreement and recommends approval.

Escalating per square foot rental rate structure to match the five-year term, projected combined annual office and hangar premises rental revenues:

Year 1: $ 33,036
Year 2: $ 34,632
Year 3: $ 36,228
Year 4: $ 37,824
Year 5: $ 39,420

This service continues to provide fuel sale revenues from aircraft operation.

Council Member Boeke made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, Council Member McCann seconded this motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Finance Report

Council Member Svenby recapped payments for amounts greater than $20,000 this period:

$ 24,966.50	Abdo Lapp
	- Process evaluation component - $20,000.00
	- 2025 Payroll assessment $4,250.00
	- Cash & Investment reconciliation - $716.50
32,800.00	Carr's Tree Service Inc - tree work - storm damage
21,096.05	Central Farm Service - fleet fuel
121,841.59	Crane Creek - CIP P&R-23-012 – pave Hoffman (North St to Bridge St)
25,404.92	Cyber Advisors
	- Fortinet - network equipment Velve Hall remodel - $4,677.92
	- Fortinet - licensing renewal 2025-2026 - $20,727.00
51,168.75	Ehlers & Associates Inc
	- PAYGO - Aug 2025 payment calculation - $7,817.50
	- TIF reporting 2024 OSA reports - $43,351.25
136,437.93	League of MN Cities Insurance Trust
	- J Haycraft claim - $21,227.93
	- Quarterly Workers Comp premium – Sept-Dec 2025 - $115,210.00
242,699.00	Legence Subsidiary Holdings LLC (ICS)
	- Public Safety Center - $238,554.00
	- Community Center $4,145.00
20,310.85	Marco Technologies -
	- Purchase 6 copiers - various departments - $19,665.12
	- Copier service/usage fees - $645.73
261,806.00	Near North Title Group - purchase 515 Bridge St
79,124.67	Nero Engineering - WWTF upgrade & expansion project - Aug 2025
33,263.93	Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce - July lodging tax
2,569,941.45	Rice Lake Construction Group - WWTP Expansion - pay est #39
23,505.00	Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc - 18th Street SE Reconstruction & Trail Project
153,696.14	Southeast Service Cooperative - Sept 2025 health ins premiums
28,983.36	US Bank-entire organization monthly credit card purchases-July/August 2025
204,297.50	Wencl Construction - 25001 Street & Utility - pay est #4
392,857.72	Other Expenditures
$4,146,923.55	SUBTOTAL
113,836.00	HRA Housing Assistance Payments
$4,538,037.36	TOTAL Expenditures Presented for Approval

Council Member Svenby made a motion to approve payment of all bills presented, Council Member McCann seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 58-25: Order Feasibility Report — 18th Street SE Reconstruction Project

Public Works Director Murphy requested approval of Resolution 58-25 authorizing preparation of the 18th Street SE Reconstruction Feasibility Report. The portion of 18th Street SE from Austin Road to just east of Cornerstone Lane is slated for reconstruction in 2026. The need is driven by aging infrastructure, improving safety, and providing multimodal transportation facilities to a corridor outlined in our Park and Trail System Master Plan. The feasibility report will discuss current infrastructure conditions and proposed improvements. t: The project will be paid for by a combination of assessments, federal funds, state aid funds, a transportation alternative grant, sanitary sewer funds, stormwater funds, OPU funds and the general fund. Cost allocations and amounts will be explored in the feasibility report. Council Member Boeke made a motion for approval, Council Member McCann seconded the motion. Council Member Svenby asked when the report would be completed, Director Murphy responded usually within 3-4 weeks and anticipated will be an item for Council Agenda during a November meeting. With no additional comments, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 59-25: Order Feasibility Report — Main Street Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

