

**- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
MAY 5, 2025**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hubbard at 7 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Present: Mayor Hubbard and Councilmembers Benesh, Hatfield, and Sheveland.

Absent: Councilmember Grau.

Also Present: Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator; Elise Durbin, Assistant City Administrator; Julie Grove; Economic Development Coordinator; Krista Mark, Communications Coordinator; and Christophe Morschen, City Attorney.

4. Adopt the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Benesh to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

5. Visitor Presentation

5.A. Erik Hansen, SW Transit 2024 Year in Review

Erik Hansen, CEO of SouthWest Transit (SWT), explained they offer bus routes, special events, and on-demand rideshares. In 2024, 31 percent of Prime riders started or ended their trips in Chaska; the most popular location in Chaska was Cub Foods. SWT had 537,877 total ridership in 2024. Overall, ridership is up 20.5 percent in comparison to 2023.

Councilmember Hatfield pointed out SWT is available to the community due to a joint powers agreement, and the transportation service is vital for community members to get to their jobs, grocery stores, or other basic needs.

Mr. Hansen pointed out new events in 2024 included Pride Parade; RenFest; IndiaFest; all Twins, Wild, and Timberwolves home games; and Tate of Minnesota. In 2025, Art-A-Whirl, The Dragon Boat Festival, and the Yacht Club Festival will be added to SWT's event roster.

Mr. Hansen explained SWT staff are working with Carver County Commissioners and stakeholders on a mobility study to determine the needs of future transit in Carver County. They anticipate expanding Prime into new and current service areas. Staff will be evaluating the expansion of fixed routes, including connections off the new 686 route to the airport. Additionally, they are analyzing the expansion feasibility of the autonomous vehicle service pilot program.

Mr. Hansen added there is currently no dedicated, sustainable revenue stream from the 0.75 sales and use tax approved in 2023. 83 percent of the tax goes to the Metropolitan Council and 17 percent to counties, but none is directly given to any transit agency. The suburban transit providers represent 19 percent of the population in the metro and receive 12 percent of the total motor vehicle sales tax. The Metropolitan Council has provided some assistance, but it is not guaranteed long-term and represents only 0.11 percent of the total expected over 30 years. SWT cannot sustain services or innovate with uncertain allocations.

Mr. Hansen stated legislature clearly intended to fund transit with the 2023 sales and use tax but didn't provide a sustainable, long-term allocation for suburban transit agencies as it currently does with motor vehicle sales tax. SWT is asking the legislature to address the unintended oversight and clearly identify an allocation of the sales and use tax for suburban transit providers.

5.B. Visitor Presentations

Two high school students introduced themselves and explained they were present at the meeting for a government class.

6. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

6.A. Approve the April 21, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Benesh, second by Councilmember Sheveland to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2025, City Council meeting.

Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Benesh to approve the Consent Agenda Items A through B:

A. Approve Highpoint Vistas – Wetlands Replacement Plan

Motion to approve the wetland replacement plan for Highpoint Vistas Development.

B. Approve Beckman-Coulter Wetland Replacement Plan

Motion to approve the wetland replacement plan for Beckman-Coulter Building Expansion.

Motion carried.

8. Action Items

8.A. Authorize City Administrator to Sign a Letter of Intent for a Tax Abatement to support Beckman Coulter Expansion

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council and Economic Development Coordinator Julie Grove provided a presentation on it.

Motion by Councilmember Sheveland, second by Councilmember Benesh to authorize City Administrator to sign a letter of intent for a tax abatement to support public improvements for the Beckman Coulter redevelopment at 316 Lake Hazeltine Drive and authorize staff to negotiate a Tax Abatement Agreement with Beckman Coulter.

Motion carried.

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9. Bills

9.A. Accounts Payable Claims Roster 5-5-2025

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Sheveland to approve the bills as presented. Roll call was taken. Voting aye: Councilmembers Benesh, Hatfield, and Sheveland, and Mayor Hubbard. Voting nay: None
Motion carried.

10. Other Business

10.A. City Administrator's Report

10.A.i. Bi-Weekly Report 5-5-2025

10.B. YTD Financial Reports – 28-2-2025

10.C. Q4 – 2024 Investment Report Memo

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Pointed out that Christmas in May was the previous weekend, and the event was a success.
- Noted Taste of Chaska is May 14, 2025.
- Added the Chaska Police Night game with the Cubs is May 16, 2025.
- Asked when the new lights downtown would be turned on. Staff said they would follow up with an answer.
- Stated it is currently free to bring yard waste to the organics recycling site in Shakopee.

Councilmember Sheveland:

- Noted a Chaska Fire Department family is supporting their daughter through leukemia treatment.

Assistant City Administrator Elise Durbin:

- Pointed out it is Small Business Week and Public Service Recognition Week.

City Administrator Podhradsky:

- Thanked the volunteers for their work on Christmas in May.

Mayor Hubbard:

- Agreed Christmas in May was a great event.
- Noted Bike to School Day is May 7, 2025.
- Stated the Bike Rodeo is May 12, 2025.
- Attended a recent Cubs game.
- Added Armed Forces Day is May 17, May 11 through May 17 is National Police Week, May is Military Appreciation Month, International Firefighter Day is May 4, EMS Week is May 19 through May 24, Municipal Clerk's Week is May 4 through May 10, National Teacher's Appreciation Week is May 4 through May 10 as well, National Nurse's Week is May 6 through May 12, Public Service Recognition Week is May 4 through May 10, Corrections Officer Week is May 4 through May 10, National Public Works Appreciation Week is May 18 through May 24, Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is May, and Cinco de Mayo is May 5.
- Pointed out there will be a parade and program for Memorial Day.

DRAFT

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Mayor Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Motion carried.