

- MINUTES -
CHASKA CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 31, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Grau at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator; Noel Graczyk, Administrative Services Director; Elise Durbin, Assistant City Administrator; Stephen Kraus, Fire Chief; Krista Mark, Communications Coordinator; and Christophe Morschen, City Attorney.

Absent: Mayor Hubbard.

4. Adopt the Agenda

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

Motion carried.

5. Visitor Presentation

6. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

6.A. Approve the August 18, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Sheveland, second by Councilmember Hatfield, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2026, City Council meeting.

Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda

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

A. Approve Temporary On-Sale Intoxicating License for Guardian Angels Church

Motion to approve Temporary On-Sale Intoxicating License TW.26.05 for Guardian Angels Church, allowing them to serve intoxicating beverages at the AngelFest Celebration, effective September 26, 2026.

B. Accept Public Improvements for Reserve at Autumn Woods

Accept public improvements in Reserve at Autumn Woods as municipal facilities and adjust letter of credit accordingly.

C. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-77 Award Bid for the 2026 Downtown Street Reconstruction Project

Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-77, Ordering the improvements and awarding the bid for the 2026 Downtown Street Reconstruction Project to Meyer Contracting Inc., in the low bid total amount of \$1,633,975.67.

D. Approve On-Sale Liquor at Community Event – The Copperfield Chaska
Motion to approve On-Sale Intoxicating License at a Community Event, Lic# OSCF26.05, for The Copperfield Chaska, 3210 Chaska Blvd., Chaska, MN for the Latin Music & Food Festival effective September 18, 2026.

E. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-79, Authorizing and supporting the City of Chaska's Request to the Legislative – Citizen Commission
Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-79, authorizing and supporting the City of Chaska's Request to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for Environmental and Natural Resources (ENRTF) for Southwest Chaska Park Improvements.

Motion carried.

8. Action Items

8.A. Approval of Adjustment to Pension Benefits for Chaska Fire Department Association

City Administrator Podhradsky introduced Administrative Services Director Noel Graczyk to present this item to the Council and noted that Fire Chief Stephen Kraus and Firemen's Relief Association of Minnesota President, Chris Pierce, were also present to answer any questions. Mr. Graczyk presented this item.

Mr. Pierce stated he appreciated the Council's continued support and asked if the Council had any questions for him. Councilmember Hatfield asked if, in addition to updating the pension benefits, all appropriate parties had the ability to give input on the updated bylaw language. Mr. Pierce confirmed that was correct.

Mayor Pro Tem Grau asked if discussions have happened about what other Fire Departments are doing for vesting. Mr. Pierce stated the rules used to be 15 years to be 60 percent vested, and 20 years to be fully vested, and it has since dropped down to 10 years to be 60 percent vested and 15 years to be fully vested, because personnel were not making it to the 20 years.

Councilmember Benesh asked if the new full-time Duty Crew will have an impact on this in the future. Mr. Pierce stated that it would not.

Councilmember Sheveland asked if this pension is through PERA. City Administrator Podhradsky noted that Fire Departments do have the option of going through PERA, but Chaska's Fire Relief Association has always been really strong. Mr. Pierce noted that if there are not people who are willing to become members of a Fire Relief Association, then it could be handed over to the state to manage or move to PERA.

Fire Chief Kraus thanked the Council and pointed out the unique relationship between the Fire Department and the Relief Association, with 57 Fire Department members, and 48 of those are paid on-call or part-time members that benefit from the Relief Association and this increase. He added that the Chaska Fire Department could not provide the services to its residents without the paid-on-call assistance stepping up, so it is extremely important.

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Benesh, to approve a revised Chaska Fire Department Relief Association benefit structure starting as of January 1, 2027, and related bylaw amendments based on a benefit of \$3.6375 per month of service for the monthly benefit and a benefit of \$9,845 per year of service for the lump sum benefit.
Motion carried.

8.B. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-78, Rescheduling Improvement Hearing SE Collector in SW Area – Savanna Way

City Administrator Podhradsky presented this item to the Council.

Motion by Councilmember Benesh, second by Councilmember Sheveland, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-78, Rescheduling the Public Improvement Hearing to be held on April 19th, 2027, for the SE Collector – Savanna Way in SW Chaska.
Motion carried.

9. Bills

9.A. Accounts Payable Claims Roster 08-31-2026

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

10. Other Business

Councilmember Hatfield:

- Recapped her time at the last concert of the Summer Concert Series.
- Shared that the Farmer's Market is still happening on Thursday nights.
- Shared that the Community Center has all of their new equipment up and running.
- Recapped using Southwest Transit to the Fair, and transportation was very smooth.
- Shared that the State Fair and Run Fast Too are offering a BOGO for \$6 to attend both events.
- Shared upcoming events: Pizza with a Cop (September 3) at 4:00 p.m. at Redbench Bakery, the 2026 Community Academy is September 16 through October 28, with registration available online, Public Safety Open House (September 14) is 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Latin Food and Music Festival (September 18) from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Fireman's Park.

Councilmember Sheveland:

- Recapped her time at the State Fair.
- Shared that with school starting, residents should be cautious of traffic changes.

Councilmember Benesh:

- Shared the same sentiment about residents being cautious due to traffic changes with school starting.

City Administrator Podhradsky:

- Shared that ribbon cutting for the Public Safety Open House (September 14) is at 4:45 p.m.
- Shared that the local candidate forum for Chaska offices is coming up (September 3) at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Mayor Pro Tem Grau:

- Shared that there is congested traffic at the corner of Big Woods Boulevard and Chaska Boulevard.
- Shared that the Chaska Cubs season ended on August 30, after losing to Coon Rapids, and thanked all people involved with the Chaska Cubs.

10.A. City Administrator's Report

10.A.i. Biweekly 08-31-2026

11. Adjourn

Motion by Councilmember Hatfield, second by Councilmember Benesh, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Motion carried.