



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Monday, January 26, 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	Absent	
Leif Erickson	Councilmember	Present	
Kevin Miller	Councilmember	Present	

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approve the Agenda (Action)

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

5. Awards and Presentations

None.

6. 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:

Jeff Watson, Stacy, Minnesota, said that there was a general strike against ICE in Minneapolis. He said they were trying to get more cities and businesses to participate in the strike.

7. Consent Agenda Considerations (Action Items)

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

- a. City Invoices
 - i) General Invoices
 - ii) Airport Invoices
- b. December 8, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- c. Concessions Agreement - FLAAA
- d. 2026 Castlewood Golf Course Fees
- e. ~~Beltz Park Volleyball Court Addition~~



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Monday, January 26, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

- f. Position Description and Recruitment Authorization – Financial Analyst
- g. Hiring Recommendation: Deputy Fire Chief
- h. Hiring Process: Police Chief
- i. City Council Liaison Assignments
- j. Commission Appointments
- k. Beltz Park Pedestrian Improvements – Contractor’s Request for Payment No. 4
- l. North Shore Trail and 2025 Street Pavement Maintenance Project – Contractor Request for Payment No. 6 & Change No. 3
- m. Letter of Support – WA County CDA FY2026 Application for a U.S. EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant for Petroleum and Hazardous Substance Brownfields

Motion: Mayor Roberts made a Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda Items 7.a. through 7.d. and 7.f. through 7.m.

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

e. Beltz Park Volleyball Court Addition

Public Works Director Adams stated they plan to install a dual-purpose volleyball court and ice rink at the proposed location in Beltz Park.

Councilmember Erickson asked how close the volleyball court would be to the baseball field. Public Works Director Adams answered that it would be 150 feet from home plate.

Mayor Roberts asked if they installed a liner. Public Works Director Adams answered that a liner was possible with sand.

Councilmember Miller asked about the average distance from home plate for a youth field. Public Works Director Adams answered that they aim for 150 feet.

Mayor Roberts asked about a footing for the poles. Public Works Director Adams clarified the ground-mounted tubing for the volleyball nets.

Motion: Councilmember Erickson made a Motion to Approve Item 7.e. Beltz Park Volleyball Court Addition.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried 4-0

8. Regular Agenda (Action Items)

- a) Cannabis Buffers Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – Abbi Wittman
 - i. Public Hearing
 - ii. Ordinance 766



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Monday, January 26, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

Mayor Roberts reiterated to the Council that he will be going to into the cannabis business and therefore would not be participating in the discussion for the next two items on the agenda. He excused himself from the room.

Motion: Councilmember Miller made a Motion to Nominate Councilmember Erickson as the Acting Mayor.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Larson. Motion carried 3-0

Community Development Director Wittman reminded Council of an Intern Use Permit Application from Forest Lake Cannabis that was presented during a Council Meeting late last year. She provided an overview of the zoning text amendment to Ordinance 766, Chapter 153 of the City Code to clarify how residential distance requirements apply to cannabis businesses operating under a State of Minnesota microbusiness license. Director Wittman stated that this application was recommended for approval by the Planning Committee.

Public Hearing opened at 6:17 p.m.

No comments.

Public Hearing closed at 6:17 p.m.

City Attorney Johnson provided clarification that this IUP is specific to retail: A microbusiness or mezzo business would need to get approval for additional endorsements from the Office of Cannabis Management.

Acting Mayor Erickson clarified that there would be no separation between retail businesses and residential. Assistant City Administrator Chaika answered that schools and daycares had buffers from other controlled businesses – tobacco and liquor.

Motion: Councilmember Larson made a Motion to Adopt Ordinance 766, amending Title XV, Chapter 153, Section 153.092 (UU) of the Forest Lake City Code pertaining to cannabis business.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried 3-0.

b) Forest Lake Cannabis Interim Use Permit – Abbi Wittman
i. Resolution 01-26-26-01

Community Development Director Wittman provided an overview of the request from Budding Measured Movement, LLC, dba Forest Lake Cannabis, for an interim use permit to establish a cannabis retail sales use at 1467 Lake Street South, Suite 102.

Motion: Councilmember Miller made a Motion to Adopt Resolution 01-26-26-01, granting an Interim Use Permit to Budding Measured Movement, LLC for a retail-only cannabis operation at 1467 Lake Street South, subject to the conditions listed in the staff report.



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Monday, January 26, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

Motion seconded by Councilmember Larson. Motion carried 3-0.

c) Single Family Zoning District Towers Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – Abbi Wittman

i. Zoning Amendment Request Denial Resolution 01-26-26-03

ii. Zoning Amendment Ordinance 765

Mayor Roberts returned to the meeting.

Community Development Director Wittman presented an updated Ordinance No. 765 to reflect the City Council's requested changes to the requirements for Wireless Communication Towers to be allowed in the Single-Family Zoning District while retaining the denial Resolution.

Motion: Councilmember Miller made a Motion to Adopt Resolution 01-26-26-03, a Resolution Denying Requested Amendments to Wireless Communication Tower Standards, and approve Ordinance No. 765, an Ordinance Amending Title XV, Chapter 153, Section 153.065, Section 153.069, and 153.092, Pertaining to Wireless Communication Towers.

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

d) Spikes and Houles Planned Unit Development – Abbi Wittman

i. Zoning Amendment Ordinance 767

ii. Zoning Ordinance Amendment Summary Resolution 01-26-26-02

Community Development Director Wittman briefly reviewed the previously approved PUD Ordinance and summary resolution for the Spikes and Houles Phase II Planned Unit Development. However, she stated that that Ordinance amendment did not change the zoning map, so Ordinance 767 is bring brought back for Council consideration.

Motion: Councilmember Larson made a Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 767, an Ordinance Amending the City of Forest Lake Official Zoning Map, Rezoning all Property associated with Spikes and Houles from MU-1 to PUD and approve Resolution 01-26-26-03, Authorizing Publication of a Summary of Ordinance No. 767.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Roberts Abstained).

e) City Street Name Sign Modifications – Dave Adams

Public Works Director Adams reviewed the City Street Name Sign Modifications to include 6-inch lettering, while the designations and block numbers are shown in smaller lettering.

Motion: Councilmember Erickson made a Motion to Update street sign lettering to 6" Main lettering and 2" designation and block numbers.

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



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Monday, January 26, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

f) **Local Options Sales Tax – Elle Larkin**
i. **Resolution 01-26-26-04**

Finance Director Larkin reviewed the estimated financial impact of a proposed 0.5 percent local option sales tax to help fund the Public Works Facility. The benefit of the local option sales tax would be to shift the cost burden away from property taxpayers.

City Administrator Statz explained the importance of the timing of the local option sales tax and noted that there was additional time for the public to provide feedback. He summarized the changes in the resolution.

Councilmember Erickson clarified that the longevity of the sales tax would expire upon full funding of the project. City Administrator Statz explained that the estimated time to raise the funds was required, but not a solid end date.

Councilmember Miller said a large percentage of the tax would be paid for by those who visit the City and utilize the infrastructure, which was important for the residents to know.

Motion: Councilmember Erickson made a Motion to Approve Resolution 01-26-26-04 authorizing the City of Forest Lake to submit a request to the Minnesota Legislature seeking authorization to impose a 0.5 percent Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) to support designated Public Works capital improvement projects, subject to subsequent voter approval.

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

9. Discussion

None.

10. Staff Updates

Finance Director Larkin stated that they were completing year-end financial tasks and the first audit would take place in February.

City Engineer Goodman said that Washington County would attend the City Council Workshop in February to discuss County Road 32.

Assistant City Clerk Chaika announced that the City is now live on governmentjobs.com. She discussed the start of the wellness committee and the safety committee.

Community Development Director Wittman discussed service expansions for transportation. The Watershed District permit coordinators met. They had seven potential residential developments this spring. She did not know the increased potential residential lots.



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Monday, January 26, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chamber

Fire Chief Newman noted that the Fire Department old two vehicles.

Mayor Roberts asked if the funds stayed with the Fire Department. Fire Chief Newman answered that the funds go to the Capital Equipment Fund.

11. Mayor and City Council Updates

None.

12. Adjourn

Motion: Councilmember Erickson made a Motion to Adjourn the Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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