

**City of Dellwood
Council Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Dellwood was held on August 12, 2025, at the city offices located at 111 Wildwood Road, Willernie, MN. The meeting was held in person, and non-Council members were able to attend remotely via Zoom.

Mayor McGill called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Attendance

- **Council Members Present (in person):**
 - **Melissa Peltier**
 - **Karen Quaday**
 - **Greg Boosalis**
- **Council Members Absent:**
 - **Brady Ramsay**
- **Staff Present (in person):**
 - **City Administrator Joel Holstad**
 - **City Attorney Richard Copeland**
- **Others Present (in person):**
 - **Ken Johnson**
 - **Mark Wisniewski**
 - **John Carr (of LLTA)**
- **Remote Attendees:**
 - **City Planner Nate Sparks**
 - **Salman Khan**
 - **Julie Whitaker**

Washington County Deputy Sheriff Oyaas appeared in person to discuss City policing matters including speeding issues on Dellwood Road. Mayor McGill stated that there appears to be on-going complaints about motorcycles on the weekends, both noise and excessive speed. Deputy Oyaas described the procedures employed by the Sheriff's department, using both stationary radar and the monitor in the squad.

Mr. Copeland remarked that the problem is the worst on Saturday and every Sunday late afternoon. One can tell from the high pitch sound of the motorcycles that their speeds are well over 45 MPH.

Boosalis asked if there have been numerous calls about vehicle break-ins. Deputy stated there have been reports of break-ins generally in the area of the White Bear Yacht Club.

Mayor McGill noted that there was no person present for public comment.

Agenda. On motion by Boosalis, seconded by Peltier, the agenda for this meeting was approved (see attached).

Minutes. Mayor McGill noted that Council Member Quaday had raised a question regarding the set back of swimming pools and whether they are no longer considered to be accessory structures for purposes of the 15-foot side yard setbacks.

Mr. Copeland and Mr. Sparks explained that the City had decided, in connection with the passage of the pool cover ordinance, to require pools to be set back 30 feet from the side lot lines. The ordinance allowing a 15-foot set back for accessory structures will be amended to exempt pools from the definition of accessory structure for set back purposes.

On Motion by McGill, second by Boosalis, the Minutes of the July Council meeting were unanimously approved.

Item No. 1: Amended Liquor Ordinance. Mr. Copeland stated that amendments to the Liquor License Ordinance were in order to clarify that the City would not require persons hired to serve liquor products to file proof with the City that they have received training. Also, the amendments clarified the age requirement for servers.

On motion by Quaday, second by McGill, the Council voted unanimously to enact the Amended Liquor License Ordinance as presented by Mr. Copeland, and to approve publication of the official summary as presented in lieu of the entire ordinance.

Item No. 2: Local Board of Appeals and Equalization Resolution. This Resolution is presented for the purpose of seeking reinstatement of the City's powers to hold its own Board of Review in year 2026 and thereafter.

On motion by McGill, second by Boosalis, the Resolution as presented by Mr. Copeland was unanimously approved for submission to the Washington County Assessor and the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Item No. 3: Police Contract. Police contract with Washington County Sheriff's Department. It was noted that there has been a significant increase in the cost which appears to be due to the addition of one officer and the increase in the disability insurance provided to the officers by the Sheriff's Office. This item is for informational purposes only at this time.

Item No. 4: Xcel tree trimming issues and policies. Boosalis explained that Xcel's stated position is that it is often cheaper to repair its transmission lines than to clear trees.

Quaday offered the name of Michelle Swanson who may be the person at Xcel who can assist in resolving questions about the removal and trimming of trees within the right-of-way.

Mr. Copeland stated that Xcel has a Franchise Agreement with Dellwood which may outline the duties of Xcel regarding trees.

Item No. 5: Website Update. The City's website is being reviewed by Quaday, Nate Sparks, and Ben Colby for purposes of improving the ease of accessibility.

Quaday presented a memorandum explaining their recommendations which is attached to these minutes. Compliance with pending ADA requirements will be necessary. Also, they recommend that the minutes of City Council and Planning Commission be posted on the website within the week of the meeting.

Nate Sparks stated that the goal is to streamline the process for accessing the website and to clean it up.

The Council was in favor of proceeding with this project.

Item No. 6: Highway 244 and trail update. Peltier stated that final cost figures will be coming from Cara Geheren. A meeting with MNDOT is scheduled for Aug 19th. The City will have a two-month window to reply to MNDOT's offer when it comes.

Upon acceptance of any offer, the funds from the State will be deposited in City accounts. The City then will issue Requests for Proposals from Contractors by the end of 2025.

Funds received earlier by the City of Mahtomedi in the turnback of 244 were approximately 7.5 million, and those funds came from different funding resources than those from which Dellwood's funds will come.

Quaday discussed the need for the City to plan for future upkeep of the roadway and determine the effect of the turnback on the City's road budget.

McGill pointed out that 244 is a regional road used commonly by people from localities other than Dellwood. The funds from MNDOT are a one-time payment which may not cover future maintenance costs to the City. The City can bond for future reconstruction projects. Upon receipt, the City can determine how best to use the funds.

Quaday remarked that the City should consider creating a reserve fund for future needs.

Joel remarked that he favors a potential joint agreement with Washington County, whereby the County might absorb cost overruns.

Ken Johnson noted that the State currently maintains and snow plows 244.

Greg Boosalis discussed the trail situation, in particular the issues involved in the area of the White Bear Yacht Club.

The current resolution adopted in 2023 appears to be in order with regard to Phase I of the trail being from Quinnell Ave to Echo Street.

Peltier stated that all such information should be posted on the website.

Julie Whitaker expressed appreciation for the work done by the City to date. She recited lines from past resolutions in particular, the 2023 Resolution, which confirmed the City's position that the trail would be located within public land and that eminent domain would not be employed by the City to acquire land for trail purposes.

It was noted that no City funds would be used to construct the trail or to maintain in the future, the relatively few residents in Dellwood should not have to bear the cost.

Any revisions of the past resolutions should first be communicated to the residents for comment and input, within a reasonable time.

The resolutions regarding the routing of the trail or other issues should be made with notice to the residents, possibly by way of a "town meeting."

This should include the obligations of the City under any turnback agreement with MNDOT. Information should relate to the entire trail, not "piece-meal."

McGill noted that the entire trail matter was "dumped" upon the City without the City's knowledge or consent. The City Council is just trying to keep everyone happy as these complex issues are being studied.

Claims and Receipts. Upon motion by Quaday, second by Boosalis, the Claims and Receipts list for the month of July 2025 was unanimously approved.

Reports of Commissioners. McGill reported 5 new building permits.

Joel Holstad explained that the City receives a portion of fine payments made to the District Court, but he is not entirely aware of the formula which is being used. The City receives about \$150 per month on the average.

Adjournment. There being no further business at hand, and upon motion by McGill, second by Boosalis, this meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Mike McGill, Mayor

Attest:

Joel Holstad, City Clerk

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Minutes
- Amended Liquor Ordinance and Summary
- BOE Resolution
- Proposed Police Contract
- Quaday's Memorandum Re-Website
- 2023 Trail Resolution
- Claims list
- Building Permits