

**SAUK CENTRE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Sauk Centre City Council met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. due notice being given thereof. Present were Mayor Warren Stone, Council Members Joe Fuechtmann, Heidi Leach, Brad Kirckof and Scott Kowski. Also present were City Administrator Vicki Willer, City Planner Sarah Morton, Police Chief Joe Jensen, City Engineer Keith Yapp and Public Works Director Ben Clink. Mayor Stone presided thereat.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Fuechtmann and was seconded by Council Member Leach to approve the agenda, with the removal of 7h. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Fuechtmann, Leach, Kowski, Kirckof and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. A motion was made by Council Member Kirckof and was seconded by Council Member Kowski to approve the March 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kirckof, Kowski, Leach, Fuechtmann and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

**4. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (Comments Limited to 3 Minutes)**

None.

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**6. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

a. The EDA met on Wednesday, April 1 and discussed the following:

- Received monthly reports from Sauk Centre Opportunities and Sauk Centre Chamber of Commerce.
- Passed on counteroffer for Author's Addition lot sale (7h).
- Reviewed progress on Authors 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition.
- Denied request to act as fiduciary agent for Community Center project.

b. City Engineer Yapp presented the 2027 Capital Improvement Project (TH 71 City Streets) Feasibility Report:

- Project location – new and full reconstruct.
- Proposed improvements
  - Cass Street South
  - 9 ½ Street South
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Street South

- 7<sup>th</sup> Street South
- 6<sup>th</sup> Street South
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street South
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South
- Lake Street North
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North
- Linden Lane
- Bypass Road – West End
- Bypass Road – Center
- Bypass Road – East End
- Storm Pond – North End
- Alley – 7<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Street South
- Storm discharge from 8<sup>th</sup> Street South
- New PUC Utilities – full reconstruct area
- New Water & Sewer Services – full reconstruct area
- Storm Sewer – full reconstruct area
- Street Widths – new and full reconstruct areas
- Street Sections – full reconstruct area
- Assessment Summary
  - 55 ½ % City Cost – Approximately \$4 million.
  - 24% PUC Cost – Approximately \$1.7 million
  - 20% Assessed Cost – Approximately \$1.5 million
  - 93 parcels to be assessed

See 7a.

## **7. ACTION ITEMS**

a. See 6b.

Following the receipt of the Feasibility Report for Phase I of the T.H. 71 project, the City Council must call a Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing notice would be advertised according to law and mailed to all affected property owners that would see a potential assessment as part of the project.

A motion was made by Council Member Fuechtmann and was seconded by Mayor Stone to approve Resolution No. 2026-21, Resolution Receiving Feasibility Study and Calling for Public Hearing (April 29, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.) for T.H. 71 Phase I Improvements. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Member Fuechtmann, Mayor Stone, Council Members Leach and Kowski. Against: Council Member Kirckof. The motion passed.

b. Stearns County requested an Agreement with the City of Sauk Centre providing for Early Voting for both the Primary and General Elections in 2026.

Citizens within the city limits will be able to vote up to seven days before each election, not including Sunday.

The Agreement outlines the duties of the County and the duties of the City. In exchange for providing the service, the City will be reimbursed \$827.50 for each election.

The Agreement was presented to the Council for their review.

A motion was made by Council Member Kirckof and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to approve an Agreement with Stearns County for Early Voting. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kirckof, Fuechtmann and Leach. Against: Council Member Kowski and Mayor Stone. The motion passed.

- c. Public Works Supervisor Ben Clink requested the appointment of the following returning Summer Seasonal Appointments, along with the addition of Perry/Molly Engle for the Campground.

Carter Kleinschmidt	Step 4	\$18.57
Duane Waletzko	Step 7	\$21.22
Patrick Gonzales	Step 6	\$20.34
Mark/Cathy Whittmann	Campground	Salary Split TBD
Perry/Molly Engle	Campground	Salary Split TBD

A motion was made by Council Member Leach and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to approve summer seasonal appointments as presented above. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Leach, Fuechtmann, Kelly, Kowski and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- d. The city has the option on whether or not to fly the Minnesota State Flag. The 1983 flag has continued to be flown at City Hall and at other city locations, and the City Council can formalize this practice by resolution.

Resolution No. 2026-22 formalizes the intent of the City Council of Sauk Centre that it will not be flying the official Minnesota State Flag which is the newer version adopted in 2024.