Public Works Director Murphy requested Resolution 59-25: Ordering a Feasibility Report for the Main Street Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project. Steele County and the City of Owatonna are working together to improve Main Street (CSAH 48) between Oak Avenue and Grove Avenue. Steele County is leading the effort on this project as it is a County State Aid Highway. Significant pavement deterioration, aged underground infrastructure, pedestrian and vehicular safety, and improving signalized intersections are primary drivers of this project. The feasibility report will discuss current infrastructure conditions and proposed improvements in greater detail. The project will be paid for by a combination of Steele County funds, assessments, state aid funds, sanitary sewer funds, stormwater funds, OPU funds and the general fund. Cost allocations and amounts will be explored in the feasibility report. Council Member Svenby made a motion for approval, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 60-25 Declare Costs — 2024 Street & Utility Project

Public Works Director Murphy presented Resolution 60-25: Declaring costs for the 2024 Street & Utility Project with improvements to Anderson Place SW and McKinley Street SW. Anderson Place SW and McKinley Street SW were reconstructed as part of the 2024 Street & Utility Project. The project was subject to assessments. A Preliminary Assessment Hearing was held on March 6, 2024 and on April 16, 2024, the city entered into a contract with Wencl Construction, Inc to complete the project at a contracted cost of $1,248,467.00. The project is now complete, and the final amount has been paid to the contractor.

The final cost of the project, including Change Orders, Quantity Changes, and the addition of Engineering and Administrative Costs, was $1,512,769.24 and will be paid for with a combination of City Funds, OPU Reimbursements, and Special Assessments. The City of Owatonna will collect the assessments as reimbursement for expenses incurred as provided by our policies and state statute. Staff will prepare a Proposed Assessment Roll naming the affected property owners and the amount to be specially assessed on their property. The proposed assessment amount is $90,516.40, which is 5.98% of the total project. Council Member Burbank made a motion for approval, Council Member McCann seconded the motion. Council Member Boeke commented that the council and staff have been trying to work through the process to eliminate individual assessments which would be equitable to all property owners. With no additional comments, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 61-25: Set Public Hearing Date — 2024 Street & Utility Project Proposed Assessments

Public Works Director Murphy presented Resolution 61-25 setting a Public Hearing to consider the Proposed Assessments for the 2024 Street & Utility Project. The requested hearing date is Wednesday November 5, 2025. This is the next step in the process of approving costs for assessments as outlined in the Special Assessment Guide based on Minnesota State Statute 429.061, Subd 1. Staff will mail notice to the affected properties and provide public notice as required by State Statute. The proposed assessment amount is $90,516.40, there are 28 parcels listed on the Proposed Assessment Role. Council Member Burbank made a motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 62-25 Airport Maintenance and Operations Grant Agreement – MnDOT

Community Development Director Klecker presented resolution to approve an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Office of Aeronautics for the for state fiscal year 2026 and 2027 (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027). MnDOT Aeronautics provides grant funding to airports under the State Airport Maintenance and Operation agreements (M&O). The funding participation provides reimbursement for eligible expenses such as building repairs, mowing, equipment repair costs and utilities not to exceed an amount calculated by an airport infrastructure formula. These program funds are derived from the user supported State Airports Fund. The City will receive reimbursement of 75% of direct, actual maintenance and operation costs of the airport, not to exceed $69,313.48 per year. Council Member Burbank made a motion for approval, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion. Council Member Burbank requested clarification this is grant for maintenance and operations and not equipment to which Klecker confirmed. With no additional comments, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 63-25 Award 2025 Fall Demolition Projects

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval of Resolution 63-25 to award the 2025 Fall Demolition Projects. The city purchased the house at 315 Lemond Road as well as the house at 502 Maple Drive. All structures on the sites will be demolished and the utilities removed. The property will be filled and then seeded to finish the site. The city has a DNR Grant that assists in paying for structures to be demolished within the flood plain. Both houses are adjacent to other demolished properties. The DNR requires a deed restriction to be recorded to say permanent structures will not be built on these properties.

The city sent out an Invitation for Quotations on September 8, 2025. The invitation was sent to local contractors that have performed demolition work within the city or have expressed interest previously. The quotes were due at noon on September 30th. All structures are required to be removed by December 1, 2025. Due to the time of year, if not completed this year, utility disconnection is required to be completed by June 1, 2026. The low quote of $63,000 was received from Wencl Construction. A portion of the demolition costs will be reimbursed by the DNR.

Council Member Burbank made a motion for approval, Council Member McCann seconded the motion. Council Member Boeke asked if this will exhaust balance of the grant received. Klecker confirmed this project will use all the funds received, there has been discussion they might offer more but that hasn't been approved. With no additional comments, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 64-25 Authorize MnDOT Grant - Airport Taxilane and Parking Lot Reconstruction

Community Development Director presented Resolution 64-25 authorizing the acceptance of the anticipated MnDOT Grant Agreement for the airport taxilane and parking lot reconstruction. Resolution 56-25 accepting FAA Grant Funding Participation for this project was approved during September 16, 2025, City Council Meeting. This resolution authorizes acceptance of the anticipated state companion grant for the project. The project consists of the reconstruction of a taxilane pavement section in the hangar building area and the automobile parking lot and access road. Both pavement areas are beyond their useful life and deteriorated to the point that reconstruction is recommended by the engineer.
The anticipated MnDOT grant offer is for $ 49,566.00 for all eligible project costs including engineering, construction, and administrative costs. Anticipated funding for this project is as follows:

Federal Participation:	$541,747.00
State Participation:	49,566.00
Local Participation:	28,550.00
Total:	$619,863.00

All structures are required to be removed by December 1, 2025. Due to the time of year, if not completed this year, utility disconnection is required to be completed by June 1, 2026.

Klecker commented that if the contractor prefers to do this project next spring, the grant funds are approved, and the contractor has agreed to complete the project at the same cost. Council Member McCann made a motion for approval, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 65-25: Award Sale of General Obligation Bonds 2025A

Finance Director Burns introduced Todd Hagen, Senior Municipal Advisor at Ehlers. He confirmed bids for sale of the city's GO Bonds were received today. In preparation of this bond sale, a rating call was held with Moody's with Community Development Director Klecker, City Administrator Tuma, Finance Director Burns and me, Todd Hagen participating. The call went well, staff were well prepared and the city's financial status is consistent with strong reserves. The City's credit rating was maintained at an AA level, the per capita income profile was lower.

Today, two bids were received for the bonds offered, Series 2025A. Rates were good, ranging between 3.0505% and 3.1010%, so it is a good move to sell. After the bid opening the issue size decreased by $145,000 due to a reduction in the costs of issuance, underwriter's discount and the receipt of a premium bid. The amount offered was lowered to $1.57 million. The proposal of Northland Securities, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota (the "Purchaser"), to purchase the Bonds is hereby found and determined to be a reasonable offer and is hereby accepted, the proposal being to purchase the Bonds at a price of $1,692,407.54 (par amount of $1,570,000.00, plus original issue premium of $135,626.80, less underwriter's discount of $13,219.26), plus accrued interest. This sale will be completed on October 30th.

Council Member Dotson made a motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 66-25: Rescind Lakeside Foods Notice of Violation & Authorize Consent Agreement

Public Works Director Murphy presented Resolution 66-25 to rescind the Notice of Violation to Lakeside Foods issued on May 6, 2025 with Resolution 23-25 for violations of the City's Code of Ordinances and the Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit. Daniel Marx, Secial Legal Counsel with Flattery & Hood was introduced.

Attorney Marx advised this is regards to an enforcement matter for a discharge event in 2023. The city does have adopted user rates, and we have been working with Lakeside Foods to calculate the amount of discharge. The City issued Lakeside Foods a formal Notice of Violation ("NOV") on or about May 6, 2025, alleging violations of the Permit and City ordinance as a result of a discharge event that occurred between August and September of 2023. On June 4, 2025, Lakeside Foods filed a petition of appeal of the NOV and also provided the City with new information and analysis about the amount of flow and pollutant loading estimated to have occurred between August and September of 2023.

