

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council  
Tuesday January 13th, 2026**

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Acting Mayor Dan Larsen at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Present:** Councilman Wyatt Bendix, Councilman Dan Larsen, Councilman Mark Schettler, Clerk Brian Pitzl,

**Citizens/Guests:** Matt Dunphy, James Weiss-Dunphy, Reid Hanson, Brent Guimond

**Open Forum:**

**Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:**

Motion to approve, December 9th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Schettler. Motion carried while Councilman Gjerset was absent.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-001 Designating the following:

- a. Appointing Dan Larsen as Acting Mayor upon mayors' absence
- b. Selecting Tri-County News as the Official Newspaper
- c. Appointing Mathew Gross as City Attorney
- d. Select Citizens Alliance Bank as Depository of City Funds.

made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried with Councilman Gjerset was absent.

Mayor Dan Remmele arrived at 6:04 pm, Councilman Darren Gjerset arrived at 6:05 pm

Motion to Approve Resolution No.2026-002 Accepting Donations was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried while Councilman Gjerset was absent.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026.03 Accepting Grant Navigation Funding was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to assign all members of the council to all committees including, Street/Sidewalk, Parks/Rec, Water/Sewer, Cemetery, Ordinances and assign Councilman Schettler as Weed Inspector was made by Councilman Larsen, Seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler abstaining.

Motion to appoint Dan Larsen as Grave Marker/Stake Person for the cemetery was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Larsen abstaining.

Motion to make no changes to the City Fees and Rates for 2026 was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried unanimously. The council will discuss water/sewer rates at a later meeting.

### **Reports:**

Fire Chief Bryan Nielsen – Assistant fire chief Reid Hanson was present to address the council regarding some upcoming training available for Electric Vehicle fires through North Star Training with Wood Lake, Hanley Falls, and another department. The cost of the training will be around \$4000 to be divided between the 4 departments doing the training. All training fees can be refunded through the state. It was brought up that there was an individual fire fighter interested in training to become an in-house trainer. The cost of this training is around \$800. This individual would then be available to go to other departments to do training. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve that James Weiss-Dunphy be allowed to become a trainer, with the option to allow any other fire fighters who are interested in becoming a trainer to do so also. Motion carried unanimously. At the last council meeting, the council asked for documentation that the 4 individuals had passed all the practical training for Fire Fighter I and II in order to allow payment for the individuals who did not pass the written as well. The training takes a good amount of time to complete, and the department feels that those who took the training deserve to be compensated. Motion to approve payment was made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried unanimously.

1<sup>st</sup> Responders Chief Chastity Kuehn- Absent

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen – absent

Mayor Dan Remmele- Would like to keep council meetings at 7:00 pm. Will not be an issue going forward.

Councilman Mark Schettler – Asked about hot water in the community center. The issue has been resolved.

Councilman Darren Gjerset – Observed that the contracted individual who was hired to mow the cemetery and ponds was supposed to mow the cemetery every week and the ponds every other week but mowed both every week. The council was pleased with the way the cemetery looked all year and would like to get quotes again this year for the cemetery but would have the city maintenance supervisor do the mowing of the pond. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix to get bids for just the mowing of the cemetery. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Wyatt Bendix – Was asked by a resident if the city would remove snow from the end of driveways after the plow goes by. This is something the city does not do for liability reasons. Asked about who is liable for the city sidewalks that are sunken in where the sewer lines were replaced. The clerk will look into the issue with the League of Minnesota Cities.

Councilman Dan Larsen – Street light on Highway 67 by Echo Granite Works is not working. Clerk will call Excel to see if it needs to be replaced.

Clerk Pitzl – The city office will be closed on Monday January 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The city auditor will be in Echo on February 2-3 to start on the 2025 Audit.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** A building permit was requested by Clark Grannes for a grain bin to be placed on property already consisting of the same. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix to approve the permit. Motion carried unanimously. The ceiling in the community center has spots where it had leaked before but has been repaired since. Wayed options to paint or repair. Discussed the lights in the community center. They are due for an upgrade. If the lights were replaced, then the issue of the ceiling would need to be addressed. Training is available for the Local Board and Equalization. The city is required to have at least one member of the city council trained for the yearly meeting. The City of Echo did not have a quorum at last year's meeting, so the city is required to change the meeting to an open book format for 2 years. There was a resident who pushed snow back on to the road and the maintenance supervisor was instructed to push it back on to the property. The individual was upset that the snow was pushed back on to his property. It is illegal to push snow onto public roadways. If this issue arises again, then the city will address the issue

**Consent Agenda:** Motion made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Larsen to approve the consent agenda consisting of Bills, Payroll, and Bank Information. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Councilman Larsen, and second by Councilman Bendix to adjourn regular meeting at 7:04 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Dan Remmele

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City Clerk- Brian Pitzl