*Barring any unknown State of Minnesota Statutory requirement, the Sauk Centre City Council has decided until further notice of a statutory change or further, a vote of the people of Minnesota on this matter, that it will not be flying nor displaying the official Minnesota State flag in the City offices or City Council Chamber nor upon any of the flag poles controlled and maintained by the City of Sauk Centre*

A motion was made by Council Member Kowski and was seconded by Mayor Stone to approve Resolution No. 2026-22, A Resolution Declaring the City of Sauk Centre City Council's Official Intent Regarding Flying the Official MN State Flag. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Member Kowski, Mayor Stone and Council Member Leach. Against: Council Member Fuechtmann. Abstain: Council Member Kirckof. The motion passed.

- e. The City, through its Fire Department, applied for a \$2,500 matching grant through the DNR Assistance to Firefighters Program to assist with the purchase of pagers/radios.

The Department was notified that the grant has been approved for funding.

A motion was made by Council Member Kirckof and was seconded by Council Member Leach to approve Resolution No. 2026-23, Resolution Accepting Grant From Department of Natural Resources. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kirckof, Leach and Mayor Stone. Against: None. Abstain: Council Members Fuechtmann and Kowski. The motion passed.

- f. Arbor Day 2026 falls on Friday, April 24, 2026.

As part of the Tree City initiative and to maintain Tree City Status, the Mayor shall annually proclaim said date as Arbor Day and encourage residents to celebrate Arbor Day to protect trees and woodlands and to plant a tree on this date.

A motion was made by Council Member Kowski and was seconded by Council Member Fuechtmann to approve an Arbor Day Proclamation for April 24, 2026. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kowski, Fuechtmann, Leach, Kirckof and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

- g. The time has passed that was granted to the owner of the Old Mill Apartments to provide the City with a Plan for the Apartments to make the necessary repairs to restore it for human habitation.

The Owner has not come forward with a Plan as of this date, but has been offering it for sale.

The City Council discussed potential next steps:

1. Grant the Owner more time
2. Move forward with Condemnation Proceedings
3. Purchase the property and demolish it.

The Council asked that staff report back with estimated costs for Option 2 and Option 3.

- h. Removed from agenda.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. The Senate Tax Committee convened on Thursday, March 26, 2026, and at its hearing reviewed the request for an amendment to the City of Sauk Centre Local Tax.

Administrator Willer provided testimony on behalf of the city at the hearing.

Once voted on, and after review and passage of a companion bill in the House of Representative, the Bill will go before both chambers for approval followed by signature of the Governor.

Once passed, a question will be placed on the ballot in November of 2026 for approval by the citizens of Sauk Centre.

If passed, the City Council will then pass an Ordinance enacting the tax and amending the tax at the State Revenue Department.

- b. The EDA requested that the design work for Authors Addition Phase 2 Infrastructure be completed to obtain updated costs. This work is underway and could potentially be available for review by the City Council at the April 15 meeting. If the project moves forward, bidding could occur in May, which would allow completion over the Summer months.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a-e Quotes are currently being obtained for various public works projects and were budgeted to occur in 2026. The quotes will be brought before the City Council in the coming weeks for consideration.

- a. Park Maintenance Building (roof/siding/doors)
- b. Bulk Fueling System (City and SPUC)
- c. Toolcat Replacement
- d. Sr. Center Parking Lot (dependent upon funding)
- e. Repair of EFIS on City Hall Building

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Council considered the following Consent Agenda Items:

a.	Schedule of Claims - Unpaid Claims	\$95,616.25
	Paid Claims	<u>\$1,120.00</u>
	Total	<u>\$96,736.25</u>

- b. Resolution No. 2026-25, Resolution Accepting Contributions.

Men’s Card Playing Group	\$168.55	Senior Center
Cold Spring Fire Dept.	\$900.00	Fire Dept.
Sauk Centre CVB	\$100.00	Fire Dept.

A motion was made by Council Member Kirckof and was seconded by Council Member Leach to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Kirckof, Leach, Fuechtmann, Kowski and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

The Council thanked the Men’s Card Playing Group, Cold Spring Fire Department and the Sauk Centre CVB for their donations.

**11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. Weather Awareness Week – More Detail on MN Dept of Public Safety Website.

Monday April 13 - Weather Alerts and Warnings  
Tuesday April 14 - Severe Storms Lighting and Hail  
Wednesday, April 15 - Floods  
Thursday, April 16 - Tornadoes (Sirens at 1:45 and 6:45)  
Friday, April 17 - Extreme Heat

- b. Local Board of Equalization – Monday, April 6, 2026 1:00 p.m.
- c. Spectrum Channel Changes.
- d. Citywide Cleanup Day – May 13, 2026.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Leach and was seconded by Council Member Kowski to adjourn the meeting. A vote being recorded as follows: For: Council Members Leach, Kowski, Fuechtmann, Kirckof and Mayor Stone. Against: None. The motion passed.

With no further business, Mayor Stone adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

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Mayor Warren Stone

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City Administrator Vicki Willer