

**CITY OF WACONIA
OCTOBER 6, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Litfin called the City of Waconia October 6, 2025, Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Litfin led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PROCLAMATIONS

None

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion to Adopt the Agenda as Published was made by Council Member Coleman seconded by Council Member Siddons.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

6. OPEN FORUM

Terrance Binstock, 1313 Beachcomber Blvd, expressed concerns regarding vehicle speeds on Waconia Parkway North, specifically between County Road 10 and Main Street. He noted that continued residential and business development to the west and south of Waconia has resulted in a substantial increase in traffic volume along this corridor. Mr. Binstock stated that the current speed limits on the approximately 1.5-mile stretch of Waconia Parkway North—set at 50, 45, and 30 miles per hour in half-mile increments—create unsafe driving conditions. There are nine intersections requiring left turns off Waconia Parkway North, yet no designated turn lanes exist. As a result, vehicles frequently stop abruptly behind others turning left or maneuver around them, increasing the risk of collisions. He further noted that with higher travel speeds, drivers are often unable to stop safely for pedestrians in the crosswalks. Petitions have been submitted requesting that the 45- and 50-mile-per-hour segments be reduced to a consistent speed limit of 35 miles per hour along the full corridor. Susie Morton-Herges, 1421 Whitecap Lane, a resident of the Waconia Landings neighborhood who moved to Waconia ten years ago, expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety when crossing from the lakeside to the walkway. She noted that it is very dangerous, as vehicles often fail to stop for pedestrians at the

crosswalk, and both children on bicycles and pedestrians frequently proceed through without caution. With the current speed limit set at 50 miles per hour, drivers do not have sufficient time to stop for those attempting to cross. Ms. Morton-Herges also observed that while the speed limit near Sugarbush Park is 50 miles per hour, other parks in Waconia have significantly lower limits, and she requested greater consistency in speed limits throughout the City.

Jon Mord, 1103 Primrose, stated that as a Waconia resident who frequently walks along the sidewalk, pedestrians are only three to four feet from passing vehicles, creating an extremely dangerous situation. Mr. Mord noted that he avoids using the crosswalk due to safety concerns and urged the Council to consider lowering the speed limits in this area.

Shane Fineran, City Administrator, explained that the City does not have independent authority to change speed limits, as speed regulations across the state are established by State Statute. As a municipal entity of the State, the City must adhere to both State Statute and the guidelines of the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Mr. Fineran noted that all cities are required to follow a formal process before any speed limit changes can occur. He also reminded residents that the results of a speed study could potentially lead to an increase in the posted speed limit if data indicates that most drivers are already traveling at higher speeds. For example, if the majority of vehicles are traveling 50 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone, that may indicate drivers are comfortable at that speed, and the posted limit could be raised.

Mr. Fineran further stated that the City has an active request for a speed analysis on Waconia Parkway South, submitted more than a year ago. Additionally, the City has implemented measures to help reduce speeds by removing and re-striping fog lines to narrow the driving lanes—a proven traffic-calming method. The current lane width of 12 feet will be reduced to 11 feet to encourage slower driving speeds.

Jon Hauskaas, Public Services Director, stated that Staff is implementing several engineering controls to help reduce vehicle speeds. One proven method is lane narrowing, which encourages slower traffic. In approximately two weeks, Staff will be double-striping Waconia Parkway North and making additional safety improvements, including upgraded crosswalk signage and enhanced crosswalk lighting.

The Council agreed to wait for the results of the Waconia Parkway South speed study before determining whether an additional speed study is needed.

Lindsay Lauby, 851 Goldfinch Drive, stated her opposition to the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. She noted that the Planning Commission voted to deny the request, as the amendment does not meet most of the required criteria. Ms. Lauby, who attended the Planning Commission meeting, reiterated the reasons she shared at that time. This evening, she discussed potential financial impacts, noting that the adjacent wetlands are highly susceptible to flooding. The pond next to the wetlands continues to experience flooding issues, and dredging and restoring the pond could cost approximately \$250,000 to

\$300,000. She cautioned that this may become a significant issue if the amendment is approved. Ms. Lauby also urged the Council to follow the proper approval process, including conducting a wetland delineation and boundary approval using spring and summer soils by a certified delineator, and obtaining Local Government Unit (LGU) approval. She emphasized the need for stormwater management and runoff controls to be reviewed by Carver County and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for compliance. She concluded by expressing concern about the potential costs to the City and the importance of ensuring safety at the site.

