



# City Council

## Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

[City of Forest Lake - Livestream and Recorded Meetings](#)

### 1. Call to Order

### 2. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Blake Roberts	Mayor	Present	
Jeff Larson	Councilmember	Present	
Hanna Valento	Councilmember	Present	
Leif Erickson	Councilmember	Absent	
Kevin Miller	Councilmember	Present	

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

### 4. Approve the Agenda (Action)

**Motion:** Councilmember Larson made a Motion to Approve the Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Valento. Motion carried 4-0.

### 5. Awards and Presentations

#### a) 2026 Lakes Area TV Budget – Paul Peterson, LATV Access Coordinator

LATV Access Coordinator Peterson reviewed the different services he provides with Lakes Area TV. He briefly discussed the different expenses they have in a year.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were different funding mechanisms they should look into.

Assistant City Clerk Chaika said there was an action item requested to approve the budget, but it was not listed on the agenda.

Councilmember Valento noted that she would abstain from a vote since she serves on the Cable Commission.

**Motion:** Councilmember Miller made a Motion to Approve the 2026 Lakes Area TV Budget. Motion seconded by Councilmember Larson. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Valento abstained).

#### b) Annual Parks and Recreation Report – Kyle Young/Don Theisen

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young expressed excitement for another year serving with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Theisen thanked the Parks and Recreation staff



# City Council

## Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)

---

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

---

Mayor Roberts asked if there was an opening on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Assistant City Clerk Chaika said that there were two openings on the commission, but one Parks and Recreation Commission member expressed interest in continuing in the role.

### Open Forum – Citizen Petitions, Requests, and Concerns

*The Open Forum is available for residents to express personal opinions for any item of business. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.*

#### Comments:

Susan Young, 9950 199th Street North, noted that she was the president of the Forest Lake Rotary Club. She said that the Rotary Club works hard to help community groups with funding, and they would be hosting a Rotary Club Plunge to raise funds.

### 6. Consent Agenda Considerations (Action Items)

Mayor Roberts requested to remove item 7.p. from the Consent Agenda.

- a. City Invoices
  - i) General Invoices
  - ii) Airport Invoices
- b. November 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- c. November 17, 2025 Council Workshop Minutes
- d. November 24, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes
- e. Resolution 01-12-26-01: 2026 Annual Appointments and Designations
- f. Resolution 01-12-26-02: Issuance of New Tobacco License
- g. Resolution 01-12-26-03: Approval of 02/01/2026-01/31/2027 Licenses
- h. Resolution 01-12-26-04: Accepting Veterans Memorial Project Donations
- i. Resolution 01-12-26-05: Accepting Donation – Hometown Holiday Volunteers
- j. Resolution 01-12-26-06: Accepting Donation – Hometown Holiday Sponsors
- k. 2026-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement: LELS #111
- l. MOA with AFSCME: New Position: Deputy Clerk
- m. Position Description Approval: Deputy Fire Chief
- n. Hiring Recommendation: Police Administrative Assistant
- o. Rotary Club Fee Waiver Request
- ~~p. Accept Resignation of the Police Chief and Declare a Vacancy at that position~~
- q. Accept Resignation of Accounting Manager
- r. Eureka Avenue Improvements – Contractor’s Request for Payment No. 1
- s. Suite Living aka DigniCare – Final Project Acceptance
- t. City Licenses and Permits Recommendations
  - i) Gambling Permit Applications
  - ii) Temporary Liquor Licenses



# City Council

## Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)

---

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

---

**Motion:** Mayor Roberts made a Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda Items 7.a. through 7.o. and 7.q. through 7.t.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Valento. Motion carried 4-0.

**p. Accept Resignation of the Police Chief and Declare a Vacancy at that position**

Mayor Roberts recognized Police Chief Peterson's dedication to Forest Lake as the Police Chief and noted his resignation for retirement. The resignation will go into effect on April 3rd.

**Motion:** Mayor Roberts made a Motion to Approve Item 7.p., Accept Resignation of the Police Chief, and Declare a Vacancy at that position.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Larson. Motion carried 4-0.

## 7. Regular Agenda (Action Items)

**a) Zoning Text Amendment: Wireless Communication Towers – Abbi Wittman**

**i) Public Ordinance**

**ii) Ordinance 765**

**iii) Resolution 01-12-26-07**

Community Development Director Wittman reviewed the zoning text amendment requested by Buell Consulting, Inc. to allow wireless towers as a conditional use in the single-family (SF) district.

Councilmember Larson asked why they kicked out the institutionalized uses. Community Development Director Wittman answered that the uses can change on a property. Mayor Roberts asked if they approved a tower in Kulenkamp Park. Community Development Director Wittman stated no.

Mayor Roberts asked if all towers in residential areas would be camouflaged. Community Development Director Wittman answered that they would not be.

Public Hearing opened at 6:25 p.m.

Blair Ransom, Buell Consulting, stated that AT&T was trying to enhance its reliability, especially for emergency services on the lake and on the south side.

Susan Young, 9950 190th Street North, said that a large tower was put up close to her property, it is difficult to screen

Public Hearing closed at 6:30 p.m.

City Administrator Statz said that these would be allowable through a conditional use permit, which would not be designed for a particular basis to determine other options.



# City Council

## Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)

---

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

---

Councilmember Miller asked if the proposed amendment was what the Planning Commission sent to the City Council. Community Development Director Wittman said that the Planning Commission asked to include residential dwellings and accessory structures on other properties.

Community Development Director Wittman reviewed the parcels that were zoned for single-family.

Mayor Roberts asked about the north side of Forest Lake and if a tower could be installed there. Community Development Director Wittman answered that if it could meet the 2.5 acres.

Mayor Roberts said the change would require a code amendment. Community Development Director Wittman answered that a variance was based on practical difficulty and unique circumstances, so she could not tell them that they should approve a specific variance.

Community Development Director Wittman said if an amendment were made and they wanted to move forward with an application, a notice would be issued.

City Administrator Statz said that if a proposal met the Conditional Use Permit requirements, they would be required to move forward with it.

**Motion:** Councilmember Larson made a Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 765, allowing towers as a conditional use in the Single-Family (SF) Zoning District.  
Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller.

Mayor Roberts asked if this ordinance included the requirement for camouflage.

**Amended Motion:** Councilmember Larson made a Motion to Amend the motion to table Ordinance No. 765 for the City staff to revise to include camouflaging.  
Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion:** Councilmember Miller made a Motion to Table Resolution 01-12-26-07, denying the requested changes to lot size, setbacks, tower height, and separation standards.  
Motion seconded by Councilmember Valento. Motion carried 4-0.

**b) Spikes and Houles Phase II – Amended Site Plan & PUD Preliminary and Final Plan – Abbi Wittman**

**i) Resolution 01-12-26-08 – Preliminary Plat and PUD**

**ii) Resolution 01-12-26-09 – Site Plan Approval**

Community Development Director Wittman provided an overview of the Preliminary & Final Planned Unit Development, along with the site plan review to expand the existing feed store and bring the site into compliance with City standards. She reviewed the feedback from the Planning Commission and summarized the conditions for approval.



# City Council

## Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)

---

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

---

Councilmember Miller asked about the size of the greenhouse. Community Development Director Wittman answered that it would be about 6000 square feet.

Councilmember Miller clarified that the greenhouse would be a permanent structure. Community Development Director Wittman confirmed that it would be a permanent.

Mayor Roberts said he would be abstaining from the vote due to the relationship. He said that they were 37 spots short of the code.

Gino Petero, Spikes & Houles, said that they made good progress on the buildings. He said that the greenhouse would be a glass greenhouse He said they would be happy to add the parking in the future.

Councilmember Miller asked where they currently load and unload the products. Mr. Petero answered that inbound freight is on the south side of the building.

Councilmember Miller asked if the parking spots would impact the unloading and loading. He asked about the types of products for sale Mr. Petero detailed the plants and trees for sale and the potential increase of loading..

Councilmember Miller asked about the largest trees they carry. Mr. Petero answered that it would be a 25-foot pot.

Councilmember Miller asked how a customer would get loaded. Mr. Petero responded that they would bring it to their car with a two-wheeled dolly.

Councilmember Miller voiced concerns about the parking.

Mayor Roberts asked what triggered the proof of parking. Community Development Director Wittman said it would likely be triggered by complaints of public use.

Councilmember Miller asked about the road that came in from the south that provided access to an adjacent homeowner. Community Development Director Wittman answered that the yellow piece was owned by Spikes and Houle's and could not be used in redevelopment in the future.

Mayor Roberts asked if 207 was developed, and if the developer would pay to help improve the street. Community Development Director Wittman confirmed they would look for street improvement with a redevelopment project.

Mayor Roberts asked if the road was maintained regularly. Public Works Director Adams answered that it's a catch-22 because some people want the road to be maintained and others don't. He explained the challenges with maintaining that road.



# City Council

## Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)

---

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

---

**Motion:** Councilmember Valento made a Motion to Approve Spikes and Houle’s Phase Two Planned Unit Development as proposed and presented, including Resolution 01-12-26-09 site plan review and advised staff to return the site plan ordinance and site plan Resolution.  
Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Roberts Abstained).

**c) MNDOT Aviation Grant Awards – Mark Statz**

**i) Runway**

**ii) Taxiway**

City Administrator Statz reviewed the approved aviation grants from the MNDOT for the three capital improvement projects.

Silas Parmar, Bolten & Menk, reviewed how the project funds worked.

City Administrator Statz clarified that there were two projects proposed for Bolten & Menk. Administrator Statz reviewed the project costs for the taxiway and the runway extension project.

Councilmember Miller asked if the apron was in the budget. City Administrator Statz confirmed it was originally included.

Councilmember Miler asked if taxiway A3 would remain. Mr. Parmar answered that it would remain.

Councilmember Miller asked about the purpose of the enlarged apron. Mr. Parmar explained it was to accommodate the amount of airport traffic.

Councilmember Miller asked about the vehicles parked in the location. Mr. Parmar answered that those spots were supposed to be for airplanes only.

Councilmember Miller discussed concerns with members of the public driving through the runway lanes to access fuel. Mr. Parmar explained that there was no other way to currently access the fuel, but it wasn’t common. With a few driveway modifications, people could access the fuel without going through the taxi lane.

Mayor Roberts requested that they not ask MNDOT for any more grants until they have more secure funding in the future.

Councilmember Miller asked if they could assess the hangar owners. City Administrator Statz said he would like the attorney to weigh in on the question.

Mayor Roberts pointed out that legal action was threatened at the Airport Commission meeting if they decided to go forward with the assessment.

---

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

---

Councilmember Valento asked if other airports were self-sustaining. City Administrator Statz answered that most airports were in a similar position to the Forest Lake Airport.

Mayor Roberts asked about the benefits of the expansion of the runway. Mr. Parmar answered that the current paved runway length limited the number, size, and weight of the aircraft that could operate at the Forest Lake Airport.

Mayor Roberts asked about the longer runway and if it would help mitigate sound. Mr. Parmar confirmed that some residents may notice a difference.

**Motion:** Councilmember Valento made a Motion to Accept all three grants from MNDOT, totaling \$1,598,761, award the contract for the construction of the taxiway and runway project to Forest Lake Contracting, and fund the projects through the city's Capital Improvement Fund (Street Fund), and award the engineering contract to Bolten & Menk for a total of \$250,000. Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried 4-0.

**d) Logos on Street Name Blades – Dave Adams**

Public Works Director Adams reviewed the 1-year cycle to replace street signs to ensure compliance with visibility and safety standards.

Councilmember Miller asked if they could make their own street signs and cost to add a logo. Public Works Director Adams answered that it would be between \$500 to \$1000. They could not go back and add logos to the signs already installed.

Public Works Director Adams explained the benefits of the lot numbers. He added that they could put stickers over the logo change if they rebranded.

Councilmember Miller asked if the signs fade. Public Works Director Adams explained that is why the signs were replaced every ten years.

**Motion:** Councilmember Valento made a Motion to Include Option Number Four Logo on all street name signs.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Larson. Motion carried 4-0.

## 8. Discussion

a) None

## 9. Staff Updates

Assistant City Administrator Chaika introduced the new Deputy City Clerk, Amanda Milks. She noted that the City Council workshop would be on Tuesday because of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She



# City Council

## Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)

---

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

---

hoped they could bring forward nominations for commission positions at the next City Council meeting.

Community Development Director Wittman said that Metropolitan Transit Service would start operating a door-to-door bus service in Forest Lake on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. They released an environmental assessment worksheet for Tim's Marina for comment between now and February 5th. She said that they would start streamlining zoning ordinances with the Planning Commission. They conducted an abatement of a hazardous structure and will be proceeding with an additional one in the coming weeks. She discussed the code enforcement officer being moved full-time.

Public Works Director Adams answered that they were trying to respond to the ice while not using all the salt yet. He said that they received a grant to fund the rest of the Veterans' Memorial monument.

Chief Peterson stated it had been an honor to serve the citizens of Forest Lake.

City Administrator Statz provided updates on the League of Minnesota Cities for additional training opportunities.

### 10. Mayor and City Council Updates

Councilmember Larson wished Chief Peterson the best in his retirement.

### 11. Adjourn

**Motion:** Councilmember Valento made a Motion to Adjourn the Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Larson. Motion carried 5-0.