Based on the information provided by Lakeside Foods and to resolve Lakeside Foods' petition of appeal, the City has determined it has good cause to rescind and withdraw Resolution 23-25 dated May 6, 2025 (authorizing issuance of the NOV) and the NOV itself dated May 6, 2025, and all findings respectively. The included Administrative Consent Agreement outlines the resolution both parties developed and agreed to. The agreement comes with terms to help prevent an event like this from occurring again.

This is a collaborative agreement, rescinding and withdrawing the Notice of Violation will result in a user fee charge of $191,293.50 and $22,000 in investigation costs. This is a binding agreement and if violated, their Discharge Permit can be revoked.

Council Member Dotson made a motion for approval, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion. Council Member Burbank commented the original proposed agreement included $44,000 for investigation costs, Director Murphy commented there was a compromise, we are not writing off costs but accepting that we incur costs when running a wastewater treatment facility. Council Members Dotson and Voss each commented they were glad to see this resolved. Council Member Voss also thanked staff and City Attorney Walbran for their assistance in reaching this agreement. With no additional comments, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 67-25 Legal Services Contract - Steele County Attorney's Office

City Administrator requested Council approval of Resolution 67-25 for the Steele County Attorney's Office to provide criminal prosecution, some government data practices, and civil representation to the City of Owatonna and its police department. The last known written contracts for prosecution services were dated in 1978 with Ruth & Schreiner Law Office, as independent contractors. On November 8, 1999, with city agreement, the practice of Ruth, Schreinder & Long assigned services to Steele County. Verbal agreements were made to adjust the reimbursement rate to Steele County for prosecution services at the same rate the City compensated its employees for a cost-of-living adjustment. Steele County has expanded legal services to the City and seeks to update the Legal Services Agreement and monthly fee structure. County Attorney Jarrett estimated services to the City involve one full-time attorney and half of a full-time equivalent support staff.

Paid and budgeted in the City Administrator's Budget. As outlined in Section 3:

2026: $14,500.00 monthly or $174,000.00 annually
2027: $15,900.00 monthly or $190,800.00 annually
2028: $16,747.50 monthly or 200,970.00 annually
2029: $17,584.87 monthly or $211,018.44 annually
2030: $18,112.41 monthly or $217,348.92 annually

Council Member Boeke made a motion for approval, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 68-25 Joint Powers Agreement and Court Data Services Amendment for Prosecuting Attorney - State of Minnesota, Dept of Public Safety, BCA

City Administrator Tuma requested approval of Resolution 68-25 approving the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) which authorizes the city's prosecuting attorney (Steele County Attorney's Office) working on behalf of the City of Owatonna to access the Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communications Network (CJDN) and Court Records by completing the Court Data Services Agreement.

The Steele County Attorney's Office serves as the City of Owatonna's prosecuting authority for misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor and felony level crimes. As such, the Steele County Attorney's Office needs access to the CJDN and Court Records to fulfill their duties while acting on behalf of the City. Council Member Svenby made a motion for approval, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Resolution 69-25 Declare Hazardous Building - 2008 Greenwood Dr. NE

City Attorney Walbran presented Resolution No. 69-25 to designate the building located at 2008 Greenwood Dr. NE as a hazardous building and order that the hazardous conditions therein be abated. The residence has been vacant for over a year. Upon inspection the Owatonna Fire Department determined that the building is in violation of the following City ordinances:

- Code § 151.11(g), Unsanitary Conditions throughout the house;
- Code § 151.06 Subd. A, Substandard Buildings: ceiling is falling down, supported by wooden posts.
- Code § 151.11 Subd. A, General Requirements: flooring soft and spongy.
- Code § 93.002 Subd. E, Public Nuisance: cat feces and garbage throughout the house,
- Code § 151.07 Subd. B, Leaking Roof.

In the event it becomes necessary for the city to remedy the violations, the city may recover the costs by a special assessment pursuant to Minn. Stats. §§ 429.061-429.081. Council Member Boeke made a motion for approval, Council Member McCann seconded the motion. Council Member Dotson asked if the city would become owner of the property, would we be required to demolish the structure or could it be sold. City Attorney Walbran responded there is a USDA mortgage on the property, and he has be in contact with their office but currently their office is closed because of the Federal shutdown. With no additional comments, all members present voted aye in approval.

Commercial Hangar Space Lease - Accelerated Aviation, Amendment One to Airport Sublease - John Klatt Airshow, Inc. & NavFleet Holding, LLC and Amendment Two to Airport Sublease - Fountain Aviation, LLC

Community Development Director Klecker requested approval of an Airport Commercial Use Hangar Space Lease Agreement and two amendments to current subleases. Accelerated Aviation Instruction, LLC, has been operating a commercial flight school at the airport since February of 2020. The company continues to grow and is seeking to provide the additional commercial service of aircraft repair and maintenance under the business entity of Fountain Aviation, LLC. This service is complimentary to their existing business model and provides for an additional desired service at the airport.

This agreement allows for the rental of 6,400 SF (east half) of the airport's main heated hangar facility for an initial one-year term that is renewable for up to a five-year total term. This will allow for additional space for aircraft storage used for flight instruction and also allow additional room to provide space for the required service of aircraft repair and

maintenance in existing facilities owned by the company. Under the agreement, the Lessee is required to provide the commercial service of repair and maintenance of based and transient aircraft at the airport and employ one or more certified aircraft mechanics to include a designated airworthiness inspector on site during regular
business hours. To accomplish this, the following additional actions are required:

1. Approve Amendment to Sublease One of Airport Commercial Hangar Lease - Lot #27 which was sublet to NavFleet Holdings, LLC on February 2, 2021 requires a brief bridge amendment to allow for public aircraft repair and maintenance until the new Lease on this lot becomes effective on January 2, 2026.
2. Approve Amendment to Sublease Two of Airport Commercial Hangar Lease – Lot #27 subletting to Fountain Aviation, LLC from NavFleet Holdings, LLC. All three business entities (Accelerated, NavFleet Holdings, Fountain) are controlled by the same owners. The Airport Commission reviewed the proposed three agreements and recommends approval.

The agreement provides for an escalating per square foot rental rate structure with the initial year's introductory revenue of $6,396. Thereafter, upon renewal of the additional four-year term the rate is established to increase to match the rate for other similarly leased spaces at the airport as follows:

Year 1: $ 6,396
Year 2: $ 12,792
Year 3: $ 19,200
Year 4: $ 25,596
Year 5: $ 31,992

Council Member Burbank made a motion for approval of the agreement, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Council Member Boeke made a motion to approve Amendment One to Airport Sublease - John Klatt Airshow, Inc. & NavFleet Holding, LLC, Council Member Svenby seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Council Member Svenby made a motion to approve Amendment Two to Airport Sublease - Fountain Aviation, LLC , Council Member Dotson seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

Wastewater Treatment Facility IRA Energy Credit 80/20 Evaluation Services — Baker Tilly

Public Works Director Murphy requested approval of the Baker Tilly agreement for an IRA Energy Credit 80/20 Valuation Services. The City may be eligible for a federal tax credit if the digester updates made as part of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion qualify under the Inflation Reduction Act 2022 ("IRA22"). Baker Tilly will support the City's assessment of the Project's eligibility to qualify for an Investment Tax Credit ("ITC"), the City has requested that Baker Tilly provide an appraisal rendering an opinion of the fair market value, as of a date preceding commencement of the Project (the "Valuation Date"), of certain digester assets that will continue to be utilized upon completion of the Project (the "Digester Assets"). 80 percent of the total value of the asset be new, and the existing components not updated may not exceed 20 percent of the total value in order to be eligible for an ITC.