Jesse Lauby, 8051 Goldfinch Drive. Spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment. He noted that at the September Public Hearing, the amendment was voted down by a 4–1 margin. This decision reflected not only the views of the Planning Commissioners but also the voices of many residents who attended the meeting. Both community members and Commissioners expressed strong concerns about the potential impacts on infrastructure and public safety. Mr. Lauby urged the Council to honor the Commission’s decision and the input of the community. He stated that the amendment prioritizes the interests of the land developer over the needs and values of current residents. He emphasized that the neighborhood has a unique character and charm that residents wish to preserve.

7. COMMUNITY INTEREST PRESENTATIONS

None

8. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Approve the September 15, 2025, City Council Minutes**
- 2) Approve October 6, 2025 Expenditures**
- 3) Downtown Reconstruction Phase 3 Pay Request No. 5 to GMH Asphalt Corporation**
- 4) Wildcat Way Reconstruction Project Pay Request No. 1 to GMH Asphalt Corporation**
- 5) Water Treatment Facility Piping Modifications to Municipal Builders Pay Request #10**
- 6) Sterling Hills Storm Sewer Extension Project Pay Request No. 1 - Final to Minger Construction Companies, Inc.**
- 7) Test Well Drilling Contract Extension**
- 8) Approve Amended 2025-2026 Winter Maintenance Policy**
- 9) Approve Contract for Repair of Brook Peterson Park Fields 5-8**
- 10) Material Testing Proposal with AET in Support of the Water Treatment Plant No. 4 Project**
- 11) Approve Execution of Joint Powers Agreement with Carver County for Little Avenue (future CSAH 92) Reconstruction South of Highway 10**

- 12) **Donation and Approve Pass Thru Recommendation - Waconia Fire Relief Association**
- 13) **Sale or Disposal of Surplus Equipment**
- 14) **Request for Carver County Board to Support Regional Solicitation Application**
- 15) **Accepting Cash Donation for Holiday Lighting**
- 16) **Special Event Permit - Paws Inn Pet Parade**
- 17) **Exempt Permit for Waconia Dandy Lions**

Mayor Litfin requested the removal of
Consent Agenda #9 *Approve Contract for Repair of Brook Peterson Park Fields 508*
Consent Agenda #14 *Request for Carver County Board to Support Regional Solicitation Application*

Motion to accept the consent agenda made by Council Member Siddons, seconded by Council Member Coleman with removing Consent Agenda Items 8.9 and 8.14
MOTION CARRIED

9. COUNCIL BUSINESS

1) Comprehensive Plan Amendment - PID #755750440

Lane Braaten, Community Development Director, provided the Council with a background on this agenda item. The City received a comprehensive plan amendment to reguide the approximately 4.5 acres as low-density residential versus its current guidance of wetland and open space. After the Planning Commission public hearing, the applicant and the underlying property owner submitted additional information to clarify the request and provided additional history and context to the application. The applicant comments, property owner comments, City Engineer comments, and Carver County comments were not part of the Planning Commission decision. In 2022, the Council approved a preliminary plat for the northern portion, which was three residential parcels and the south half was left as an outlot. However, with the change of review criteria by the Met Council, this must be brought to Council again.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-240 approving the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to re-guide portion of PID #755750440 as L, Low Density Residential versus the current guidance of W/O, Wetland/Open Space made by Council Member Grengs, seconded by Council Member Siddons.

Aye: Coleman, Siddons, Grengs, Gleason

Nay: Litfin

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Litfin provided the reasons for the dissenting vote, citing citizens' concerns and the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

2) Approve 801 Highway 284 and Hospital Purchase Option

Shane Fineran, City Administrator, stated that the City has been in negotiations with

Ridgeview Medical Center regarding the acquisition of 801 Highway 284 and the termination of the lease and sale of leased assets on the Ridgeview Medical Center hospital grounds. In 2000, the City entered into a debt payment agreement and an operating lease agreement with Ridgeview to operate the formerly City-owned hospital. As part of that agreement, the City executed a long-term lease of the hospital property, including an eventual option for Ridgeview to purchase the assets for \$1. The debt payment agreement has since been satisfied, and the only remaining relationship between the City and Ridgeview is the lease of the real property comprising the main hospital campus.

