

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BIG FALLS, COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING, STATE OF MINNESOTA, INCLUDING ALL ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED BY SAID COUNCIL.

November 10, 2025

The regular meeting of the Big Falls City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Ferguson. Members present were Ken Kennedy, Brenda Sursely and Ken Warner. Absent: Jeff Oehlerking

Public Hearing. A public hearing was held according to MN Statutes 340A.602 concerning the municipal liquor store loss over the previous 2 years, and the question of whether the city shall continue to operate a municipal liquor store. The statute was read and financial reports were presented. The loss in 2024 was due to maintenance of the building but still must be considered in the calculations. It was noted that there is still a substantial fund balance, and no general funds have been expended toward municipal liquor store operations. It was also noted that there is a large profit so far in 2025. Several members of the public expressed their support for the municipal liquor store, citing the jobs it provides and the fact that it is the only eating and gathering establishment in town. There were no comments expressing a desire to pursue closing the liquor store.

Additions. Gary Dunnell – Discussed Trucks on 4th Street, city to possibly post a load limit to the road. And a short discussion on an ally way that is blocked by a residents vehicle.

Commissioner's Report. Not present.

Consent Agenda. The consent agenda was presented with the following items:

- Approval of regular meeting minutes
- Approval of Financial Reports
- Approve Resolution No. 2025-09 Supporting ATV Trail Plan 1.1 Voyageur Country ATV Koochiching County ATV Plan
- Adopt Ordinance No. 228 establishing a Lodging Tax on the Big Falls Campground and Horse Camp

There was a motion by Sursely to approve the consent agenda. Second by Warner. The motion carried with all in favor.

Disbursements and Payroll. The disbursement and payroll were reviewed. *There was a motion by Warner to approve disbursements in the amount of \$185,546.63 check #21943-21980, ACH 18608E-18630E, and October payroll. Second by Sursely. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Liquor Report. Dey reported that one bartender resigned. Received two applications, Dey recommended keeping the posting for bartender position open for another month. Wages are going up 2.5% on min wage. The Liquor Store will not be putting up money for winners on Pool and Cribbage any longer as it's not bringing in any business. Horse Races went well for the first game. Dey also reported she will start her lunch specials again for the hunting weeks.

There was a motion to approve the liquor report by Warner. Second by Sursely. The motion carried with all in favor.

Fire/EMS. Faith and Kyle were present to give a report, Faith presented 3 new by-laws to be added to the departments By-Laws, Training, Attendance at training and Class eligibility. *There was a motion to approve the By-Law additions by Kennedy. Second by Warner. The motion carried with all in favor. Kyle reported that elections will be held on December 2nd for Fire/EMS officials. There was a motion to approve the Fire/EMS report by Sursely. Second by Kennedy. The motion carried with all in favor.*

Maintenance Report. Baird reported the Campground went well without a host on site, lengthy discussion over Camp Host position and whether it's needed or not. Baird also reported the Airport meeting on deficiencies went well. *There was a motion to approve the Maintenance report by Warner. Second by Sursely. The motion carried with all in favor.*

2026 General Budget. Approve Resolution 2025-10 adopting a final general budget for 2026 and setting the levy collectible in 2026. Council reviewed the budget with little discussion. *There was a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10 Adopting a Final General Fund Budget and Setting the Levy for 2026 by Warner. Second by Sursely. The motion carried with all in favor.*

MN PL Discussion/Policy Review. Tabled/Wait to see if we are considered large or small employer.

Clerk's Report. Clerk reported Kim with Kooch county probation office reached out for volunteer work opportunities. Council agreed it would be beneficial, they have a couple questions, do we have the right to refuse, and who carries liability. Clerk also reported, that per **Minnesota Statute § 181.101**, which requires employers to pay all earned wages at least once every 31 days on a regular payday. This law also specifies that wages earned during the first half of the first 31-day pay period are due on the first regular payday that occurs after the first day of work. This means all council members will need to be paid monthly.

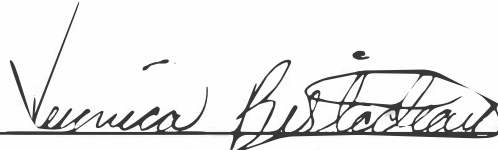
There was a motion to approve the Clerks report by Warner. Second by Sursely. The motion carried with all in favor.

The next regular meeting is set for Monday, December 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers.

There was a motion to adjourn by Sursely. The motion carried with all in favor.



Dick Ferguson, Mayor



Veronica Bistodeau, City Clerk