

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special meeting of the City Council of Appleton was held on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025 in the Council Chambers at the Appleton Civic Center.

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

Council Members Absent: None

City Staff Present in Chambers: John Olinger – City Administrator, Emma Haugen – Clerk/Treasurer, Liz Gades – Accounting Officer, Samantha Dokken - Office Assistant, Cody Thomson – Police Officer and Cindy Hendrickx – Librarian

Commissioners Present:

Library Commission: Darcy Kleven, Anne Wilkening, Colleen Tosel

Planning Commission: Mitch Fett, Ann Hanson, Gary Hendrickx, Pat Krebs, Kevin Wilkening

Park Commission: Tom Watson, Eddie Massie

EDA: Eddie Masee, Joan Fust, Janell Welling, Deb Henneberg

Cemetery: Jason Giese, Gary Running,

Airport: Greg Ruether

Hospital Board-Cory Thorslund

Public Present in Chambers: John Pfaff, Dan Enke

After eating, Mayor Koepp called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Olinger introduced the evening and talked of the difficulties of leading a community

III. **Department & Commission Updates –**

- a. Library-Darcy Kleven spoke of the increased usage of the library after relocating and upgrading the facility. She mentioned a top priority is the roof and the north stairs. They are also concerned about the basement and the utilities. She stated it would be nice to someday expand with outdoor seating and art.
- b. Hospital-Cory Thorslund talked about the changeover to Epic, new providers and the improvements to morale and services.
- c. Park Commission-Tom Watson stated the goal was to take care of what we have. He reviewed the improvements to the campground, seal coating of the trails, addition of the Pomme de Terre Nature Park, repairs to the pool, general maintenance to the parks, the trail to Marsh Lake and collaboration with the HOV park. He stated the future will include a new Natural Play Park. Eddie Masee talked of the improvements at the ballfields and golf course. He mentioned the efforts to create public/private partnerships and how city contributions to these groups helps to leverage dollars.
- d. Cemetery- Jason Giese talked of the repairs after the windstorm, maintenance of the cemetery and organization. He talked of the increased cremations over traditional burial and the cemetery commissions response to provide a scatter garden columbarium, or urn burial plots to address this new demand.
- e. Airport Commission-Greg Ruether thanked the council for the new tractor. He also mentioned the seal coat and crack fill of the runway, relocation of the AWOS, Long range planning for hangars and runway and taxiway improvements and the 2027 beacon, vault and lighting improvements.

- f. EDA-Joan Fust talked of the demolition of homes, revolving loan fund applicants, SCDP program in 2025 to improve 20 homes and 8 multifamily structures and the effort to build housing. She stated the EDA obtained a \$17,500 grant from the Initiative Foundation to have the Southwest MN Housing Partnership design cottages on several infill lots in Appleton. The next step is to finalize the document and pull together a team to develop the idea.
- g. Finance Commission-Jim Masee talked of the finance commissions input on the budget, tax rate, airport leases, and utility rates. He said they will begin working on the 2026 soon.
- h. Planning Commission-Mitch Fett talked of the Commissions input/advice on road improvements, road design, sidewalks, zoning code changes, review of variances, creation of a five-year Capital Improvement Plan, creation of a five-year Street Maintenance Plan and review of the comprehensive plan.

IV. Council and Commissions had a time of question and answer

V. Council provided feedback to the commissioners

VI. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by councilmember Raddatz and seconded by councilmember Oyen. After a call for discussion and hearing none, Mayor Koepp called for a vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.