To encourage redevelopment of the 801 Highway 284 site and to support improvements to the surrounding transportation network, the City initiated negotiations with Ridgeview Medical Center for the transfer of the 801 Highway 284 property to the City in exchange for termination of the existing hospital grounds lease and ultimate transfer of that property. The City is well-positioned to leverage additional funding opportunities through various grants and economic development initiatives for the site and its future uses.

Based on the net present value of the remaining lease term, a total transaction valuation of \$5,639,061 was established. The valuation of the 801 Highway 284 property was set at \$4,100,000, with the remaining \$1,539,061—representing the net present value of the remaining lease—being paid by Ridgeview Medical Center to the City through 2030. This agreement sets in motion the anticipated closing of both property transactions in December. The 801 Highway 284 site is currently zoned B-1, Highway Commercial, and potential future uses may include commercial, office, retail, or residential development.

Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2025-241 Approving Agreement Regarding the Hospital Purchase Option was made by Council Member Gleason, second by Council Member Grengs.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Litfin requested Consent Agenda Item 8.9 *Approve Contract for Repair of Brook Peterson Park Fields 5-8* be removed from the consent agenda to share details of the project with Waconia residents.

Jon Haukaas, Public Services Director, explained that the contract is similar to the previous repair work completed on Brook Peterson Fields 1–4. Over more than 30 years of use, grading and regular play have caused infield materials to shift outward, creating a small hump where the infield meets the grass. The proposed contract will utilize specialized, laser-guided equipment to remove the hump and restore a level, safer playing surface.

Mayor Litfin confirmed with staff that the condition presents a safety concern and that he was fine following Staff recommendation to hire the work out.

Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2025-230 authorizing a contract for field repairs at Brook Peterson Park Fields 5-8 was made by Council Member Siddons, seconded by Council Member Grengs.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Litfin requested Consent Agenda Item 8.14 *Request for Carver County Board to Support the Regional Solicitation Application* be removed from the content agenda as this is good news and wanted to share the good news with the residents of Waconia.

Shane Fineran, City Administrator, stated that this resolution supports a regional solicitation application for grant funding to enhance multi-use bicycle and trail facilities. The proposed project would connect Waconia Parkway North to the Dakota Rail Trail to the north. Carver County staff have indicated that Board of Commissioners approval is required to submit the Regional Solicitation grant application to the Metropolitan Council in 2026. The program can assist in funding multi-use bicycle and trail improvements along the CSAH 10 corridor, which is identified in the County's Comprehensive Plan as a future linking trail route adjacent to existing County right-of-way.

Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2025-235 Requesting Carver County Support Application for Regional Solicitation Funds for CSAH 10 Trail made by Council Member Coleman, seconded by Council Member Gleason

MOTION CARRIED.

11. REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

1) Staff Reports

Justin Sorenson, Fire Chief, stated that the Fire Department hosted an open house on October 4, 2025, with 500–600 attendees and was very well received by the public.

2) Councilmember Siddons

Nothing to report

3) Councilmember Coleman

Nothing to report

4) Councilmember Gleason

Attended the CIP meeting with staff and deferred to Council Member Grengs to provide an update.

5) Councilmember Grengs

Attended the CIP meeting with Staff and Council Member Gleason discussing and finalizing the CIP projects for 2026.

6) Mayor Litfin

Mayor Litfin — Recent Meetings and Activities

September 16, 2025 – Attended the Minnesota Transportation Alliance meeting in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the visit was to advocate for increased transportation funding with congressional leaders and U.S. Senators. Mayor Litfin said the trip was entirely paid for by the Southwest Transportation Coalition and not by the City of Waconia.

September 19, 2025 – Attended and delivered remarks at the Lakeview Clinic groundbreaking ceremony.

October 1, 2025 – Met with residents to review and monitor the progress of the new pickleball courts.

October 2, 2025 – Met with ten Waconia High School students who are developing and conducting a WHS student survey.

Note: Fall marks the beginning of the City’s budget season. Mayor Litfin encourages all residents to get involved—meet with the Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff to share feedback, comments, or concerns regarding the City’s budget and priorities.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

13. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn the October 6, 2025, Waconia City Council meeting at 7:15 p.m. was made by Council Member Coleman, seconded by Council Member Siddons.

WORK SESSION: 2026 ELECTION ITEMS & STRUCTURE

Tim Litfin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sue Schwalbe, Administrative Specialist

**CITY OF WACONIA
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Litfin called the City of Waconia September 15, 2025, Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Litfin led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PROCLAMATIONS

None

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion to Adopt the Agenda as Published made by Council Member Coleman seconded by Council Member Grengs
MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING - 2026 Downtown Reconstruction Phase 4

Motion to Open the Public Hearing made by Council Member Gleason, seconded by Council Member Coleman
MOTION CARRIED.

Jake Saulsbury, City Engineer, stated the downtown street reconstruction project began in 2020 and the project was broken down into four phases. Phase 3 is close to completion, so Staff is moving into phase 4.

Proposed street improvements include:

- 1st Street from Olive Street to Elm Street will be 51.5 feet wide, 9-foot sidewalk on both sides, 60-degree angled parking on the north side, and parallel parking on the south side.
- 1st Street from Elm Street to Pine Street will be 51.5 feet wide, with an 8-foot sidewalk on the north side, a 7.5-foot sidewalk on the south side, 60-degree angled parking on the north side, and parallel parking on the south side.
- 1st Street from Pine Street to Spruce Street will be 48 feet wide, with a 6-foot sidewalk on both sides, with a 5-foot boulevard on both sides, and parallel parking on both sides.

- Elm Street from 1st Street to 2nd Street will be 48 feet wide, with a 9-foot sidewalk on both sides, parallel parking on both sides, and adding a 4-way stop at the 2nd Street Intersection to be evaluated.
- 2nd Street from Elm Street to Pine Street will be 42 feet wide, with an 8-foot sidewalk on the north side, a 6-foot sidewalk on the south side, a 5-foot boulevard on the south side, parallel parking on both sides, and a 4-way stop at Elm Street Intersection to be evaluated.
- The proposed off-street parking improvements have an estimated project cost of \$308,050 and include the option to partner with property owners for off-street parking, up to 35 parking stalls in a paved lot, and agreements with the property owners for reserved parking stalls for tenants.
- The proposed sidewalk improvements have an estimated project cost of \$572,410.
- The proposed storm sewer improvements have an estimated project cost of \$4,306,750 and include the reconstruction and expansion of the storm sewer system with a 10.1% reduction of impervious area.
- The proposed street and park lighting cost is included in the street/storm project cost with the lighting style and layout to match previous phases, City park lighting to be upgraded, and three banner pole locations proposed along 1st Street.
- The proposed sanitary sewer improvements have an estimated project cost of \$451,450 with the replacement of utility holes, replacement of 8-inch sanitary sewer and replacement of all services to the building or right-of-way line.
- The proposed water system improvements have an estimated project cost of \$1,239,670 with the replacement of hydrants and gate valves, and the replacement of all services to the building or right-of-way lines.
- The proposed irrigation system improvement costs are included with the water system improvements with the installation of a 1-inch irrigation main behind the curb for planter irrigation.

Mr. Saulsbury reviewed the City's assessment policy, which has remained unchanged since 2005. Under this policy, 50% of project costs for standard residential street and storm sewer improvements are assessed on a front-footage basis, while 50% of sanitary sewer and watermain costs are assessed on a per-unit basis. Within the project area, there are 34 properties, with assessments proposed for 32, as two are City-owned. The estimated reconstruction costs are as follows:

- Street/Storm Sewer: \$287.95 per foot
- Sanitary Sewer: \$5,770 per unit
- Watermain: \$10,180 per unit

Tom Konrardy, 130 Stacy Circle. Speaking on behalf of St. Joseph Church, requested details regarding the light poles and clarification of the number of units identified in the presentation. Mr. Saulsbury responded that, there is one watermain, as reflected in

the preliminary assessment spreadsheet provided.

Steve Yetzer, 332 West Fourth Street, inquired about the change in light pole locations from Phase One and Phase Two of the street reconstruction, noting that the poles are not being staggered. Mr. Saulsbury stated that the goal is to install five poles per block, which generally aligns with previous phases, and added that locations may vary due to the poles being installed behind the sidewalks.

Gregg Malsbary, 17 East 2nd Street, expressed concern that the new light fixtures would shine directly into his home. Mr. Saulsbury explained that the light poles are equipped with a downcast feature, directing light downward rather than outward.

Mr. Konrardy stated that St. Joseph Church may have concerns regarding the displays on the banner poles located near the church. Mayor Litfin noted he had previously discussed the matter with Father Mader and Deacon Bruce, and that the Church is requesting the banner pole not be placed at that location.

Mr. Saulsbury reminded residents to visit the project website, accessible through the City's main page at www.waconiamn.gov, which includes a feature to request project updates. He also noted the direct link: www.waconiamn.gov/downtown.

Motion to Close the Public Hearing made by Council Member Grengs, seconded by Council Member Siddons
MOTION CARRIED.

6. OPEN FORUM

None.

7. COMMUNITY INTEREST PRESENTATIONS

Waconia High School Homecoming — Student Council Leaders

Elle Baggenstoss, Student Council Vice-President
Reidun Trostad, Student Council Secretary
Clara Kuerschner, Student Council Advisor

Waconia Home Coming Week is scheduled for September 22nd through September 26th.

- **Saturday** – Homecoming Dance
- **Monday** – PJ/Comfy Day
- **Tuesday** – Monochrome Day

- **Wednesday** – Students wear pink
- **Thursday** – “Anything But a Backpack” Day. A new activity, **Bingo**, will also be introduced. If successful, organizers hope to open Bingo to the public next year.
- **Friday** – Waconia Spirit Day and pepfest. The Homecoming royalty court will be crowned just before the football game, with kickoff at 7:00 p.m. against Burnsville. The annual Homecoming Parade is also scheduled, with a student request for the closure of Community Drive from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m

Shane Fineran noted that on tonight's consent agenda, Item 8.10, the Council will consider Resolution No.2025-244, Approving a Special Event Permit to the Waconia High School Homecoming Parade. This is a City-supported event, and staff will provide barricades for the road closure.

8. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) **City Council Minutes September 2, 2025**
- 2) **Approve September 15, 2025 Expenditures**
- 3) **Safari Island Community Center Expenditures from Sports Facilities Companies Incurred August 2025**
- 4) **Ice Arena Expenditures from Sports Facilities Companies Incurred August 2025**
- 5) **CSAH 10 & Waconia Parkway North Improvements to Minger Construction Pay Request #3**
- 6) **Water Treatment Facility Piping Modifications to Municipal Builders Pay Request #9**
- 7) **Weight Room Flooring Replacement Project - Safari Island Community Center**
- 8) **Donation and Approve Pass Thru Recommendation - Waconia Fire Relief Association**
- 9) **Approve One Year Contract Extension with Northland Lining for Sewer Lateral Lining**
- 10) **Approve Contract for L52 Lift Station Exterior Improvements**
- 11) **Approve Final Purchase Price and Contract for Deed for the purchase of property for Water Treatment Plant No. 4.**
- 12) **Lodging Tax Fund Request - Waconia Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)**
- 13) **Memorandum of Understanding Outlining Payment Plan with Independent School District #110 and Safari Island Community Center**
- 14) **2025 Downtown Phase 3 Reconstruction Final Costs, Preparing Proposed Assessment, and Calling Public Hearing**
- 15) **Calling Public Hearing - Certification for Payment with Taxes - Payable 2026**
- 16) **Special Event Permit - Waconia Homecoming Parade**

17) Application for Exempt Gambling Permit for Carver County Pheasants Forever

Mayor Litfin requested to have consent agenda item 8.13 *Memorandum of Understanding Outlining Payment Plan with Independent School District #110 and Safari Island Community Center* be removed from the consent agenda.

Motion to adopt the consent agenda removing Item 8.13 was made by Council member Coleman, seconded by Council Member Grengs
MOTION CARRIED.

9. COUNCIL BUSINESS

1) 2026 Budget & Preliminary Levy

Nicole Meyer, Finance Director, reported that staff has prepared the preliminary 2026 budgets for all departments within the General Fund. She noted that the City is required to set a preliminary levy by September 30 each year. Once adopted, the levy may be reduced but cannot be increased. A full review of the General Fund will occur in November, with final budget approval scheduled for December 15, 2025. A public hearing on the levy is scheduled for the December 1, 2025, Council Meeting, providing residents and property owners the opportunity to ask questions.

Meyer stated that staff has reviewed property market value and tax capacity information provided by the Carver County Assessor. Overall taxable market value is increasing by approximately \$174 million, or 6.9%, with tax capacity increasing by \$1.9 million, or 7.61%, from 2025. Carver County further reported that the average single-family home in Waconia will experience an estimated 4.6% increase in market value for 2026.

For the preliminary levy, staff recommends a 12.8% increase in the general property tax levy, which supports City operations. This would maintain the General Fund balance at approximately 41%. The special debt levy is projected to decrease by 5% from 2025. Overall, the net levy to taxpayers is estimated to increase by 7.62% in 2026.

The preliminary levy tax rate would rise slightly, from 48.173% to 48.180%. With this rate, the average-valued home would see a property value increase of about 4% and an estimated 5% increase in the property tax bill—approximately \$8.61 more per month.

Mayor Litfin stated he would like to see the fund balance decrease to 40% to lower property taxes.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-226 adopting the 2026 preliminary levy made by Council Member Siddons, seconded by Council Member Gleason
MOTION CARRIED.

2) Ordering Improvements for the 2026 Downtown Phase 4 Reconstruction Project

Jon Haukaas, Public Services Director, stated this agenda item is the Resolution ordering the Improvement and Preparation of Plans to move forward on Phase 4. Based on what the Council has reviewed regarding the Feasibility Study, this is the next step which is required before the final design of the project.

Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2025-227 Ordering the Improvements and Preparation of Plans made by Council Member Grengs, Seconded by Council Member Coleman

MOTION CARRIED.

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Litfin removed from the consent agenda Item 8.13 *Memorandum of Understanding Outlining Payment Plan with Independent School District #110 and Safari Island Community* for explanation and clarification.

Staff reported that they have been working with ISD #110 on an HVAC project at Safari Island. The project falls under the existing Shared Use Agreement between the City and the School District, and the memorandum outlines how the HVAC improvements align with that agreement. Final project costs will be presented to the Council for approval upon completion.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-220 Approving Memorandum of Understanding Outlining Payment Plan with Independent School District #110 for HVAC Project at Safari Island Community Center made by Council Member Siddons, seconded by Council Member Gleason

MOTION CARRIED.

11. REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

1) Staff Reports

Jon Haukaas provided the Council with an update on several ongoing projects. He noted that significant work was completed on Olive Street in preparation for Nickle Dickle Day, with remaining efforts focused on alley improvements and landscaping. Haukaas reported that the Waconia Parkway North and Highway 10 Roundabout opened at approximately 9:00 p.m. on Friday evening, earlier than expected, as pavement markings cured more quickly due to favorable weather conditions. The pavement sealing project, originally scheduled to begin on September 17, has been delayed until September 23 due to equipment issues. On Main Street, from Birch Street to Vista Boulevard, and along Waconia Parkway North, existing fog lines will be removed by water blasting. In the fall, when re-striping is completed, lane widths will be reduced as a traffic-calming measure to decrease vehicle speeds and improve safety.

Dan Montague, General Manager of Safari Island, the Waconia Ice Arena and the

Senior Center. Mr. Montague provided the Council with construction and program updates.

A new sauna, constructed on the pool deck next to the hot tub, opened on August 22. A grand re-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for November 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Safari Island. Montague highlighted new fitness offerings, including Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL), line dancing, and Shine Dance Fitness, as well as new aquatics programs featuring adapted swimming lessons. On October 4th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. there is a Taylor Swift Skate where participants can dance and skate to Taylor Swift hits with a live DJ. On October 13th at 5:00 p.m. there is an after-hours event at the senior center including dinner and a show featuring the Wild Rose Cloggers.

Jackie Schulze announced that the Fire Department Open House is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2025, at the Fire Station, running from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Activities will include a bounce house, fire truck rides, hot dogs and hamburgers, as well as CPR and First Aid training.

2) Councilmember Siddons

Nothing to report

3) Councilmember Coleman

Nothing to report.

4) Councilmember Gleason

Attended the CIP meeting on September 15th with Council Member Grengs. Staff provided great information with more to come.

5) Councilmember Grengs

Attended the CIP meeting on September 15th with more information coming.

