

CITY OF WACONIA
MAY 4, 2026

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Litfin called the May 4, 2026, Waconia City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 1) Kjersten Lueth, a 5th grader from Bayview Elementary School will lead all in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Kjersten Lueth, a 5th grader from Bayview Elementary School, led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PROCLAMATIONS

- 1) Drink Water Week**

Mayor Litfin read the Drink Water Week Proclamation into the record.

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Litfin requested that Consent Agenda Item 8.6, *Firefighter Retirement*, be moved to agenda Item 9.1 under Council business with the remaining agenda items renumbered consecutively.

Motion to adopt the agenda as published with the above changes was made by Council Member Coelman, seconded by Council Member Siddons.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- 1) 2026 Debt Issuance for Highway 5 Phase 2 — Temporary Street Reconstruction Bonds and Approval of Street Reconstruction Plan**

Nicole Meyer, Finance Director, provided an overview of the public hearing process stating a public hearing is required for the portion of the bonds that are planned to be issued as part of the Highway 5 Phase 2 project. The bonds will be issued as temporary bonds and will assist with cash flow for the project costs as aid and reimbursements from Carver County and the State are paid to the City and work is completed on the project. The bonds will be fully repaid by other funding sources identified as part of the project.

Motion to open the public hearing was made by Council Member Gleason, seconded by Council Member Grengs.

MOTION CARRIED.

No verbal or written comments were received.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Council Member Gleason seconded by Council Member Siddons.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-113 Adopting a Street Reconstruction and Overlay Plan and Approving the Issuance of General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds was made by Council Member Siddons seconded by Council Member Coleman.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. OPEN FORUM

The Mayor provided a brief explanation of the open forum process.

Dave Swanson, 1312 Creekside Drive. Addressed the Council regarding road reconstruction. He noted that he appeared before the Council approximately one month ago on the same issue and questioned why Creekside Drive has gone 23 years without maintenance. Mr. Swanson requested that a City representative contact him to discuss his concerns.

7. COMMUNITY INTEREST PRESENTATIONS

None.

8. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Approve the April 20, 2026, City Council Minutes**
- 2) Approve May 4, 2026, Expenditures**
- 3) Approving Plans & Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids - Reitz Lake Lift Station Project**
- 4) Cash Donations for Fire Safety and Prevention Efforts and Approving Pass Thru to the National Fire Safety Council**
- 5) Accepting Cash Donations for Operations of the Fire Department**
- 6) Firefighter Retirement**
- 7) League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust - Tort Liability Waiver**
- 8) Tobacco License Application**
- 9) Liquor License Application**
- 10) Low Potency Hemp Edible Retail Application**
- 11) Special Event Permit - Waconia Band Practice and Park Performance**

Mayor Litfin requested that Consent Agenda Item 8.6 Firefighter Retirement be moved to Agenda Item 9.1 with the remaining agenda items renumbered consecutively.

Motion to Adopt the Consent Agenda as published was made by Council Member Grengs, seconded by Council Member Coleman.
MOTION CARRIED.

9. COUNCIL BUSINESS

1) Receive Feasibility Report and Call Hearing for the 5th Street Reconstruction Project

Jake Saulsbury, City Engineer, provided a brief overview of the Feasibility Study for the 5th Street Reconstruction Project. Mr. Saulsbury reviewed the proposed street and storm sewer improvements, sanitary sewer improvements, water system improvements, project financing and funding, project cost summary, and review of the time schedule. The next steps of the project will be to conduct improvement hearing/order improvements and to conduct an open house. Staff will expand on the details at the Public Hearing scheduled for June 1, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Litfin asked City Engineer Jake Saulsbury what he and his peers are seeing in other cities regarding bids on street and road projects now that fuel is over \$4 per gallon. Mr. Saulsbury stated he had not heard of higher bids. In fact, he noted, they are seeing fewer projects overall, which has made contractors more competitive and aggressive in their bidding.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-122 Receiving Feasibility Report and Calling for a Public Hearing on Improvements for the 5th Street Reconstruction Project was made by Council Member Grengs, seconded by Council Member Siddons.
MOTION CARRIED.

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Item 8.6 *Firefighter Retirement*. Fire Chief Justin Sorenson stated that Brandon Kolesar has honorably served the Waconia Fire Department for 30 years, concluding his service on April 4th. Fittingly, on his final day, he responded to a structure fire as the driver of the first engine—demonstrating his unwavering dedication to protecting the community until the very end of his career. Throughout his tenure, Brandon was a committed and valued member of the department with a particular passion for training and public education. He served as Captain and was promoted to Assistant Chief of Training in 2012, where he played a key role in strengthening the department's training programs. He developed a public education initiative that reached approximately 500 elementary school students annually, helping raise safety awareness in the community. Brandon was instrumental in securing donations funding the department's rescue boat, appropriately named "The Guardian." His leadership and dedication extended beyond operations, as he

served as a mentor to countless firefighters, consistently sharing his knowledge and experience to support their growth. Additionally, Brandon was instrumental in the department's transition to a career Fire Chief model and served as co-interim Fire Chief through several leadership changes, providing stability and guidance during those times. Brandon's legacy is one of service, leadership, and commitment. His contributions have made a lasting impact on the Waconia Fire Department and the community it serves. On behalf of the City of Waconia, we extend our deepest gratitude and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Mayor Litfin presented Brandon with a certificate thanking him for his service and commitment. Brandon thanked the Council and the Waconia Fire Department family.

11. BOARD REPORTS

1) Staff Reports

Sgt. Howard provided the Council with an update stating that last month the department participated in the career fair/expo at the Waconia High School, participated in Wild About Wheels, and assisted in Lola's half-marathon in Waconia. The focus for the month of April was distracted driving, and the Department issued six citations for drivers on cell phones while driving, with 40 issued in Carver County.

The department is currently working on three recognized issues in the City.

1. Nerf Wars. The department is requesting juveniles to be very careful as the Nerf wars are causing disturbances and there will be enforcement actions taken.

2. Fraud and scams are on the rise with seven in the month of April reported. Sgt. Howard is requesting all residents be conscious of odd phone calls and what information you provide over the phone.

3. E-Bikes are becoming more and more popular across our community and the Department is seeing an increase in unsafe and illegal use on streets, sidewalks, and trails. Sgt. Howard is reminding everyone a violation of the e-bike law comes with a cost of approximately \$100 per citation. Also, a parent can be charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, which is a gross misdemeanor offense. The e-bike can be sized, and the parent will then be responsible for the e-bike. To keep everyone safe, the Carver County Sheriff's Office is actively enforcing Minnesota's e-bike laws in Waconia. Riders who violate these laws will receive citations. This can include citations to both the children and parents of e-bike users.

KNOW THE BASICS:

E-Bike Classes (Max 750 watts):

Class 1: Peddler assist only, up to 20 MPH

Class 2: Throttle + Peddle assist, up to 20 mph

Class 3: Peddler + assist only, up to 28 MPH (throttle limited to 20 MPH)

KEY RULES:

Riders must be 15+ years old
Follow all traffic laws (signals, speed limits, etc.)
No modifying bikes to exceed speed limits
Yield to pedestrians and ride courteously
Helmets not required, but highly recommended.
No motorized vehicles on trails.

Saturday, May 9th, is the fishing opener and the department will be patrolling Lake Waconia. Sgt. Howard reminded residents to be sure to have all licenses and proper equipment.

On May 20th at the Public Services Open House, the Department will conduct a canine officer demonstration for the public.

2) Councilmember Siddons

Nothing to report.

3) Councilmember Coleman

Nothing to report.

4) Councilmember Gleason

Nothing to report.

5) Councilmember Grengs

Nothing to report.

6) Mayor Litfin

Mayor's Report for May 4, 2026:

On Wednesday, April 22, led the WYMAC group's Community Earth Day event. Thank you to the Waconia High School students, St. Joseph's School, and Trinity Lutheran School students who participated. It was a great community-building day for everyone involved. Thank you as well to the event sponsors: Koch Bus, Domino's of Waconia, Chick-fil-A of Chanhassen, The Waconia West Carver Rotary Club, and the City of Waconia.

On Saturday, April 25, attended the annual Waconia Lions Wild Game Feed at the Carver County Fairgrounds. It was a very nice crowd, and it is always enjoyable to attend each year. Congratulations to the Lions on another wonderful community-building event.

On Saturday, May 2nd, I served as announcer for the Lola's Half Marathon and Run in downtown Waconia. It was a beautiful day with nearly 2,000 runners participating. Congratulations to Podium Sports on organizing a great event.

The next *Mayor is in Session* will be held on Wednesday, May 6, at City Hall beginning at 7:30 a.m. Residents are encouraged to stop by and discuss any topic.

At tonight's meeting, the Council approved a Special Event Permit for the June 11 Marching Band Park Performance at Brook Peterson Park. Traditionally, this event is located around City Square Park. However, due to construction, the event has been moved to Brook Peterson Park.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn the May 4, 2026, Waconia City Council Meeting was made by Council Member Coleman, seconded by Council Member Gleason at 6:45 p.m.

**WORK SESSION: 801 HWY 284 SMALL AREA PLAN UPDATE, 2026 Q1
BUDGET TO ACTUALS**

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS/MEETINGS:

Tim Litfin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sue Schwalbe, Administrative Specialist

CITY OF WACONIA
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-122
RESOLUTION RECEIVING FEASIBILITY REPORT & CALLING
HEARING ON IMPROVEMENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to a resolution of the council adopted April 6, 2026, a report has been prepared by the City Engineer with reference to the proposed Fifth Street Area Improvement Project (formerly called the Hwy 5 Area Reconstruction Project) which includes street, drainage and utility improvements on the following:

- Fifth Street W from Olive Street to Elm Street
- Fifth Street E from Elm Street Orange Street
- Elm Street S from Hwy 5 to Fifth Street
- Pine Street S from Hwy 5 to Fifth Street

WHEREAS, the report provides information regarding whether the proposed improvements are necessary, cost-effective, and feasible; whether they should best be made as proposed or in connection with some other improvement; the estimated cost of the improvements as recommended; and a description of the methodology used to calculate individual assessments for affected parcels.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the City Council of the City of Waconia:

1. The council will consider such improvements in accordance with the report and the assessment of abutting property for all or a portion of the cost of the improvements pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429 at an estimated total cost of the improvements of \$3,826,150.

2. A public hearing shall be held on such proposed improvements on June 1st, 2026, in the council chambers of the city hall at 6:00 p.m. and the clerk shall give mailed and published notice of such hearing and improvement as required by law.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Waconia this 4th day of May 2026.

Tim Litfin, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jackie Schulze, Assistant City Administrator