This will allow application for a rebate that the City was not aware of when the Wastewater Treatment Plant project began. The cost of this assessment is $120,000 and if approved we could receive in excess of $5 million dollars. Council Member Dotson made a motion for approval, Council Member McCann seconded the motion, all members present voted aye in approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dale Fairbanks, 460 Willow Creek, asked Council to reconsider potential projects plans. Three or four years ago, the city incurred costs in excess of $1 million to demolish the former Monson Eye Clinic building for a parking lot and those parking spaces are not really convenient to the downtown business area. Prior to the N Cedar Streetscape Project, there was a survey showing most residents did not want to reduce the number of parking spaces within the downtown area but that is what happened by converting the diagonal parking to parallel parking on N Cedar Avenue. Now, you are discussing demolishing the current LEC building, which is only 60 years, that building is not as old as other city buildings, it should be refurbished for use. I want you to reconsider how you are spending my tax dollars. The county wants some, the school wants some as well as the city and you need to reconsider the public need for projects.

Melissa Zimmerman, 2525 Stony Creek Dr said she considered sending e-mails to council members following their last meeting but chose to make as a brief comment tonight. She wanted to thank the council for voting no to proposed tax increases and the proposed ordinance to raise Elected Official's salaries. A raise would have been nice for each of you, but you put the needs of the residents ahead of your own. Your decisions impact every resident of this community, and many families feel direct impacts from your decisions. I prepared this as a 2-minute comment, and I want to thank Council Member Dotson for getting this change allowing 3-minute comments. I will plan a full 3-minute comment for the next meeting.

Gary Jones, 995 Ridge Road also thanked council for the additional minute of time to make Public Comments. During the last council meeting I shared that I had tapped into Artificial Intelligence and shared both the question I asked as well as the answer received. I did not read the final conclusion proposed by AI to this question, "Is it a good idea to have, as Owatonna does, an archery deer hunt that extends 30 minutes after sunset in a public park with high foot traffic, dog walkers, disc golfers and surrounded by homes." The AI conclusion: "In summary, attempting to hunt in a high foot traffic public park with competing activities such as disc golf is profoundly unsafe, unethical and likely illegal. The significant danger to the public and clear conflict with safety standard protocols make it an exceptionally poor idea." This is not a Gary Jones' idea, but summation of facts on this topic for answer of AI's conclusion. This spring I met Park Director TW Diekmann at Mineral

Springs Park we walked into the area where the Season 2 tree stand is placed. We could see a high degree of activity within the park. His first question was "Why is this such an important thing for you? Nobody else has come forward and said anything, you are the only one.?" He gave the impression that everyone is fine with allowing the deer management program within Mineral Springs Park except me. I hope my analysis has shown that this is not the case. It is not Owatonna against me but City Council and Park and Rec against the worldwide web's conclusion formed by every fact that can be gathered on the topic. Please pull this from Mineral Springs Park before AI's findings come true. There is too much activity, and it is too small to be part of this annual event. You can prevent potential tragedy by eliminating Mineral Springs from the city's Deer Management Program.

STAFF COMMENT

Assistant City Administrator Thamert introduced and welcomed Daniel Jean who just began as the city's Accounting Analyst.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Boeke welcomed Daniel to his new position in the Finance Department.

Council Member McCann congratulated Rachel Boss on her recent promotion to the city's Human Resources Director.

City Administrator Tuma advised that as the weather is turning cooler, staff will be winterizing the parks and turn off the water to the drinking fountains and restrooms. She thanked all staff for their work, from our front-line workers to our administrative staff, we have top-notch staff being great in their jobs, which is greatly appreciated.

Council Vice President Voss thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

At 8:07 p.m., Council Member Boeke made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Dotson seconded the motion, all members present voted aye and the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Coordinator