

# EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 23, 2026

The East Bethel City Council met on February 23, 2026, 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:                Jacob Saufley, City Attorney  
  Jeff Cielocha, Fire Chief  
  Mike Jeziorski, Deputy City Administrator/Finance Director  
  Carrie Frost, Deputy City Clerk

## 1.0 Call to Order

The February 23, 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

**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

Lieutenant Derek Peters presented the January 2026 Sheriff's Report, stating the Sheriff's Department responded to 342 calls for service, including 4 assaults, 4 thefts, 2 damage to property, 19 arrests, 106 traffic stops, and 19 traffic citations. Peters discussed a few notable calls from the month.

Mundle asked if the individuals involved in the fraud case were local to the State. Peters noted that they were; it sounded like they used clipart they found online.

Miller stated that it seems like online scams saying people owe money seem to be common in the area. Peters noted that people should be careful and note that usually banks use certified mail, and the Police Department will never call people to say they owe them money.

Saufley asked if the Police Department has experienced any issues with cryptocurrency scams or cryptoATMs. Peters noted that they have, and that is a completely separate issue, and stated that since it is pretty new, they are learning more about it.

Mundle asked if the Police Department could put on a presentation regarding fraud and scams for the community. Peters noted that they could definitely set that up.

**Informational; no action required.**

### 4.0 B Fire Department Monthly Report

Fire Chief Cielocha presented the January 2026 report and noted that they responded to 59 calls, of which 30% were falls or shortness of breath, 1 mutual aid fire request, and 1 car vs. power pole call.

Cielocha noted that they have done 5 hours of training and focused on incident command, and will be working with Alina on medical training tonight.

Cielocha stated that he suggests everyone check the DNR's website for any upcoming fire bans and noted that if anyone is out burning a brush pile to keep track of it.

Cielocha congratulated Jeff Borstner on 37 years with the Fire Department and noted that his resignation is on the consent agenda to be approved tonight.

Cielocha noted that the hire on the consent agenda is the 8th new hire, and they are excited to have him.

Cielocha stated that 2 probationary members started the academy last week, and 2 members are enrolled in instructor 1, being held in Nowthen.

Cielocha urged everyone to check ice conditions if they are going out on the water with the warmer weather that they have had.

Erkel asked how long it takes for a new hire to go into the academy. Cielocha noted that the new hire comes to the City with a lot of experience, so he should not need to go into the academy.

**Informational; no action required.**

## 5.0 Public Forum

None.

## 6.0 Consent Agenda

~~Item A: Bill List~~

Item B: Approve Meeting Minutes February 9, 2026 City Council Meeting

Item C: Class 5 Road Resurfacing Bid

~~Item D: Playground Purchase—Viking Meadows Park~~

Item E: Approve Hire of Fire Fighter

~~Item F: Resignation of East Bethel Firefighter Jeff Borstner~~

~~Item G: Adoption of the EBFD Vacation Policy~~

Mundle requested to pull Item F. Erkel requested to pull Item D. Anderson requested to pull Item G. Smith requested to pull Items A and F.

**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 why the definitions of each category of expenses are no longer behind but in front.

Jeziorski stated that they provided two different bill lists, one by vendor and one by the department making the purchase.

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

Miller asked if they would be able to get the two bill lists combined. Jeziorski noted that it depends on how someone wants to look at it, but they both show the same information.

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

**6.0 D Playground Purchase - Viking Meadows Park**

Erkel asked how much in park fees the development paid. Jeziorski noted that they received \$162,000 worth of park dedication fees. Erkel also asked where the zipline will go in the park. Jeziorski noted he is not sure, but if it is like Booster Park, it will be off to the side of the main park.

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

**6.0 F Accept Resignation of East Bethel Firefighter Jeff Borstner**

Mundle thanked Jeff Borstner for his service to the City since 1988 and how he has made such a positive impact. Smith thanked him as well and wished him a great retirement.

Erkel asked if he would receive a plaque for retiring. Cielocha stated that the Relief Association has placed an order for a commemorative act, which is customary for a retirement of over 20 years. Cielocha also noted that they are working on having some kind of celebration for him as well.

Mundle asked if the Council could approve a resolution showing their appreciation and support. Jeziorski said they can get that framed up and brought to the next meeting.

Anderson stated that Borstner is a great guy, and he is thankful for his service. Miller stated that for nearly 4 decades, Borstner has put others first with professionalism, courage, and quiet dedication. Miller thanked Borstner for all of his hard work and the legacy he has left behind.

**Mundle 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 G Approve the Adoption of the EBFD Vacation Policy**

Anderson asked about the 3:1 ratio for the vacation period. Cielocha stated that for every 3 calls they respond to offshift will get credit towards their typical response period (either day or night).

**Anderson stated I'll make a motion to approve Item G of 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.**

**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****8.0 G.1 Selection of Spring Town Hall Meeting Date**

Jeziorski noted that the Spring Town Hall is typically held in April and presented a list of available dates that do not have conflicts.

Erkel noted that if they choose later in the month, it might be better weather, and they may get more people. Mundle agreed.

Anderson noted that they can go with Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

Mundle suggested doing a short, informal Town Hall meeting at Booster Day. The Council noted that they are fine with that.

Frost noted that there are plans to have both a City booth and a Committee booth at Booster Day.

**9.0 – Other Items****9.0 A Staff Report**

Jeziorski stated that they had their financial audit last week and have their workers' comp audit next week.

Jeziorski introduced their new Senior City Planner, Eric Johnson, and stated that they are excited to have him.

Saufley stated that they have their City Attorney's Office report as well.

Tom Weidner, with the prosecutor's office, stated that in the past 4 years, they have prosecuted 50 ordinance violations, but only 1 nuisance property violation is currently being prosecuted. Mr. Weidner noted that they have opened 186 criminal files on behalf of East Bethel in their office in the last year.

**9.0 B Council Reports**

Erkel noted that she attended the airport festival meeting and noted that they are trying to get people to participate so they can recreate a 501(c)(3).

Erkel noted that the Senior Dance will be held on the first Friday of March.

Erkel thanked the City for painting the Community Center and noted that the Seniors are planning a flea market/farmers market there on June 13, 2026.

Miller noted that they still have an opening on the Park Commission if anyone is interested.

Cielocha thanked the family of Jeff Borstner for allowing the City to have him and his time for so many years.

**9.0 C Other**

None.

**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 7:42 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*