

EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 28, 2025

The East Bethel City Council met on May 28, 2025, at 7:01 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
 Carrie Frost, Administrative Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order

The May 28, 2025, City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson at 7:01 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 Office Monthly Report

Lieutenant Derek Peters presented the April 2025 Sheriff's Report, stating the Sheriff's Department responded to 367 calls for service, 5 thefts, 3 assaults, 2 damage to properties, 17 arrests for miscellaneous violations, 234 traffic stops, 73 traffic citations, and discussed notable calls.

Informational; no action required.

4.0 B Fire Department Monthly Report

4.0 B.1 Presentation of Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief

Interim Fire Chief Streich discussed what has happened in the last year and three months since he has served as the Interim Fire Chief. Streich thanked all current and past firefighters for all they have done for the City.

Streich stated that East Bethel is going through a model transition for the Fire Department along with many other neighboring cities.

Streich stated that today they are swearing in a new Fire Chief today, a first for the City. Streich stated that they had 9 candidates and through a personnel committee they have come to the decision to hire Jeff Cielocha as the new East Bethel Fire Chief.

Streich pinned Jeff Cielocha with a pin containing 5 bugles that signifies his new role as the Fire Chief.

Anderson swore in Cielocha as the new Fire Chief by reading the Oath of Office.

Streich introduced the new Deputy Fire Chief, Ben Uden, and highlighted his work as a paramedic and as a firefighter.

Fire Chief Cielocha swore in Ben Uden as New Deputy Fire Chief by reading the Oath of Office.

Streich presented Fire Chief Cielocha and Deputy Fire Chief Uden with certificates of promotion.

Fire Chief Cielocha thanked the Council for the role and is excited to move forward and see what the future holds.

Fire Chief Cielocha presented the April 2025 Fire Department report, noting that they responded to 65 calls, of those 65, 38 were medical, 14 good intent, 7 fire, 3 service calls, 2 hazardous conditions, and 1 false alarm.

Fire Chief Cielocha introduced new firefighter David Bailey.

Erkel requested that some of the pictures of the new firefighter and the Fire Chief be included in the next newsletter.

Informational; no action required.

4.0 C IUP Hearing: 22359 Bataan St NE, Keeping of Two Horses

Look presented the background information for the IUP at 22359 Bataan Street NE and presented pictures of the violations.

Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Tammy Gimpl, 22359 Bataan Street NE, stated that she has an IUP from 2000 for 6 horses and she got an IUP for 2 horses in 2019.

Christine Dahlman, 17540 Highway 65, stated that she was at the Planning and Zoning Commission when Gimpl discussed her horses, that she is breeding horses, and that she does not have a continuous pasture which is required.

Meg Trigger, 1546 153rd Ave, stated that if Gimpl has been in business since 2000 there is no excuse for her not to be on top of her paperwork. Trigger asked the Council not to allow the excuse to go through.

Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Look stated that the staff did research into the 2000 IUP and discussed the expiration date after 1 year. The IUP was renewed in 2001 but has not been renewed since, so it has expired.

Look stated that the most recent IUP is the 2019-55, which references 2-horses.

Erkel asked why the 2-horse IUP was never brought up to the City to be increased or renewed.

Look stated that the IUP 2019-55 does not expire until the subject property is sold or a violation of the IUP is brought before the Council.

Miller asked how many acres the horses have. Anderson stated that the fenced-in area is 4.72 acres and 6.36 acres that are not wetlands.

Miller asked how much is pasture. Anderson stated that it is what is fenced in, so 4.72 acres.

Gimpl stated that they have more pasture in other areas of her land. She stated that she thinks the ordinance should change.

Gimpl stated that her horses are well-fed and treated.

Erkel stated that her problem is that Mrs. Gimpl never updated her IUP, became non-compliant, and never came back to the City to request an update.

Mrs. Gimpl stated that she has 3 IUPs with the City and a kennel license, so she has done the right thing.

Erkel stated that the number of horses that she has is larger than the number on the IUP.

Mrs. Gimpl stated that her IUP from 2000 has not expired.

Look stated that there was one renewal in 2001, and it was never updated after that.

Look stated that you cannot have back-to-back IUPs to circumvent the Code.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to revoke the current IUP, Resolution No. 2025-27, and have Mrs. Gimpl go through the procedure of renewing the IUP. Anderson stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion?

Miller asked what the actual number of horses could be allowed on her property based on the amount of fenced-in acreage. Look stated they would need an evaluation; it could be more than 2 but not 8 horses.

Mrs. Gimpl stated that she thought Aaron Berg had taken care of this.

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

4.0 D Booster Day Report & Update

Stephanie Dorn stated that Booster Day will occur on July 19, 2025, at Booster Park. The Seniors will be doing a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m.-11 a.m., followed by the annual car show, and other events kicking off at 11 a.m. Mrs. Dorn stated that the parade is in the works and that they are in desperate need of volunteers for the day of the event.