6) Mayor Litfin

Mayor Litfin – Recent Meetings and Activities

- **09-03-25:** Met with Carver County Parks Director Marty Walch to discuss dog parks and trails. The Mayor continues to work with the County on a trail connection from Sterling Hills Addition to the new trailhead at the Dakota Rail Trail. Mr. Walch will submit a grant request to the County Board for this project. The Council will need to pass and submit a Resolution in support of the grant.
- **09-08-25:** Met with representatives of the Eva Sophie project, who are currently seeking property in Waconia for their project.

- **09-10-25:** Attended the Celebration of Philanthropy dinner in Chaska.
- **09-11-25:** Held the first Mayor Youth Advisory Council meeting with a group of 10 students.
- **09-12-25:** Attended the Southwest Transportation Coalition Commission meeting in Waconia. Updates include:
 - The Highway 5 and County Road 11 roundabout will not be constructed this fall; construction is expected in spring 2026.
 - The Highway 212 bridge project remains on schedule for completion in fall 2026.
 - Rolling Acres Road construction between Highway 5 and Highway 7 is rescheduled for 2029.
 - Redevelopment of Highway 5 from the Arboretum west to Victoria is moving forward, with bids to be awarded in November.
- **09-13-25:** Participated in Nickle Dickle Day; congratulations to all involved for a successful event.
- **09-19-25:** Attended the groundbreaking ceremony for a major expansion at the Lakeview Clinic Waconia campus.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn the September 15, 2025, Waconia City Council Meeting at 7:50 p.m. made by Council Member Coleman, seconded by Council Member Grengs
MOTION CARRIED.

WORK SESSION: 2026 SAFARI ISLAND & ICE ARENA BUDGET, WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY UPDATES

Tim Litfin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
 Sue Schwalbe, Administrative Specialist

**CITY OF WACONIA
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-239**

**RESOLUTION DENYING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT
FOR OUTLOT A, WINDMILL CREEK**

WHEREAS, Preston Fox (the "**Applicant**") has submitted a Comprehensive Plan Amendment application pursuant to Section 900.12, Subd. 6 of the Waconia City Code; and

WHEREAS, the subject parcel is described as Outlot A, Windmill Creek and identified as PID# 755750440 (the "**Property**"); and

WHEREAS, the 2040 Comprehensive Plan currently guides the Property as W/O, Wetland/Open Space; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has requested an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to re-guide a portion of the property L, Low Density Residential to allow the future development of the Property as residential; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed the pertinent information and held a public hearing on September 4th, 2025 and received all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, at their regular meeting on September 4th, 2025, voted 4-1 to recommend denial of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to re-guide a portion of the property L, Low Density Residential.

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds and concludes:

1. The proposed amendment is inconsistent with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which identifies the property would remain open space in nature.
2. Due to the property location within the Shoreland Overlay District and the proximity to wetland and floodplain areas, development may create an undue impact on the natural environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Waconia hereby denies the Comprehensive Plan Amendment submitted by Preston Fox for the property described as Outlot A, Windmill Creek.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Waconia this 6th day of October 2025.

Tim Litfin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jackie Schulze, Assistant City Administrator

**CITY OF WACONIA
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-240**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT
AND AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL TO THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission of the City of Waconia conducted a public hearing on Thursday, September 4th, 2025, to consider a Comprehensive Plan Amendment submitted by Preston Fox (the “**Applicant**”); and

WHEREAS, the subject parcel is described as Outlot A, Windmill Creek and identified as PID# 755750440 (the “**Property**”); and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has requested an amendment to re-guide a portion of the Property as L, Low Density Residential versus its current designation as W/O, Wetland/Open Space; and

WHEREAS, the City Council makes the following findings in support of the application:

1. The procedural review of the Metropolitan Council in identifying and interpreting the City’s Land Use Map in a more specific manner than what our plan identifies as general future land use locations has caused the need for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for a property that has been planned for development for approximately 20 years.
2. The identified sewer capacity allows for additional growth in this area and would not have an adverse impact on public facilities and services, such as sewer and water. In fact, it has been planned for when reviewing and approving adjacent residential property developments in the area.
3. The change amends an error in the City’s Land Use Map, which identifies all of Outlot A, Windmill Creek as Wetland/Open Space while the City has been planning with previous developers and landowners to complete the home, utility and transportation networks into and through this property in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Waconia hereby approves the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment and authorizes submittal to the Metropolitan Council for review.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Waconia this 6th day of October 2025.

Tim Litfin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jackie Schulze, Assistant City Administrator