

Regular Meeting

**Echo City Council
Tuesday February 10th, 2026**

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 Wyatt Bendix, Councilman Dan Larsen, Councilman Mark Schettler, Councilman Darren Gjerset, Maintenance Supervisor and Fire Chief Bryan Nielsen, Clerk Brian Pitzl, 1st Responder Chief Chastity Kuehn

Citizens/Guests: Jerrick Kosel, Matt Dunphy

Open Forum: Jerrick Kosel addressed the council regarding his water bill. It was higher than usual, but he knew that it was a result of someone in his household that had left the water running. He inquired about anything that could help prevent this from happening again. The board suggested that there are devices that you can attach to the water pipe to detect a leak or excessive usage and that it can be sent to your phone to alert you.

Approval of Minutes & Resolutions:

Motion to approve, January 13th, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, with the addition of Clark Grannes as the requester of a building permit for a grain bin, was made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix.

Reports:

Fire Chief Bryan Nielsen – On March 21st the fire department will be having a retirement recognition for 2 recently retired members. The city council, city staff, and past fire department members are invited. The grass rig battery, which was still under warranty, was recently replaced and is hooked up to a battery tender to ensure it is charged when needed. There was an air pack sent in to get checked but it may not be able to be repaired as it is an older unit. Motion made by Councilman Schettler, seconded by Councilman Bendix to approve the payroll for the fire department with the corrections made. Motion carried unanimously.

1st Responders Chief Chastity Kuehn- Replaced the pads in the AED at the community center and for the rig. The city will pay for the ones in the community center. Informed the board that there is a need for new batteries for the LUCAS device. These batteries run around \$1000 each from Striker, with cheaper versions on Amazon for \$187 that don't last as long. Motion made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Gjerset to order 2 of the good batteries. Motion

carried unanimously. Could use a few blankets for the first responder rig. Will look at options and purchase a few.

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Nielsen – Fire Extinguishers in city buildings have been updated. Next year there will be about 5-6 extinguishers that will be at the end of their life cycle. The outdoor light located at the corner of Hwy 67 and Co Rd. 1. It is considered a directional light and should not be used as a streetlight. The city feels that it should be a county or state issue as it is located at the intersection of a state highway and county road. Bryan will be at training March 2nd-5th in St. Cloud and will be gone March 13th-14th and 27th-29th. Bryan has someone to cover in the event of snow.

Mayor Dan Remmele- There is a sidewalk located on 3rd Ave. that was affected by the water line being replaced needing repair. The sidewalk has a ramp on it as well, which affects the surface of the sidewalk. Bryan will get bids from a couple contractors to look at options for this sidewalk as well as the sidewalk in front of the Post Office.

Councilman Mark Schettler –

Councilman Darren Gjerset – Inquired about the water/sewer rate margins. Was informed of the amounts that the current rates are at and that the current rate for water was sustainable, while the sewer rates should be adjusted to ensure that the expenses are covered. Asked about if the city wanted any cemetery stones repaired again this summer. Motion made by Councilman Bendix, seconded by Councilman Schettler to approve the repair of 5-7 stones at a cost no more than \$3000. Motion carried with Councilman Gjerset abstaining.

Councilman Wyatt Bendix –

Councilman Dan Larsen –

Clerk Pitzl – The city office will be closed on Monday February 16th in observance of Presidents Day. The city clerk will be unavailable for the March 10th council meeting. The council decided to move the March meeting to Monday March 9th at 7:00 pm. The freezer in the community center stopped working. The price of a new one is around \$800. Motion made by Councilman Larsen, Seconded by Councilman Bendix to approve the purchase of a new one to replace it. Motion carried unanimously. Informed the council that the city received a \$5000 grant from the League of Minnesota Cities to cover the cost to Bollig Engineering to apply for the Small Cities Development Grant. The city needs to have a public hearing to inform residents of the Small Cities Development Grant that the city is currently applying for. March 24th was set as the date for the meeting to be held at 7:00 pm at the Echo Community Center.

Old Business:

New Business:

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

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Bendix, and second by Councilman Larsen to adjourn regular meeting at 7:55 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dan Remmele

City Clerk- Brian Pitzl