Mrs. Dorn stated that they are a volunteer committee consisting of 9 people who spend from sun up to sundown. There is a big need for help, and they are also struggling with financial support from sponsors.

Mundle asked what time the parade will be. Mrs. Dorn stated that it will start at 4 p.m.

Miller stated that he appreciates all of their hard work and they will see what they can do about supporting them.

Erkel stated that she should come to the airport meeting and see if helicopter rides could be coordinated.

Look asked if there will be a dunk tank for the mayor. Mrs. Dorn says there is talk about it.

5.0 Public Forum

Christine Dahlman, 17540 Highway 65, stated that she is disappointed that Gimpl's IUP regarding dogs was taken off the agenda. Dahlman referenced violations that were not brought up by the City Attorney last time. Dahlman stated that Gimpl is not a rescue, so she should not be operating as one. She also has issues with the ongoing boarding she has been doing.

Dahlman stated that the boarding Gimpl is doing is strictly prohibited.

Look stated that they have this discussion was moved to the first meeting in June. The Council stated that they thought it was for the first meeting in July so it would fall after her court date.

Dawn Courtney Beckman, 4642 229th Ave, stated that their failure to act puts the City at risk of being sued. Beckman stated that Gimpl has no intention of complying and ignores the conditions. Beckman

stated that the City has been aware of her illegal operations since 2018, and asked that the Council do their job.

6.0 Consent Agenda

~~Item A: Approve Bill List~~

Item B: Approve Meeting Minutes May 12, 2025 City Council Meeting

Item C: Approve 2025-2026 Liquor License Renewals

Item D: Fireworks Contract for Booster Day 2025

~~Item E: Resolution 2025-28, Amending Employment Date for Fire Fighters~~

Item F: Resolution 2025-29, Approving Zayo Contract Renewal

Item G: Resolution 2025-30, Amending Filing Date Listed for Resolution 2020-36

Item H: Resolution 2025-31, Renewing IUP for a Home Occupation at 19448 Isetta Street NE

Erkel requested to pull Item E. Smith requested to pull Item A.

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 A Approve Bill List

Smith asked if they could hire an engineer full-time and save the City money. Look stated that a majority of the fees on the bill list are in escrow. Look stated that they get reimbursed for a lot of them.

Smith asked if an asterisk could be placed by those fees so that he would not have to question them. Look stated that he can see what can be done.

Smith stated I'll make a motion to approve Item A of the Consent Agenda. Miller 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 E Resolution 2025-28, Amending Employment Date for Fire Fighters

Erkel asked what the reasoning was behind the dates being changed. Look stated that in the past, the process was that the firefighter would be considered employed once training was completed, but then corrections were made that once they are considered employed, they then start training. Look stated there is no impact on the City, only the pension.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Item E of the Consent Agenda. Smith 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

No reports given

7.0 A Planning Commission

None.

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 had a successful conclusion to the property issue being dealt with and thanked the Sheriff's and Fire Department.

Look noted that at the end of June, Eric Larson will be transitioning over to the city of Blaine, and Jacob Saufley will be taking his place.

Look gave a shoutout to Jerry Streich on his awesome work in a difficult situation and how he was able to build morale.

9.0 B Council Reports

Erkel asked if the freezer and ice machine at the Senior Center was fixed. Look stated that it has been fixed.

Erkel reminded everyone that the first Friday of the month is the Senior Dance, and they meet on the third Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m.

Smith thanked Jerry Streich for his knowledge and work and knows that they are doing the best for the City.

Miller stated that he got to take his 6-year-old grandson on the Parks Commission tour and got to see the new equipment, and noted that Ayshford does a great job on the parks.

Mundle stated that they had a Planning/Zoning meeting tonight, and they have 2 great candidates for the open seats that will be discussed at a future meeting.

Mundle stated that they had a concept plan review for a subdivision, which they wanted to split a parcel into 3 parts, which is allowed in the current Code but not in the Comprehensive Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan rules over the Code. Mundle stated that the Planning Commission made a recommendation to pass the concept plan with 3 lots. Mundle stated that he shares concerns, and they will need to be addressed so there is no confusion going forward.

9.0 C Other

None.

9.0 D Closed Session**9.0 D.1 Contract Negotiations; Minn Stat. 13D.03, subd. 1**

Anderson stated that the Council is about to go into Closed Session to review Contract Negotiations; Minn Stat. 13D.03, subd 1.

This Closed Session will be tape recorded as required by Statute with that tape being maintained for a period of two years. The Council will come back into Open Session after having concluded its Closed Session and announce if there are any actions taken during the course of the Closed Session.

Mundle stated I'll make a motion to go into Closed Session at 8:35 p.m. for the purposes that City Attorney has indicated. Erkel stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion? All in favor say aye? **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? That motion passes. **Motion passes unanimously.**

(Council moved into Closed Session.)

(Council reconvenes Open Session.)

10.0 Adjourn

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to adjourn. Mundle 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 9:13 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.