

EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 22, 2025

The East Bethel City Council met on September 22, 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
 Jeff Cielocha, Fire Chief

1.0 Call to Order

The September 22, 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 with the addition of the Supplemental Payment Summary as item G under the Consent 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 Wick?? presented the August 2025 Sheriff's Report, stating that the Sheriff's Department responded to 413 calls, of which 10 were thefts, 2 assaults, 29 arrests, 167 traffic stops, and 43 citations, and highlighted some notable calls from August.

Wick?? noted that September 23 is the annual open house at the Sheriff's Office, and all are welcome.

Erkel asked if they get a lot of people who resist arrests. Wick?? noted that it is not very common within East Bethel or with those they contract with.

Informational; no action required.

4.0 B Fire Department Monthly Report

Fire Chief Cielocha presented the August 2025 report and noted that they responded to 64 calls, of which 41 were medical, 11 good intent, and discussed a notable call from Oak Grove.

Cielocha noted that tonight they have auto extrication training. Cielocha stated that they have their open house on October 6th from 5-7:30 p.m.

Mundle asked about how things are looking with grass or wildfires at the start of fall. Cielocha stated that they have not seen anything to be concerned about at this point.

Mundle asked what the regulations are for burning leaves. Cielocha stated that he would need to look into that.

Cielocha noted that a rec fire is fine with a 3 x 3 fire, but anything larger than that would need to have a burn permit applied for.

Informational; no action required.**4.0 C Potentially Dangerous Dog Hearing**

Look stated that this relates to a dog attack incident that occurred on July 29, 2025. The Anoka County Sheriff's office reported that two dogs, owned by Krystal Nali, approached in a threatening manner and injured a domesticated dog belonging to Benjamin Reed on private property at 19624 3rd Street NE.

Look noted that since the incident was unprovoked, off the owner's property, and not under control by the owner, and as reported and cited by the investigating deputy as a potentially dangerous dog pursuant to Chapter 10 of the City Code based on the incident report, a Potentially Dangerous Dog notice was issued relating to this incident.

Look stated that the owner has submitted a request to appeal the declaration of a potentially dangerous dog. Look noted that according to Minnesota State law, if the determination is sustained, then the owner has specific restrictions that must be met to keep the animal.

Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Adam Englesmeier, 19584 3rd Street, stated that he has had these dogs for a while, and there is a 6-foot fence around his yard, which is completely fenced in. Mr. Englesmeier stated that he believes that these were not his dogs that did the biting.

Mundle asked if his dogs are up to date on the vaccines. Mr. Englesmeier stated that they are, and he has the paperwork.

Mundle asked if there had been any alterations in the past. Mr. Englesmeier stated that the neighbor's dogs came over once before, but there were no injuries.

Mundle asked where his dogs were when the deputy came over. Mr. Englesmeier stated that they were inside.

Look asked for clarification on the dog at large citation. Mr. Englesmeier stated that, to their knowledge, the dog was in the fenced-in area, but they paid it because they wanted to get this over with.

Kristin Nali, 19584 3rd Street, stated that the deputy stated that the neighbors have video proof and that the proof would be at this meeting too. Look noted that it was not public information to be sent out, but the Council was sent the proof.

Anderson stated that he is trying to figure out if they have a video of the dogs that attacked.

Miller asked if Mr. Englesmeier had any other animals. Mr. Englesmeier stated that they do not.

Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Saufley stated that, based on his understanding of the potentially dangerous dog Ordinance, they have combined the dangerous dog and potentially dangerous dog. Saufley noted that their decision is to affirm or reject that the dog is potentially dangerous.

Mundle noted that, in theory, the three potential options would be to keep it at potentially dangerous, upgrade to dangerous, or dismiss it altogether.

Erkel stated that she spoke with the neighbor whose dogs were attacked, and they said that another attack happened a couple of years ago, and they have 5 children, so they are worried for their safety.

Mundle asked if they knew which dog did it. Erkel stated that both dogs attacked at the same time.

Anderson asked if they wanted to move forward with any stipulations.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to declare the dogs potentially dangerous, and if the dog is outside, it must be muzzled. Mundle stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion?

Smith stated that he agrees with Erkel, especially when kids are involved. Erkel noted that the dogs are escape artists, according to the neighbors.

Miller stated that he agrees with the muzzling. Miller stated that being responsible for your dogs is a huge step.

Saufley stated that if the Council wants the voluntary things that the dog owners have been doing to be mandatory, then they must be included in the motion.

Erkel stated I'll modify my motion to declare the dogs potentially dangerous, and include conditions 1, 5, and 7 from City Code. Mundle stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion? To the amendment, all in favor say aye. **All in favor.** Anderson asked any opposed? The amendment is adopted.

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

5.0 Public Forum

Dave Landis, 1747 237th Avenue NE, stated that on September 8, it was testified that the City Planner had completed her probationary period above and beyond standards, but then it was brought up that the City Planner still needed help with certain difficult tasks.

Mr. Landis felt that it was shocking that they then extended her probationary period, and thought it was a petty insult to the City Planner.

Mr. Landis stated that the proposal for serving alcohol at Senior Center events seems like an unnecessary exposure for the City and liability potential.

Mr. Landis stated that the BDM situation started with the City finding itself owning a development that went defunct and needed to find a solution, which then BDM took over, and the City retained ownership of the Community Center. Mr. Landis noted that the contract did not seem to be very well thought out, but it seemed to be a nice deal for the City. Mr. Landis noted that a majority of the issues brought up seem to be personal.

Mr. Landis stated that it would be best for the City if it found a way to get around this without litigation.

Arvid Vangsness 20852 Buchanan Street NE, stated that in the City newsletter, it states that you should not blow grass into the streets, but so many people on his street blow their grass onto the street, and he wanted to bring it to the Council's attention.

6.0 Consent Agenda

Item A: Approve Bill List

Item B: Approve Meeting Minutes September 8, 2025 City Council Meeting

Item C: Approve Lease Agreement for Fire Department Copier

Item D: Approve Hire of Seasonal Ice Arena Attendants

Item E: Approve the Removal of Landform Expenses from Delinquent Escrow Account

Item F: Pay Estimate No. 2 for the 2025 Street Surface Improvement Project

Item G: Supplemental Bill List

Mundle requested to pull Item G. Erkel requested to pull Item C.

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 C Approve Lease Agreement for Fire Department Copier

Erkel asked if the new lead for the copier is higher or lower. Look stated that they owned the previous one, but this will be a lease agreement.

Erkel asked what would be done with the old one. Look stated that when they bring the new one, hopefully, they will dispose of the old one.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Item C 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.**

6.0 G Supplemental Bill List

Mundle noted that he will be abstaining from this vote.

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

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

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 reminded that tomorrow from 4-6 p.m. is the Sandhill Parkway Open House and asked for a presence from the City.

Erkel noted that the Chambers is calling it a ribbon-cutting and will be there as well.

9.0 B Council Reports

Erkel stated that she thinks it is time they end their contract with Landform completely.

Erkel stated that there will be a Senior dance on October 31, 2025, and there will be a costume contest immediately following, there will also be a trunk-or-treat.

Erkel stated that on October 25, 2025, there will be a Craft and Vendor Sale.

Erkel noted that she would like to see more displays from the City to get developers, the Department of Transportation, and other businesses to come to the Town Hall meeting.

Smith stated that he agrees with Erkel's push for more involvement in the Town Hall meeting.

Anderson noted that he participated in the East Bethel Chamber of Commerce golf tournament, and there were 23 teams, and they brought in over \$12,000, which will be donated back to different things throughout the City.

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 7:56 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.