

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 8, 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, Grau, and Sheveland.

Absent: Councilmember Hatfield.

Also Present: Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator; Noel Graczyk, Administrative Services Director; Elise Durbin, Assistant City Administrator; Nate Kabat, Community Development Director; Krista Mark, Communications Coordinator; and Christophe Morschen, City Attorney.

4. Adopt the Agenda

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

5. Visitor Presentation

5.A. Dr. Rathke ECCS Referendum

Dr. Rathke, Superintendent of Eastern Carver County Schools (ECCS), information on the upcoming referendum. Dr. Rathke explained that educational funding from the State has not kept up with inflation. Education careers have been more competitive, and the ECCS students deserve the best teachers and school staff.

Dr. Rathke stated the School Board has decided to move forward with a referendum. The 10-year levy is intended to increase the general education by \$742 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. She detailed the investments and strategic decisions ECCS has made to best support the students. If the referendum doesn't pass, there would be increased class sizes, a reduction of music offerings, a reduction of specialized programming, and a reduction in support staff.

Dr. Rathke showed a slide comparing ECCS funding to similar districts and explained that ECCS has received less funding on the whole. She explained the referendum voting process.

Mayor Hubbard noted that folks ask why administrative costs cannot be cut instead of seeking a referendum. Dr. Rathke stated that 80 percent of their funds go directly toward students. ECCS will always look for administrative efficiencies, but they are already a lean operation.

Councilmember Grau noted his appreciation of ECCS, highlighted the community benefits of a strong school district, and encouraged support of the referendum.

Councilmember Sheveland shared her appreciation of public education.

Councilmember Benesh expressed his support for the referendum.

Mayor Hubbard explained the impact of high school personnel on the trajectory of her life. Strong schools build strong communities and vice versa.

City Administrator Podhradsky stated that Staff can prepare a statement reflecting the Council's support of the referendum, along with details about early voting.

Councilmember Sheveland suggested ECCS communicate the potential cuts that would result from the referendum failing.

5. Visitor Presentation

Other Visitors

Two youth introduced themselves and explained they were in attendance to earn a Communications Badge.

6. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

6.A. Approve the August 18, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Grau, second by Councilmember Benesh to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2025, City Council meeting.

Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Benesh, second by Councilmember Sheveland to approve the Consent Agenda Items A through H:

A. Approval of Amendment to AMI System Master Agreement

Motion to approve the First Amendment to AMI System Master Agreement between City of Chaska and Eaton Corporation, and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the amendment.

B. On-Sale Liquor at Community Event - La Hermosa Restaurant

Motion to approve On-Sale Intoxicating License at a Community Event, Lic# OSCF25.01, for La Hermosa Restaurant, 222 N. Chestnut Street, Chaska, MN, for Latin Music & Food Festival effective September 12, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

C. On-Sale Liquor at Community Event - Crooked Pint

Motion to approve On-Sale Intoxicating License at a Community Event, Lic# OSCF25.02, for Crooked Pint, 3210 Chaska Blvd, Chaska, MN, for Latin Music & Food Festival effective September 12, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

D. Adopt Resolution 2025-50, Approving Construction Plans, Bidding for Victoria Dr & Wells 11 & 12 Pumping Project

Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2025-50, Approving Construction Plans and Authorizing the bidding for the Victoria Drive Utility Improvements and the Wells 11 & 12 Pumping Facilities projects.

- E. Adopt Resolution 2025-51, Authorizing Advertisement for Bid North Water Treatment Plant Sanitary Sewer Extension

Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2025-50, Approving Construction Plans and Authorizing the bidding for the Victoria Drive Utility Improvements and the Wells 11 & 12 Pumping Facilities projects.

- F. Adopt Resolution 2025-52, Joint Resolution with Dahlgren Township for Orderly Annexation

Motion adopting Resolution 2025-52 Joint Resolution of the City of Chaska and the Township of Dahlgren pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §414.0325, designating an unincorporated area in need of orderly annexation, conferring jurisdiction of the area on the chief administrator law judge of the Minnesota State Office of Administrative Hearings.

- G. Adopt Resolution 2025-54 Final Plans & Specifications & Authorize Bid Advertisement Seminary Fen C2 Ravine Stabilization Project

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2025-54 final plans and specifications and authorize bid advertisement for the Seminary Fen C2 Ravine Stabilization Project.

- H. Adopt Resolution 2025-55, Ordering Securing Vacant property at 1 Oak Ridge Drive

Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-55, ordering the owners of Oak Ridge to secure the building against further trespassing, and authorizing the City to secure the property if the owner fails to do so in a timely manner.

Motion carried.

8. Action Items

8.A. Renewal of a Gas Utility Franchise and Franchise Fee with CenterPoint Energy

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced the item to the Council and Administrative Services Director Noel Graczyk provided a presentation on it.

8.A.i. Adopt Ordinance 2025-1069 CPE Gas Franchise

Motion by Councilmember Grau, second by Councilmember Benesh to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-1069 Granting CenterPoint Energy a Gas Utility Franchise.

Motion carried.

8.A.ii. Adopt Ordinance 2025-1070 CPE Gas Franchise Fee

Motion by Councilmember Benesh, second by Councilmember Sheveland to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-1070 Implementing a Gas Energy Franchise Fee on CenterPoint Energy.

Motion carried.

8.A.iii. Adopt Resolution 2025-48 Summary Publication

Motion by Councilmember Sheveland, second by Councilmember Grau to adopt Resolution No. 2025-48 To Approve Summary Publication of Ordinances 2025-1069, and 2025-1070.

Motion carried.

8.B. Public Hearing to Consider Certification of 2025 Delinquent Utilities and Adopt Resolution 2025-53 Approving Certification of Delinquent Utilities and Miscellaneous Unpaid Charges

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

Administrative Services Director Graczyk explained that the varying payment schedule for some utilities, in particular stormwater, can cause folks to miss payments.

Mayor Hubbard opened and closed the public hearing at 7:41 as no one wished to address the Council.

Motion by Councilmember Benesh, second by Mayor Hubbard to approve a Resolution 2025-53 approving certification of delinquent utilities and miscellaneous unpaid charges to Carver County for collection with the payable 2026 property taxes.

Motion carried.

9. Bills

9.A. Accounts Payable Claims Roster 8-9-2025

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

Motion carried.

10. Other Business

10.A. City Administrator's Report

10.A.i. Bi-Weekly Report 8-9-2025

10.B. Q2 – 2025 Investment Report

Councilmember Benesh:

- Encouraged folks to slow down and avoid texting and driving.

Councilmember Sheveland:

- Wished students well as they start a new school year.

Councilmember Grau:

- Pointed out that SouthWest Transit is likely to set records for busing to large events.
- Encouraged community members to verbally support SouthWest Transit to ensure continued funding.
- Acknowledged the tragic event at a crosswalk in Eden Prairie.
- Suggested that Chaska consider a more restrictive peddling policy.

Assistant City Administrator Elise Durbin:

- Stated EDCO, who is hoping to move their headquarters to Chaska, is in the running for the top coolest thing created in Minnesota.

Mayor Hubbard:

- Congratulated the Water Department for having the best water at the Minnesota State Fair.
- Stated the Hwy 41 construction project won Project of the Year at the national level.
- Noted the City Square Park renovation is looking great.

- Pointed out that the Fire Department Open House was occurring at the same time as the Council meeting.
- Stated Latin Fest is September 12, 2025.
- Added Chaska CAP is hosting a celebration on September 18, 2025.
- Stated Books, Beats, and Treats is September 13, 2025.
- Asked for an update on the Hwy 41 roundabout. City Administrator Podhradsky stated the roundabout should be opened by the end of the month.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Sheveland, second by Councilmember Benesh to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Motion carried.