

# **Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes**

## **January 21, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

Call the meeting to order at 6:00. Meeting is recorded, and the recordings belong to the City of Bellechester.

Pledge to the flag

Mayor Jody Gordon opened the regular city council meeting at 6:02.

Roll call was taken: The council in attendance: Mayor Jody Gordon, Council member Mark Gerken Rich Majerus, and Nick Keller as well as City Clerk Lisa Redepinning and City Engineer Matt Mohs and Treasurer Kyle McKeown. Absent was council member Jake Gilsdorf. Jon Huneke was also present.

Approve or Amend of Agenda – Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Keller to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Nick Keller with a second by Rich Majerus to approve the minutes with noted changes. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed with a motion by Mark Gerken with a second by Nick Keller to approve and pay the bills as presented along with the additional invoice from Cummins. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

- Update on Consideration of Requested Use of Remaining Grant Funds – Rich has been in discussions with Rural Development on the use. Rich submitted another request for them to review. GPS and cameraing system was also requested. Lawn mower and ADA ramp and steps with 3 bids that needs to be done by 5/31 was also approved. City Hall building proposal was also rejected. We will move forward with getting 3 bids on ramp and steps.
- Use of Reserves – Rich was inquiring about our options.
- Law Enforcement Contract Expectations – GCSO violation enforcement was discussed. GCSO will be invited to next meeting.
- Community Center Plans – See above.

### **New business:**

- Lead Service Line Replacement (LSL-R) Proposal – City engineer Matt discussed the agreement that was sent to council. 8 identified galvanized lines have been found on the private side. State has money available for these improvements. 0% loan and grant combination can be used. State will determine how this will be split. Zero out of pocket for the city. If approved, design will move forward. Bid during the summer, get the funds and construction starting in the fall. Partnering with Lake City was proposed by Matt to be under consideration by the council. We would enter into a cooperative agreement with Lake City if we move forward. State of MN and Lake City are in support of this cooperation. Matt recommends council moving forward this. Motion by Nick Keller with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Majerus to approve a cooperative agreement with Lake City not to exceed \$13,500 for this project to start, which would be reimbursed. Motion carried.

- Approve Bellechester - Taxable GO Utility Revenue Bond of 2026A – Resolution – Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Keller to approve the Taxable GO Utility Revenue Bond of 2026A resolution. Motion carried.
- Move April meeting to Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 4:30 to Coincide with BOE Meeting – Motion was made by Nick Keller with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gerken to change the April council meeting to April 23<sup>rd</sup> following the board of equalization meeting. Motion carried.
- Committee Appointments for 2026 – set and approve to keep the same Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Keller to keep assignments the same as 2025 with the exception of attorney. Motion carried.
  - 2026 appointments:
    - Acting Mayor: Mark Gerken, Ambulance: Rich Majerus
    - Fire Association: Rich Majerus/Nick Keller, Bank: First Farmers & Merchants
    - Attorney: TBD, Prosecution Attorney – Goodhue County, Paper: News Record
    - City Engineer: Matt Mohs ~ Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Set Board of Equalization Date – Motion was made by Mark Gerken and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Keller to approve the change of meeting date for April to Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 4:00 at Bellechester Community Center. Motion carried.
- 2025 Cash Reporting Final Report – approve Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Keller to approve the 2025 cash reporting final report. Motion carried.
- Money received from Legion – Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Keller to accept \$1000 from the Legion for building repairs. Motion carried.

**Engineer Report** – We are moving forward with closing on our sewer project.

**Clerk Report** – Money Received – 2nd half LGA, Wabasha County taxes, Goodhue County taxes and final sewer project reimbursements. The sewer and general fund is now fully reimbursed from expenses paid from it while this project has been ongoing. Messenger – we received the yearly subscription notice. Do you want to contribute to them again this year? 2025 we sent them \$275.00. **Financial Recap** as of 12/31/2025: Regular Savings Account Balance \$42,794; Interim Savings Account = \$1,032; Edward Jones = \$117,350; General Fund = \$139,974 Water Fund = \$117,323; Sewer Fund = \$146,599. **Year End Reporting** – all year end reporting has been completed.

**Treasurer Report** – past due list was distributed.

**Water/Wastewater/Facility Report** – current billing system was discussed. VPN can be setup so we can access the billing from offsite location. The cost will be \$50/month to do this.

**Mayor Concerns:** Plowing was discussed as there are drifting issues. Possible inviting trailer court and owners, Paul Huneke and church to be invited to next meeting.

**Council Concerns:** Poncelet bill was discussed.

## Adjourn

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Nick Keller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:42. Motion carried.

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – City Clerk