

**CITY OF WESTWOOD
Council Meeting Minutes**

**The regularly scheduled meeting of the Westwood City Council was held on Monday,
January 20, 2025, at the home of Mayor Brant Knudsen**

Mayor Brant Knudsen called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Roll Call LuAnn Johnson (present), Monte Knudsen (present), Gary Lane (present), Zach Moehle (absent), Eric Peterson (present)

Agenda Approval A motion was made by Councilman Knudsen and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

Welcome

Minutes of Previous Council Meeting The minutes of the meeting on December 16, 2024, were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Knudsen and was seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. The minutes were approved.

Authorization of Claims and Financial Report A motion to authorize the claims and accept the financial report was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

- a. **Stump and Branch Removal in the Park** Woodsmall Tree Service has finished removing stumps and trimming trees in the park. They have currently left mulch where the stumps were located. They will return in the Spring to replace the mulch with dirt and plant grass.
- b. **FY26 Budget Planning** The Clerk gave Council members a printout of the proposed budget for FY26. After discussing all parts of the budget and agreeing on a few changes, Councilman Knudsen made a motion to approve the proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lane and was approved by roll call vote. LuAnn Johnson (aye), Monte Knudsen (aye), Gary Lane (aye), Zach Moehle (), Eric Peterson (aye).

New Business

- a. **FY26 Tax Rate** The State requires that councils propose a tax rate for the coming year. This must be submitted to state and county auditors by March 5. The county auditor then must send the consolidated county tax proposal to every adult resident in the county. Following this the city councils must hold a hearing on the proposed tax levy. For FY25 Westwood's taxable valuations were 6,058,045 and the tax rate was 7.85318. For FY26 the taxable property valuation is 6,196,466. Councilman Peterson proposed that the tax levy be set at 7.272595. This was seconded by Councilman Knudsen and the motion passed. Consolidated General Fund taxes were \$47,575 for FY25. Proposed taxes for FY26 are \$47,874.
- b. **Date for Proposed Property Tax Levy Hearing** has been set for April 7.
- c. **New Business** Councilman Lane said that he purchased and delivered cookies to Access Energy for those who helped with the city Christmas decorations. He also purchased some additional bulbs and lights to replace those that were broken or no longer functioning. Councilman Peterson made a motion to reimburse Councilman Lane for these purchases. Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mayor/ Councilmember Comments

City Utilities Comments The summary was reviewed.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Knudsen and was seconded by Councilman Peterson. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Next Meeting: Next regular Council Meeting is on February 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Home of Mayor Brant Knudsen at 3005 Hickory Lane

Respectfully submitted,

Brant Knudsen, Mayor

Nancy Erickson, Clerk