

EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 26, 2026

The East Bethel City Council met on January 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. for the regular City Council meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ardie Anderson Suzanne Erkel Tim Miller Jim Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Matt Look, City Administrator
 Jacob Saufley, City Attorney
 Jeff Cielocha, Fire Chief
 Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager

1.0 Call to Order

The January 26, 2026, 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

Miller 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

Lieutenant Derek Peters presented the December 2025 Sheriff's Report, stating the Sheriff's Department responded to 350 calls, 7 assaults, 1 theft, 33 arrests, 98 traffic stops, 13 traffic citations, and highlighted a few notable calls.

Lieutenant Peters noted that for 2025, they had 4,867 calls for service, and stated that they were slightly up in thefts and slightly down in assaults and damage to property.

Smith asked if they had any complaints regarding salespeople coming into people's driveways. Peters noted that he has not heard of any.

Smith noted that there was a man walking down his street who walked halfway up his driveway before noticing his camera and turning around. Anderson stated that he got a call about that happening last week, somewhere else as well.

Peter stated that they should always give them a call if they ever see things like that in the future, and they will send out a deputy.

Informational; no action required.

4.0 B Fire Department Monthly Report

Fire Chief Cielocha presented the December 2025 report and noted that they responded to 83 calls, including 4 structure fires. He highlighted one of the structure fires that occurred on January 23, 2026, and noted that Ham Lake, Linwood, Rum River Fire District, Isanti, Oak Grove, Forest Lake, Alina, and ACSO all helped out.

Cielocha stated that he will have the year-end report for the Council by the next City Council meeting, and they ended the year with 918 calls.

Cielocha stated that the floors at all the stations are complete, and they look great.

Cielocha stated that they changed back to daytime all calls; they are running into staffing challenges to cover the shifts, but they are having people pick up the shifts.

Cielocha noted that the East Bethel Fire Department Auxiliary breakfast is at 8 a.m. on January 31st, 2026.

Informational; no action required.

5.0 Public Forum

None.

6.0 Consent Agenda

Item A: Approve Bill List

Item B: Approve Meeting Minutes January 12, 2026 City Council Work Meeting

Item C: Approve Meeting Minutes, January 12, 2026 City Council Meeting

Item D: Re-Appointment of Park Commission Members

~~Item E: Declaration of Vacancies and Authorization to Accept Applications for Commissions~~

~~Item F: Resolution 2026-05, Arbor Day Declaration, April 24, 2026~~

Item G: Approval to Acquire Real Property: 1347 Sims Road NE (#08-33-23-34-0002)

Item H: Approval to Request Proposals for Attorney Services and Timeline

~~Item I: Purchase Equipment - Forestry Mulching Head~~

~~Item J: Approve the Hire of Senior City Planner~~

Item K: Approve the Hire of Fire Fighter

Erkel requested to pull Items E, F, I, and J.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended. 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.**

6.0 E Declaration of Vacancies and Authorization to Accept Applications for Commissions

Erkel thanked Tanner Balfany and Sue Jefferson for their service on the Planning and Parks Commissions, respectively.

Miller also thanked Mrs. Jefferson for her service and stated that he really enjoyed working with her.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Item E 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 F Resolution 2026-05, Arbor Day Declaration, April 24, 2026

Erkel asked how many trees they usually plant annually. Ayshford noted that they typically have one ceremonial tree that they plant, and they will plant others periodically throughout the year.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Item F 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 I Purchase Equipment - Forestry Mulching Head

Erkel noted that she thinks this is such a great idea.

Erkel asked if we ever let other cities borrow equipment like this. Ayshford noted that they definitely do, and they have a good working relationship with Ham Lake and borrow a good bit of their equipment.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Item I 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 J Approve the Hire of Senior City Planner

Erkel asked what the work-from-home hours would be for this new employee. Look stated that they negotiated 3 days in the office, and 2 days working from home.

Erkel asked if they would be providing technology for him or if he already has it. Look noted that they will provide him with a laptop.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve Item J of the Consent Agenda. Miller stated I'll second. Anderson asked any discussion?

Miller asked what kind of schedule they are looking at and which days will be in the office. Look noted that Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, he will be in the office, and Thursday and Friday will be at home.

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

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

8.0 E.1 2026 Class 5 Gravel Road Resurfacing Projects

Ayshford stated that the only recommended road for Class 5 resurfacing is Klondike Drive.

Erkel asked if they would be paving the gravel part. Ayshford noted that this will be to gravel the current dirt portion.

Anderson asked if they would be hiring this out. Ayshford stated that the City will do the prep work, the contractor will handle the delivery of the material, and the City staff will level it and roll it out.

Erkel stated I'll make a motion to approve the 2026 Class 5 Gravel Road Resurfacing Projects. Anderson 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.**

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 regarding Section 18-231, dealing with peddlers, it requires State or County licenses and a City license as well, and 30 days to apply for that.

Look stated that the Local Board of Adjustments will be in April this year. Look stated that if anyone on the Council would like to get their training, it is due by January 31, 2026. Look stated that Miller and Smith still have their training.

Erkel noted that she would like to renew her training. Look stated that he will have Frost send her the link.

Look reminded that the Local Government Officials Meeting is on January 28, 2026, at 6 p.m and noted that the topic will be on shotgun vs. rifle.

9.0 B Council Reports

Erkel stated that she attended an airport meeting, and they have increased them to 4 times a year, and their election for Chair and Co-chair will be at their March 4, 2026, meeting.

Erkel noted that the Seniors dance will be on February 6, 2026, from 1-4 p.m.

Miller stated they had a great Parks Commission meeting this month. Miller noted they have had great help from Capstone moving forward with their parks in the City, and they have ordered all the park equipment for Phase 1.

Miller thanked Sue Jefferson for all her hard work on the Parks Commission and noted they will now have a vacancy on that Commission.

Miller stated that they have an Upper Rum River Budget Meeting on January 29, 2026.

9.0 C Other

None.

10.0 Adjourn

Smith 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 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.