

September 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the Cuyuna City Council was held at 6:00 pm at the Cuyuna Fire Hall. Present were Mayor Brix and council members Smith, Stockard, and Workman. Council member Haag was absent. Also, present were Cuyuna Police Chief Smith, Fire Department Chief Karl Hasskamp, City Engineer Tim Houle and associate Nick Peterson, and Clerk-Treasurer Bedard. Mayor Brix led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Stockard to approve the minutes for the August 11, 2025 council meeting. Second by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Workman to approve payment of the invoices and forthcoming regular monthly invoices. Second by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Report:

- Council reviewed the monthly fire department report. There were two first responder callouts for the month in the City of Cuyuna.
- September training will be the Emergency Vehicle Operating Course (EVOC Driving) through F.I.R.E.
- Council heard details for the Cuyuna Fall Festival planned by the Cuyuna Fire Department and the Cuyuna Police Department to be held on Sunday October 26 between 11AM and 5PM. The event could include vendors, hayrides, Halloween costume contest, candy hunt, pumpkin carving, raffles, and food. The event would require closing portions of Main Street and Roosevelt Avenue. Council consensus this would be a great fall event. Police Chief Smith stated he was working on a possible grant for the event.
- **Motion by Workman to approve the Cuyuna Fall Festival and close portions of Main Street and Roosevelt for the event. Second by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Fire Chief Hasskamp presented a \$12,500 check from the Cuyuna Firemen's Relief Association to the City toward the cost of the new and required County Recorded Management System (RMS). The relief association also donated \$1,500 to the City for the Fire Department Equipment Fund. Council expressed gratitude to the fire department and relief association for the donations.

Water and Sewer Report:

- No reported water or sewer issues for the city lines. Clerk-Treasurer reported the Serpent Lake Sanitary Sewer District will not increase its service fee to the City of Cuyuna in 2026.

Planning and Zoning Activity Report:

- Several inquiries for zoning, subdivision, and future building. Three home permits to date.
- Justin Burslie, Cuyuna Zoning Administrator, informed the council of a rezoning request from Brad Holmvig for a parcel of land he owns on the East Bowl of Rabbit Lake. The request is to rezone from Open "O" District to Residential Single and Two Family "R-1" District. Mr. Burslie also discussed that while short term rentals are not a permitted use in "R-1" Districts

and the city, he recommended amending the ordinance to make it more clear that short term rentals are only allowed in the Multiple Family Residential “R-2” District and “B-1” General Business District.

- **Motion by Stockard to hold a public hearing for the rezoning and ordinance amendment Monday October 13, 2025 at 5:15 PM. Second by Workman. Motion carried unanimously.**

Police Chief Report:

- