

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday December 9th, 2025**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Dan Remmele, Councilman Dan Larsen, Councilman Darren Gjerset, Councilman Wyatt Bendix, Clerk Brian Pitzl, Public Work Supervisor Bryan Nielsen, Fire Chief Bryan Nielsen. Absent was Councilman Mark Schettler.

Citizens/Guests: Matt Dunphy

Open Forum:

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, November 10th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2025-25 Designating Polling Place was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Larsen. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Motion to Certify 2026 Final Tax Levy at \$175,000 was made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Gjerset. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Motion to approve the Agreement for Prosecution Services with Yellow Medicine County was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Bendix. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Reports:

Fire Chief Bryan Nielsen – Changes have been made within the Fire Department. Bryan Nielsen was elected Chief, Reid Hanson Assistant Chief, Russel Hennen: Secretary, Nate Anderson: Training/Safety Officer, Doug Viergutz: Captain of Co. 1, Jon Busck: Captain of Co. 2. The department's SCBA annual test results came back good. The jaws of life have been fixed and there is a need for a new onboard compressor for the pumper air brakes. Suggestion made to have the fire department members trained in the use of the 1st responders stair chair in the event that assistance is needed. Former Chief Matt Dunphy brought attention to the council that even though the training for fire fighters is online as opposed to in person, it still took time for the members to complete the training. With this in mind, the by-laws state a member must pass both parts of the training to be paid for their time. The council felt that if the trained members could show proof of them completing the training, but the written test was not

passed, the members should still be entitled to \$500 pay for their time. This topic will be addressed at the next meeting. There will be a fit test in Sacred Heart in February for any fire fighter who missed the one in Echo. Bryan inquired about the chief and assistant chief going to a fire conference in Alexandria at the end of January and beginning of February. Motion made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Bendix to approve of the 2 going to the conference. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

1st Responders Chief Chastity Kuehn-

Maintenance Supervisor Nielsen – The generator is here for the community center and piped in and will get set up before the end of the year. One of the water heaters in the community center is leaking and needs to be replaced. The cost to replace the unit will be around \$2,500. Bryan will be on vacation December 19th- 24th and gone January 10th – 14th. He has contacted someone in case snow needs to be plowed.

Mayor Remmele- Mayor Remmele informed a YME school bus driver that certain roads are off limits to buses.

Councilman Schettler –

Councilman Gjerset – Inquired about the old gas station and who owned it. A letter had been sent to the owner last summer to have it torn down. There were issues about who owned it at that time, but the owner is still the one that was sent a letter previously. The city clerk will again send a letter to the owner and request that it be taken down for safety reasons. Talked with Shannon Sweeney of David Drown Associates regarding the TIF funds and was seeing if we could bank roll the TIF funds for a project. The city would need to take out a loan for a project and repay that with the TIF funds. Brought up talking with Belview regarding what areas the two cities could work together on enforcing ordinances and possibly issuing citations for violations. Inquired about cars that were not moved during snow removal. The clerk will again send out letters to residents to remind them to move all vehicles off the street during a snowfall of 2 or more inches.

Councilman Bendix –

Councilman Larsen –

Clerk Pitzl –

Old Business: Discussion was had regarding the upcoming Minnesota Paid Leave Program that starts on January 1st, 2026. Motion was made by Councilman Gjerset, seconded by Councilman Bendix to approve that the city pays the full .66% of fees associated with the program. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

New Business: Council went into closed session for employee yearly evaluations. The council is pleased with the work that the city employees are doing. When the meeting was reopened, the

council decided to give a 4% pay increase to the Maintenance Supervisor and a 5% pay increase to the City Clerk.

Consent Agenda: Motion made by Councilman Larsen, seconded by Councilman Bendix 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 Larsen to adjourn regular meeting at 7:56 pm. Motion carried with Councilman Schettler absent.

Mayor Dan Remmele

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl