



# MINUTES

## Special Council Meeting

---

5:30 PM - Monday, September 23, 2024

City Hall Council Chambers

The City of Pine City Council met in Special Council Meeting on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bombard, Councilors Sloan, Hill, Pettie and Palmer all present.  
City Administrator Peterson, Nicole Tricker and Melanie Bloomquist.

#### **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Palmer made a motion to approve the agenda, Councilor Pettie seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No one requested to speak during the public forum.

#### **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

##### **a) 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION**

City Administrator Peterson informed the Council that approval is needed to submit the preliminary budget to the County. She noted that once the preliminary budget is set, the overall budget can decrease but cannot increase for the final budget. Nicole mentioned that the initial tax levy was estimated at 20.35% to help repay the general levy from overspending. After making adjustments and removing certain items from the budget, she was able to reduce it to 8.28%. The current tax levy numbers are based on the 2024 taxable market value.

Councilor Sloan inquired whether the City typically levies for the EDA. Nicole responded that this is a state statute and has been levied since at least 2022.

Nicole also updated the Council on the budget reduction achieved through health insurance numbers, as the actual figures came in about 10% lower than expected. She took the opportunity to explain her budget process to the Council.

The Council engaged in discussions regarding the Capital Improvement Project, raising questions about trails and sidewalk improvements. They requested quotes from the State of Minnesota Fleet Services and sought three quotes for equipment purchases.

Councilor Sloan expressed a desire for the Council and Department Heads to

collaborate in creating a more defined Capital Plan for the future.

**b) APPROVAL OF 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Councilor Sloan made a motion to approve Resolution 20240923-37, Councilor Palmer seconded the motion. Motion Carried with the following roll call vote: Councilor Sloan, Hill, Pettie, Palmer and Mayor Bombard all voting in favor.

Councilor Pettie made a motion to approve Resolution 20240923-38, Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion Carried with the following roll call vote: Councilor Sloan, Hill, Pettie, Palmer and Mayor Bombard all voting in favor.

**c) DECIDE ON LOCATION FOR TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING**

City Administrator Peterson suggested that the meeting be moved to a different location due to unknown circumstances concerning 315 Main Street S. Possible alternatives included using a County board room or the community room at the library. The Council expressed a preference to check the availability of the County board room.

Councilor Palmer made a motion to hold the Truth in Taxation meeting at the County Board Room, Councilor Pettie seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously. Councilor Sloan requested that if the County board room is unavailable, the City Administrator should find an alternative location.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Councilor Pettie inquired about the Pine Technical and Community College meeting that took place last week. Mayor Bombard provided an update.

**COUNCIL CONCERNS**

Councilor Palmer expressed a desire to further reduce the levy, and other council members agreed with this sentiment.

The Council also indicated that they would like to discuss potential actions against former City employees and requested City Administrator Peterson to reach out to the Minnesota League of Cities for guidance on the matter.

**ADJOURN**

Councilor Pettie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM

Minutes Completed by: Melanie Bloomquist, Deputy Clerk