

**- MINUTES -**  
**CHASKA CITY COUNCIL**  
**JUNE 30, 2025**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hubbard at 7:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator; Elise Durbin, Assistant City Administrator; Kevin Wright, Community Engagement Manager; Krista Mark, Communications Coordinator; and Christophe Morschen, City Attorney.

4. Adopt the Agenda

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

5. Visitor Presentation

No one wished to present to the Council.

6. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

6.A. Approve the June 16, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Benesh, second by Councilmember Grau to approve the minutes of the June 16, 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 C:

A. Approve Appointments to the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

Motion to approve the designation in ranking order to the MMUA Association, Andrew Romine, Mike Engelen and Troy Wiebe.

B. Approving a Master Services Agreement with FinnlyTech Inc.

Motion to authorize City Staff to notify Active of the City's intent not to renew the existing agreement and initiate discussions with Active for termination of the existing services agreement.

Motion to approve the Mayor and City Administrator to approve a Master Services Agreement with FinnlyTech Inc., in substantially the form presented subject to final negotiations with Finnly which are acceptable in the opinion of the City Attorney.

C. Approve the University of Minnesota Rental Space at the Chaska Community Center  
Motion for City Council approval of the University of Minnesota's request for rental space at the Chaska Community Center.

Motion carried.

#### 8. Action Items

##### 8.A. Adopt Ordinance 2025-1062 Regulating the Keeping of Chickens

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council and Assistant City Administrator Durbin provided a presentation on it.

Councilmember Grau asked if there is education planned for the community. Assistant City Administrator Durbin confirmed there would be public notices and other education efforts provided to HOAs.

Councilmember Benesh asked what setbacks would apply. Assistant City Administrator Durbin stated there is a ten-foot setback from the property line.

City Administrator Podhradsky pointed out that a larger setback was considered, but it wasn't implemented due to the increased restrictiveness.

Councilmember Sheveland asked if other nuisance issues would be addressed prior to allowing a new accessory building. Assistant City Administrator Durbin confirmed there is a provision addressing the concern.

Councilmember Sheveland asked if there are concerns about water being negatively impacted by runoff from chicken keeping. City Administrator Podhradsky stated he was unaware of negative impacts on water sources. Other communities have allowed chicken keeping without impacts on their water sources.

Councilmember Benesh pointed out that there is a 15-foot setback from any ponds, lakes, or rivers.

City Administrator Podhradsky added that chickens must be properly cared for or else the City would intervene, similar to other pets.

Mayor Hubbard asked if anyone wanted to comment on the proposed ordinance.

John Prondzinski, 1160 Symphony Lane, stated he has concerns about the process and creating issues in neighborhoods. He pointed out there wasn't a discussion about larger setbacks at the Council's work session. A ten-foot setback would create odors for neighbors. He asked if the ordinance or the property covenant takes precedence. City Attorney Christophe Morschen explained that private covenants are not impacted by the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Prondzinski asked if a private covenant states a City ordinance would take precedent, then how would the City handle it. Mr. Morschen stated he represents the City of Chaska and cannot provide legal advice to residents.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated the City isn't trying to interfere with private covenants. Mr. Morschen stated it would ultimately be a private matter between a homeowner and an association.

Mr. Prondzinski pointed out that the argument of a fifty-foot setback being too restrictive is irrelevant because the ordinance allows HOAs to impose their own restrictions.

Councilmember Hatfield noted that her lived experience of living next to a chicken coop was positive and didn't create any issues. Chicken coops have not been shown to reduce property value, and some people seek out communities that allow chicken keeping.

Mayor Hubbard thanked community members for their engagement in the process. She noted there is an argument that chicken keeping is more affordable than buying eggs, but that isn't the case. Chicken keeping is a lifestyle choice. She added that she hopes there are positive community relationships created and maintained.

Mayor Hubbard pointed out that she spoke with law enforcement, and they haven't had issues related to chicken keeping in neighboring municipalities. As long as the animals are well cared for, there doesn't seem to be an issue with chicken keeping.

Councilmember Sheveland suggested the City implement an annual fee to allow Staff time to inspect the coops and care of the chickens. Mayor Hubbard stated they could consider a renewal fee.

City Administrator Podhradsky added that Staff is still committed to code enforcement and will respond to any code violation reports.

Mr. Prondzinski stated that a neighbor with a chicken coop could deter one's home sales. When lots are smaller than one-third of an acre, a chicken coop would end up being very close to a neighbor's house.

Mayor Hubbard stated that for every person who doesn't support backyard chickens, there are a couple who do support backyard chickens. In 2020, the City interviewed chicken owners and their neighbors, and they didn't find any issues. It is the Council's responsibility to respond to the requests and needs of the community and create reasonable ordinances that promote a high quality of life.

Councilmember Benesh stated the City isn't going to be overrun with chickens. It is not his role to regulate lifestyles. He noted his support of increasing the setbacks. In his experience at homes that keep chickens, he hasn't heard or smelled backyard chickens.

Councilmember Sheveland pointed out that Eden Prairie requires a 50-foot setback from other homes and a 10-foot setback from property lines for chicken coops. In Chanhassen, 25-foot setback from other homes and a 10-foot setback from property lines for chicken coops.

City Administrator Podhradsky explained that Chaska's smallest lots are 30 feet wide. Staff suggested the ten-foot setback to allow for more homes to have coops. Many of the 30-foot lots have a detached garage that takes up much of the length of the lot.

Mr. Prondzinski stated that those lots may just be too small for chicken keeping. Also, a 20-foot setback from a neighboring residence is a reasonable request. Most lots have ten-foot house setbacks from the property line, so most lots would include a 20-foot setback automatically. A 20-foot setback from residences included in the ordinance would only apply to areas with five-foot setbacks.

Councilmember Hatfield stated she would support a 20-foot setback from residential buildings but not from any structure.

Councilmember Grau pointed out that the most controversial topic he has handled while on the Council is regarding chickens. Support for backyard chickens is not unanimous.

Councilmember Hatfield asked if a renewal fee would include an inspection. City Administrator Podhradsky stated the fee shouldn't be more than \$50.

Mayor Hubbard noted there is an \$18 renewal fee for dog registration. City Administrator Podhradsky stated \$50 would cover the cost of Staff time.

Councilmember Hubbard suggested there be a two-year license.

City Administrator Podhradsky recommended that the licensure renewal timeline is during the summer. He suggested the licenses be from July 1 to June 30.

Mayor Hubbard stated it sounds like there is a desire for a 10-foot general setback and a 20-foot setback from any principal building.

Councilmember Sheveland stated the 20-foot setback is repetitive. City Administrator Podhradsky stated that some areas only have a five-foot setback.

Councilmember Hatfield added that the downtown lots are inconsistent, so they may not all have ten-foot setbacks.

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Mayor Hubbard to adopt Ordinance 2025-1062, with the addition of a 20-foot setback from the principal structure and addition of the two-year licensure period and a \$50 renewal fee, regulating the keeping of chickens.

Motion carried (3-2, Councilmembers Grau and Sheveland).

City Administrator Podhradsky stated the City will need to get a process in place, as will local associations. He suggested that September 1, 2025, be the date where the city will begin applications.

Mayor Hubbard thanked Mr. Prondzinski for his input.

8.B. Public Hearing – Comcast Cable Television Franchise Renewal and Franchise Ordinance

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council and Communication Director Kevin Wright provided a presentation on it.

Mayor Hubbard asked if YouTube gets to decide if ads are run on a video. Mr. Wright confirmed that it is correct. Chaska doesn't monetize its own account.

Motion by Councilmember Sheveland, second by Councilmember Benesh to open the public hearing.

Staff stated that there doesn't need to be a motion to open a public hearing.

Mayor Hubbard opened the public hearing at 8:26 p.m.

No one wished to address the Council.

Mayor Hubbard closed the public hearing at 8:27 p.m.

9. Bills

9.A. Accounts Payable Claims Roster 30-6-2025

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

Motion carried.

10. Other Business

10.A. City Administrator's Report

10.A.i. Bi-Weekly Report 30-6-2025

10.B. Financial Reports as of 04/30/25

10.C. Q1 – 2025 Investment Report Memo

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Stated the pictures from the Pride event looked great. She congratulated the Human Rights Commission for their work on the event.
- Congratulated Riverview Terrace on their 50th anniversary. They have an event planned on July 2, 2025, to celebrate.
- Noted Fire and Ice is July 11-12, 2025.
- Added River City Days is the last weekend in July.
- Pointed out fireworks are planned for July 4, 2025.
- Encouraged community members to be respectful of their neighbors in light of the holiday.
- Congratulated Carver's Mayor Johnson on her election to Vice President of the Minnesota League of Cities.

Councilmember Grau:

- Asked for an update on the evergreens along the bike path. City Administrator Podhradsky provided an update.
- Thanked folks responsible for notifying the community about severe weather.
- Asked if the County has considered a more localized severe weather notification, similar to Hennepin's process. City Administrator Podhradsky confirmed he would look into it.

Mayor Hubbard:

- Attended the Pride Picnic, and there was a good turnout despite the heat. She suggested a public splash pad be considered for next year's event.
- Noted Chaska hosted the Metropolitan Council recently.
- Added the Police Picnic was canceled due to weather.
- Asked if the Council would participate in the Fire and Ice Parade. City Administrator Podhradsky stated the Council typically participates, but the registration for the parade hasn't opened yet.
- Pointed out the Chaska Cubs are having a great season.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Sheveland, second by Councilmember Hatfield to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Motion carried.