

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Monday July 14th, 2026**

The regular city council meeting of the City of Echo Minnesota was called to order by Mayor Dan Larsen at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Dan Larsen, Councilman Wyatt Bendix, Councilman Darren Gjerset, Maintenance Supervisor and Fire Chief Bryan Nielsen, Clerk Brian Pitzl.

Citizens/Guests: Matt Dunphy, John Jones and Jerrick Kosel: Echo American Legion

Open Forum: John Jones and Jerrick Kosel, representing the Echo American Legion addressed the council regarding the cemetery. The Legion wants to start marking graves of service members by signifying their service and then removing the stars in a timely manner to avoid damage. The Legion would also like to work with the city to locate and update marking the graves, especially those of past service members, to help family members and others located certain graves. There are grants for help with this and the clerk will look into options for the grants. The city would like to make a directory of the cemetery for individuals to access graves easier. Darren Gjerset installed some solar lights at the cemetery for the American flag. The Legion again would like to hold a flag burning ceremony at the city burn site.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, June 9th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-26 Approving Election Judges for the Primary Election was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Reports:

Fire Chief Bryan Nielsen – The fire department has had minimal activity lately. Firefighters have been busy cleaning the fire hall.

1st Responders Chief Chastity Kuehn-

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen – Received a tree removal and trimming quote from Minnesota Valley Tree Service for \$5,950.00. A motion was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the quote and have the work done to prevent future issues. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Mayor Dan Larsen -

Councilman Mark Schettler –

Councilman Darren Gjerset – Inquired about the parking lot west of the city shop. Asked who has been parking campers and other items there. The elevator owns the lot and has given permission to individuals who have items there.

Councilman Wyatt Bendix – Noticed 2 properties in town that had not been mowed and have excessive weeds. The clerk will send letters to the property owners and give them 7 days to address the situation, or the city will mow the properties and bill the owner accordingly.

Clerk Pitzl – Filing for city office is July 14th – 28th. The August council meeting is scheduled for the 11th, but the Primary Election is scheduled for that day. The council approved that the meeting be moved to Monday, August 10th at the same time. Brian is currently working on the 2027 budget and will have the proposed budget ready for the August meeting. The proposed budget needs to be in to the county by the end of September, with the final budget approved by the end of December. Brian attended the LMC Conference and was informed that the city will no longer need to pay assessments to the railroad for utilities crossing the right-of-way. A letter will be sent to the Railroad regarding this matter. At the June council meeting, Daneen Dhoore asked the city about playground equipment at the city park and gave the city information on a grant. The clerk looked into the grant which is a matching grant that covers 100% if the amount is \$75,000 or more. The council felt that the cost of the equipment would not be beneficial to the amount of use of said equipment.

Old Business: The city clerk did a rate study for water and sewer services and informed the city council where the city is sitting presently with the current rates. It was determined that the city will need to increase the base fee as well as the usage fees to better ensure the future of the water and sewer infrastructure system. Motion made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to raise the Base Rate for Water and Sewer to \$40 and raise the usage rate by \$1 per 1000 gallons used, for each service. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

New Business:

Consent Agenda: Motion made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to approve the consent agenda consisting of Bills, Payroll, and Bank Information. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Bendix, and second by Councilman Gjerset to adjourn regular meeting at 7:56 pm. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Mayor Dan Larsen

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl