

**City of Rock Creek  
City Council Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
March 5, 2026**

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**Mayor Dick Johnson, called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**

**Members present:**

Mayor Dick Johnson, Council Members: Nancy Rys, Don Ramberg, Dan Saumer

**Members Absent:**

Sam Christenson

**Others present:**

Deputy Clerk Ashley Rauschnot, Don Burger, Chelsy Lindman, Craig Saari, Adam Rydberg (Rydberg and Sons Representative), Amy Thomsson, Kevin McCall, Bjorkland Companies Representative, DLL Excavating Representative

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Hearing: Amend Gambling Ordinance**

City of Rock Creek

Notice is hereby given that the Rock Creek City Council will conduct a public hearing Thursday March 5, 2026 at 6PM at the Rock Creek City Center.

The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss amending the Trade Area in the Gambling Ordinance #71.

Subdivision 1; adding The Rush City Fire Department, the Pine City Fire Department and the Braham Fire Department.

Interested persons are invited to attend this public hearing and be heard on this matter. Letters are also welcomed and can be submitted by:

Email at: [arauschnot@cityofrockcreek.org](mailto:arauschnot@cityofrockcreek.org)

Mail at: City of Rock Creek

7000 State Hwy 70

Pine City, MN 55063

The City Council shall hold their regular meeting immediately following the public hearing.

**Mayor Dick Johnson called the Public Hearing to Amend Gambling Ordinance to order at 6:03PM**

**Craig Saari:** "Well, I guess I'm just, I have a question maybe Grantsburg should be included being they're part of the service area and, um, the fire that was across the street from my house there, Harris Fire Department, was parked in my driveway there too so, it could be more vague and talk more about public safety issues or fire departments, anything that would benefit our area so that was my thoughts on that. Thank you."

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**Mayor Dick Johnson closed the Public Hearing to Amend Gambling Ordinance at 6:03PM**

Dan Saumer stated that he would like to keep the fire departments limited to the three listed in the public notice, as doing so aligns with the existing service areas used for schools and other community trade areas.

*Dan Saumer motioned, seconded by Don Ramberg, to add the Rush City, Braham, and Pine City Fire Departments to the trade area for the Gambling Ordinance. The motion carried with all ayes.*

**Approval of Agenda:**

*Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Dan Saumer to approve the following **minutes**:*

*February 5, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes*

*February 12, 2026 Emergency City Council Meeting Minutes*

*February 19, 2026 Emergency City Council Meeting Minutes*

*February 26, 2026 City Council Special Meeting Minutes*

*Motion carried with all ayes.*

Nancy Rys noted that the PERA tax, along with the State and Federal payroll tax payments, were not included on the disbursements list. These payments will be listed as the first three disbursements for March.

*Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Dan Saumer to approve the **February Disbursements**. Motion carried with all ayes.*

**Discuss Joint Powers Agreement:**

The Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Rock Creek and the City of Rush City for the Fire Substation has been signed by all parties. The agreement requires the City Council to appoint a representative to serve on the Facility Operations Committee.

*Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Dick Johnson to appoint Dan Saumer as the Facility Operations Committee representative for the City of Rock creek. Motion carried with all ayes.*

**Violations Update**

**Jeremy Nordrum** – Junkyard: City Council members noted there has been significant progress toward cleanup, but additional work remains. Council directed staff to send a letter thanking him for the progress and establishing a new follow-up deadline of May 1, 2026.

**Mark Revering** – Junkyard and Sale / Non-Compliant SSTS: Council members stated that fines will continue to accrue due to minimal communication from Mr. Revering.

**Donna Peltier** – Non-Compliant Septic System: Council members stated that fines will continue to accrue as the City has not received communication from Ms. Peltier since

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November 2024.

**M&M Landscaping** – Business Operating Without a Permit: Kevin McCall, co-owner of M&M Landscaping, was present to speak with the City Council. Council members agreed that he should apply for a Low Impact Business Permit in order to come into compliance.

**Social Media Policy**

Dan Saumer reported that he spoke with the League of Minnesota Cities regarding the City’s use of social media. He stated that the League recommends adopting a formal social media policy. They also recommend turning off comments on all posts, as allowing comments can create complications with data practices requirements. If a complaint or legal matter were brought against the City, comments could result in extensive data collection requirements. He also noted that comments cannot be enabled on some posts and disabled on others, as that could create potential First Amendment issues.

Dan stated that the League of Minnesota Cities provided a template for a social media policy. He explained that three actions would be needed: the City Council would need to recognize the City’s Facebook page as an official City page, disable comments on all posts, and adopt a formal social media policy. Nancy Rys and Ashley Rauschnot will use the League template to draft a policy to present to the Council at the April meeting.

**Department Reports**

**Planning Commission** – There was no meeting in March, so there was no report.

**Public Works**

**Gravel Bids Received:**

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| DLL Excavating | \$7.50 per cu. yd |
| Rydberg & Sons | \$5.59 per cu. yd |
| Bjorklund Co.  | \$5.60 per cu. yd |

Don Ramberg discussed the previous year’s gravel hauling services, noting that Bjorklund provided daily scale tickets for the work performed. He stated that this documentation had not been received from Rydberg & Sons until the very end of the job.

Don Ramberg moved to award the gravel hauling contract to Bjorklund.

During the discussion, Adam Rydberg spoke from the audience, stating that Rydberg & Sons is capable of providing daily scale tickets and currently does so for other clients. Mr. Ramberg acknowledged the information but maintained his original motion.

*Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Nancy Rys to accept the bid from Bjorklund Companies for gravel hauling at \$5.60 per cubic yard. Motion passed with all ayes.*

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**Tree Bid**

The Council reviewed the single bid received for tree services. Following discussion, the Council directed Curt Kubesh to solicit additional bids to ensure a competitive process before a final decision is made.

**Misc. Updates**

**Mower:** Curt Kubesh said that the mower has been having issues, so they are getting parts for that.

**Culvert Maintenance and Monitoring**

Public Works Director Curt Kubesh is currently monitoring two specific culvert locations to determine if replacement is necessary:

- Keystone Avenue / 580th Street: Ongoing observation for structural integrity.
- Southeast Corner of Keystone Avenue / 540th Street: This location has remained an unresolved issue for several years due to poor drainage and a lack of viable outlets for standing water.

The City previously contacted Rushseba Township regarding a potential cost-sharing agreement for repairs. Rushseba Township declined involvement, stating that the responsibility lies with the City and the affected landowner.

Don Ramberg or Curt Kubesh will contact the landowner at the southeast corner of Keystone and 540th to discuss potential solutions and drainage easements.

**Part-Time Employee Applications**

Curt Kubesh noted that the office has received 3 applications so far for the part-time position, and that he had handed out another application today. Council members agreed to look over all applications at the April meeting.

**Fire Substation Signs**

Curt Kubesh got a price quote from Gateway Signs (which is who Rush City used in the past) for signs for the new Fire Substation. The emails were not clear if this included installation or not. 4' x 8' Sign \$525 No Parking Signs (x2) \$55 each. Public Works Sign \$35. Nancy Rys would like to see a quote from a local sign company before proceeding. Members agreed to get a quote from a local company for the April meeting.

**Safety Committee**

The Safety Committee provided an update on the preparations for the upcoming municipal clean-up day. The committee is currently finalizing competitive pricing, selecting vendors, and determining the necessary quantity of roll-off bins required for the event.

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Council Action: The City Council officially designated April 18, 2026, as the event date. This provides the Safety Committee with a firm deadline to complete logistical arrangements and vendor contracting.

**Office Updates**

**Certificate of Deposit**

The Council reviewed the status of the City's Certificate of Deposit (CD) currently held at First Citizens Bank, which is set to expire on March 9, 2026. The account maintains a balance of \$233,011.45 at a current rate of 4.50%.

Council members compared updated rate sheets and term options provided by Frandsen Bank and Trust and First Citizens Bank. During the deliberation, Dan Saumer recommended designating these funds for the future purchase of a new grader, noting that the substantial balance makes it an ideal reserve for high-cost equipment replacement.

*Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Dan Saumer to keep the CD at First Citizens Bank with a 36 Month Term at 3.60%. Motion carries with all ayes.*

**Retired City Administrator Bonus**

The Council reviewed the historical practice of providing departing employees with a recognition payment of \$100 per year of service. It was noted that the City traditionally covers the associated taxes for these payments. Following discussion, the Council reached a consensus to apply this practice to the departure of Sandra Pangerl to maintain consistency. Council Member Nancy Rys recommended that this procedure be formally incorporated into the forthcoming employee handbook.

*Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Dan Saumer to pay Sandra Pangerl \$2,500 tax-free for the 25 years of service at \$100 per year. Motion carried with all ayes.*

**Misc.**

**Northland Boiler Sales Update:** The business has vacated its Fairfield Avenue location. Operations are currently limited to parts sales conducted from a temporary shipping container at 6915 560<sup>th</sup> Street Pine City, MN. Management noted that a new Interim Use Permit (IUP) will be sought once a permanent location is secured, if required by local zoning.

*Nancy Rys motioned, seconded by Dan Saumer to terminate Northland Boiler Sales Interim Use Permit - IUP-24-001, and approve Northland Boiler Sales Low Impact Business Permit LIB-26-002. Motion carried with all ayes.*

**JJS Electric** has completed all contracted work on the new facility. A final invoice has

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been submitted in the amount of \$7,125.00, which reflects a \$500.00 discount applied by the contractor due to the delayed completion date.

*Don Rambeg motioned, seconded by Dick Johnson to pay JJS Electric for the final work on the Public Works Building in the amount of \$7,125.00. Motion carried with all ayes.*

**Swanson/Haskamp Consulting** – Deputy Clerk Rauschnot is coordinating with Swanson & Haskamp Consulting to assist with ordinance review and Comp Plan alignment. A meeting with the firm is set for March 6, 2026, with a follow-up report slated for the April City Council meeting.

**CO/Smoke Detectors** – Dan Saumer reported that a recent inspection of the City Center and Office identified a lack of smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Following consultations with the Local Building Inspector and Fire Chief Bob Carlson, it was determined that smoke detectors are not currently required. However, both officials recommended the installation of a CO detector in the office area outside the furnace room. Public Works will procure and install the unit.

*Don Ramberg motioned, seconded by Dan Saumer to adjourn at 7:03PM. Motion passed with all ayes.*

Ashley Rauschnot  
Deputy Clerk