

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special working session of the City Council of Appleton was held on Wednesday, August 20th, 2025 in the Council Chambers at the Appleton Civic Center.

Council Members Present in Chambers: Al Oyen, Vanessa Lhotka-Meyer, Stacey Raddatz & Jim Masee.

Council Members Absent: Justin Koepp

City Staff Present in Chambers: John Olinger – City Administrator & Emma Haugen – Clerk/Treasurer

Public Present in Chambers: Herb Rotunda & Mitch Fett

Acting Mayor Masee called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

- I. The council entered into closed session at 5:02 p.m.
- II. The council exited the closed session at 5:36 p.m. and reopened the public working session.
- III. **2026 Budget Expenditures:** Administrator Olinger presented the adjusted expenditures to the council. The adjustments removed the capital contributions, added money for Applefest and mosquito spraying and removed the transfer in from the wastewater money market account. Olinger also presented the tax rates and estimated tax increases for different home values.
 - i. The council was presented an update that was just received regarding the increase in health insurance for 2026. An updated budget will be sent to the council with the new health insurance rates factored in.
 - ii. Enterprise Funds: Administrator Olinger presented the enterprise fund budgets to the council. The only increase that was presented was an increase to the water rate for usage after the 350 cubic feet/2,500 gallons. Some discussion was held on looking at the water rate structure in the future.
- IV. **Eat JUST Requests:** Administrator Olinger presented the council with request from JUST to modify their Significant Industrial User agreement. They would like to reduce the monitoring requirements, reduce the levels for penalties and reduce the amount of the penalty for each violation. City staff presented the council with the 2025 penalty and surcharge amounts and number of violations for the council to review. The council received, in their packet, a memo from the city engineer regarding the plant capacity and the NPDES permit. The council discussed the proposals and decided that a committee/group would speak with JUST about their requests. The committee will be Jim Masse, Justin Koepp, Mitch Fett and possibly the city engineer. They group will bring a report to the September 10th meeting.
- V. **Liquor Store:** The council was presented with a report showing the losses at the liquor store for the year. Administrator Olinger informed the council that the finance commission met with the liquor store manager and created a strategy to try to increase profits at the store. Discussion was had about the future of the store and what other communities are doing.
- VI. The city council then entered into a closed session at 7:01.
- VII. **Adjournment:** The city council reopened the work session. With no further business the work session was adjourned.