



Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall ~ November 12, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Acting Mayor Chris Schmit, Michael Brunkhorst and Jeannine Nagel

Members Absent: Joe Benda

Others Present: Lisa Redepenning, City Administrator, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk, Jason Mandelkow, Public Works Director, Charlotte Muenzenberger-News Record, Anthony Holst, Ava Wallaker and Natlie Thomforde from Girls Basketball Team, Coach Josh Wieme, Fr. Thomas McCabe-Holy Trinity Church, Ronald Goebel-Holy Trinity Church, Treyben Kehren, Trevor Sullivan, Goodhue County Sheriff's Office

Call to Order

Acting Mayor Schmit called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approve or amend Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the October 22nd, 2025, city council meeting minutes made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made to approve the bills by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

Old Business

None

New Business

Resolution No. 25-19 Declaring Vacancy in Office of Mayor; Appointment to Mayor; and Vacancy of Council Respectively

A motion to approve Resolution No. 25-19 Declaring Vacancy in Office of Mayor; Appointment to Mayor; and Vacancy of Council Respectively was made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried, 3-0-0.

Oath of Office - Mayor

Acting Mayor Chris Schmit was sworn in as Mayor of City of Goodhue and was congratulated by those present. Minutes will be sent to bank for signature updates.

Holy Trinity Church Water Issue

Father McCabe from Trinity Church spoke about the unexpected water bill of \$1,890.52 after estimating, seemingly normal usage. A new meter was installed in April 2024. Actual usage indicated a leak that had gone undetected for months. Church felt communication was lacking and that no notice was provided when high

usage was detected. City staff explained estimation procedures and acknowledged software and meter reading issues. Staff also reiterated the meter installation date and several leak-detected reminders that were made to Father McCabe and staff at different times to remind them of leaks. After this large bill, City Hall received a call from a plumber that was on site at Trinity Church on September 16, 2025, and he found the leak to the pipe that led to the basement restroom. Questions raised why estimates continued for so long without notice; should policy require immediate notification to users of high usages; how can accuracy in billing and communication be improved. Request for credit or recompense to be discussed further in a future meeting.

Resolution No. 25-18 Approving Final Tax Levy for 2026

Concerns were raised over fund balances, general ledger mismatches and comfort with current financial data. Staff clarified steps taken to remedy bookkeeping issues and provided explanations for budget overruns. Council Member Nagel suggested a 5% increase in the Levy. A motion to approve Resolution No 25-18, Resolution Approving Final Tax Levy for 2026 at 5% was made by Brunkhorst, Seconded by Nagel, motion carried 3-0-0.

Resolution No. 25-20 Certifying Past Due Utility Billing to the Goodhue County Auditor for collection with the 2026 property taxes.

Motion made by Nagel to accept Resolution no. 25-20 A Resolution Certifying Past Due Utility Bills to the Goodhue County Auditor for collection with the 2026 property taxes, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

Water Rates – set for 3 years

Water rate discussion was tabled to the next meeting in December 2025.

CEDA Renewal discussion

CEDA agreement discussion was tabled to the next meeting in December 2025.

Approve gambling application for Goodhue Community Fund

Goodhue Girls Basketball team was represented with two players and their coach. They spoke of how they would use the money raised on the January 15, 2026, raffle. Motion made by Nagel to approve the gambling application for Goodhue Community Fund to host a raffle at the Goodhue School District for the Girls Basketball team fundraiser, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

Approve 2026 Agreement for State Building Code Administration

Motion by Brunkhorst to approve 2026 Agreement for the State Building Code Administration with Goodhue County Land Use Management, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 3-0-0.

Motion to document and correct fund balances and refund school

If was found that the school utility bill account had the incorrect multiplier for a gallon meter and was billed according to a cubic foot meter since installation of the new meter in October of 2022. Administrator Redepenning figured the amounts that should have been billed for water, sewer and tax since then and produced

a refund amount. Motion to refund the Goodhue School for the overage billed on their utility bill for water usage was made by Brunkhorst, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 3-0-0.

Appoint Council Position to Vacancy

There were two applications submitted for the vacant council seat. A motion was made by Brunkhorst to nominate Anthony Holst for the vacant council seat, Nagel voted nay, with a tie, Mayor Schmit voted nay, with no second, the motion failed. The current council vacancy will be tabled until the next meeting in December to encourage more applicants with the current applicants remaining valid. Position will be reposted. A motion was made by Brunkhorst to repost the city council seat vacancy, seconded by Nagel, motion carried, 3-0-0.

Public Works Report

Jason Mandelkow, Public Works Director, informed council of the condition of the backup well. It is unsuitable for use even in emergencies. The main Well #1 lacks a generator and he suggested a permanent generator to keep that one in service if there is a power outage. The City is applying for multiple grants to install a generator on Well #1. Estimated cost is \$48,000 – 60,000 depending on grant funding. Short-term plan is to install a plug at the main well for temporary generator connection until a permanent solution is funded.

Christmas event street closure and permit procedures discussed for upcoming December event. The City has not received any applications for alcohol sales at the event.

Administrator Comments

Staff spent a whole day with the utility Software vendor to audit and correct all account codes and billing processes bringing confidence in accuracy up to 98%.

The Cell tower company has a potential new site being considered pending further updates.

Administrator Redepenning met with House and Senate bonding committees for the wastewater plant. The project received positive feedback and is progressing. Closing on the sale of the field is happening this week and we have documents to be signed. SEMMCHRA Grants for the Goodhue/Dennison Project are closed and the final disbursement is completed. Insurance rates for property and workers' compensation are set to decrease for 2026.

No additional comments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:27 p.m. by Council Member Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk