

EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2025

The East Bethel City Council met on April 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for the regular City Council meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ardie Anderson Suzanne Erkel Brian Mundle
 Tim Miller Jim Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Matt Look, City Administrator
 Jacob Saufley, City Attorney
 Jerry Streich, Interim Fire Chief
 Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager
 Mike Jeziorski, Deputy City Administrator/Finance Director
 Carrie Frost, Administrative Coordinator
 Craig Jochum, City Engineer

1.0 Call to Order

The April 28, 2025, City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3.0 Adopt Agenda

Mundle stated I'll make a motion to adopt tonight's agenda. Erkel stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion? To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

4.0 Presentations and Public Hearings

4.0 A Anoka County Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Scott Wickland presented the March 2025 Sheriff's Report, stating the Sheriff's Department responded to 371 calls for service, including 3 thefts, 2 burglaries, 2 damage to property, 34 arrests, 242 traffic stops, and 43 traffic citations.

Informational; no action required.

4.0 B Fire Department Monthly Report

Interim Fire Chief Jerry Streich presented the March 2025 report and noted that they responded to 58 incidents, 3 daytime structure fires, a pole barn fire, a chicken coop fire, and a cabin fire.

Streich warned to keep any heating lamp in a chicken coop secure and at least 3 feet from anything combustible and ensure that the chicken coop is away from the primary residence. Steich noted that they assisted with 2 structure fires, 2 personal injury accidents, 7 grass fires. Streich noted that on May 14, 2025, at 6:30 pm at Station 1, they are holding a Firefighter interest meeting.

Streich stated that they are implementing a new records management system. Streich updated that this month, they have had an approximate dollar loss of \$370,000 of fire loss.

Informational; no action required.

5.0 Public Forum

Derek Lind recommended that the City cancel the poll pad agreement that was pushed out in 2018 for elections. Mr. Lind stated that they are a bad deal because it was never properly approved, there are risks associated with the agreement, and the agreement is very one-sided.

Erkel asked what other options there are. Mr. Lind stated paper is his recommendation.

Sarah McLoughlin commented regarding her neighbor and the comments she made at the April 14, 2025, City Council meeting. Ms. McLoughlin asked if the Council has come up with any courses of action. Mundle stated that he has talked to the deputy, and there is a plan of action that is being put together.

Ms. McLoughlin stated that the information she found in the police reports she has gotten from the Anoka County Sheriff's Department is mind-boggling. Ms. McLoughlin noted that 32 of the 53 reports have nothing to do with the homeowner.

Smith stated that if there was something that could be done right now, they would, but it is unfortunate that the laws seem to protect the bad people.

Look stated that he has spoken with the homeowner, and they are looking to form an LLC so there can be a board to make decisions if the property owner is not available.

Erkel stated that the owner can get an eviction, and within a couple of weeks, the property can be cleared out. Ms. McLoughlin stated that they lost their eviction notice in 2024.

Mundle stated that Streich can update Ms. Loughlin on the work being done.

Dave Keifer stated that he lives in a development and there are roosters that crow night and day. Mr. Keifer gave the Council complaint forms from his neighbors and expressed their desire to get the roosters handled.

Smith stated that he and Miller went out to the property last year, and when they went, they did not see any chickens or roosters. Mr. Keifer stated that sometimes they hide them and let them run loose in the back of their property.

Mr. Keifer noted that he was able to grab one of the chickens that got onto his property and gave it to a sanctuary, which stated that the chicken was in poor condition and had frostbite, among other issues caused by neglect. Mr. Keifer asked the Council to address the issue and give him and his neighbors relief.

Look stated that they will address this in the next staff meeting and see what options are available.

Another resident came forward and expressed her complaints regarding the parties being held at the property, fires, and noise.

Look noted that the unfortunate reality of roosters is that they can multiply within a few weeks, so it poses challenges to potential ordinances regarding limiting the number of roosters.

6.0 Consent Agenda

Item A: Approve Bill List

Item B: Approve Meeting Minutes, April 14, 2025 City Council Meeting

Item C: Accept Resignation of Fire Fighter Jack Olson

Item D: Approve Bid for 2025 JPA Street Maintenance Project

Item E: Approve Joint Powers Agreement with State of Minnesota

Item F: Approve Court Data Services Agreement

~~Item G: Approve State of Minnesota JPA with BCA and East Bethel~~

Erkel requested to pull Item G.

Mundle stated I'll make a motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended. Erkel stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion? To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

6.0 G Approve State of Minnesota JPA with BCA and East Bethel

Erkel asked if it is a renewal of the contract or a whole new contract. Look stated that it is a renewal because it is a JPA for the City that the City Attorney uses.

Erkel asked if there is a cost increase. Look stated that he does not believe there is any cost associated with this.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Item G of the Consent Agenda. Mundle stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion? To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

7.0 New Business. Commission, Association, and Task Force Reports

7.0 A Planning Commission

7.0 A.1 Final Plat Approval Blanco de Cola Pradera

_____ stated the plat is consistent with the preliminary plat that was approved on March 10, 2025.

_____ noted that the Final Plat request meets the standards in the code and matches the Preliminary Plat previously reviewed by the City. The plat requests is consistent with the comprehensive plan and density allowed for these parcels. The applicant's request for the Final Plat aligns with the comprehensive plan.

Mundle stated I'll make a motion to approve Resolution 2025-23 approving the Final Plat and Development Contract for "Blanco de Cola Pradera" for three lots located at PID #26-33-23-32-0012 and #26-33-23-23-0001. Miller stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion?

Erkel stated that on page 41, it is written "xx meeting". Look stated they will update that.

To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

7.0 B Economic Development Authority

None.

7.0 C Park Commission

None.

8.0 Department Reports

8.0 A Community Development

None.

8.0 B Engineer Report

None.

8.0 C City Attorney

None.

8.0 D Finance

None.

8.0 E Public Works

None.

8.0 F Fire Department

None.

8.0 G City Administrator Report

None.

9.0 – Other Items

9.0 A Staff Report

Look stated that they have started their Union negotiations, had a meet and greet meeting, and will be bringing it to the finance committee to discuss the proposal that they will be bringing forward.

Look updated on the abandoned house located at 105 229th Avenue NE and stated that the owner passed away and his son took ownership of the house and then passed away from an overdose. Currently, the house is behind on taxes and must go through the formal process of tax forfeiture before the County can sell that property. Look stated that if the neighbors notice anything unusual call the Police Department.

Look stated that the finalist for the Fire Chief position will meet with the firefighters and tour the station and equipment tomorrow, and they are looking at a May 27, 2025, start date.

Look stated that they will be transitioning away from the officing on Mondays with Landform and moving to weekly remote meetings to assist Grace on any of the cases she will be working with.

9.0 B Council Reports

Erkel stated that she would like the approval of serving alcohol at the community center for the seniors to be added to a future agenda.

Erkel stated that the Seniors would like to look over a copy of the cleaning contract because they believe the cleaner is not doing what he is supposed to be doing.

Erkel stated that on May 3, 2025, there will be a Fix-It clinic to repair small items.

Erkel stated that the Senior Dance is being held on May 2, 2025.

Erkel stated that she received a few complaints regarding the Spring Town Hall meeting.

9.0 C Other

Look noted that at the City Council work session earlier, Streich presented three recommendations: to move to a duty crew model for daytime hours, transitioning the Fire Chief to Deputy Chief, and reducing non-emergent medical calls, all to promote cost-saving and efficiency.

Smith stated I'll make a motion to approve moving to a duty crew model for daytime hours, transitioning the Fire Chief to Deputy Chief, and reducing non-emergent medical calls. Miller stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion?

Mundle asked if Streich could put out some information and education regarding the decrease in calls, educating them that they will not experience a lack of service due to this change.

Streich stated that they can market and post educational videos, etc., to get the information to residents.

Streich also noted that since 2020, they have received a 47% increase in medical calls.

Smith stated that the duty crew idea makes sense, plus it can save money by reducing calls for which the firefighters are not needed.

Streich clarified that it is not saving money, but the overall impact to the budget is \$15,000. Streich noted this will also create a faster response time in the daytime.

Erkel asked if the Fire Inspector position transition would be a change in pay. Look noted that on the sheet provided, the pay is outlined.

Look noted that with all of this, it also creates a continuity plan, so that the Deputy Chief could step more seamlessly into the Fire Chief position if needed.

Erkel asked if this increase in pay is already budgeted for. Look stated that it would not be an increase in the levy.

Anderson asked for a progress report in a few months to see how this is going.

To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

10.0 Adjourn

Mundle stated I'll make a motion to adjourn. Erkel stated I'll second. To the motion, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.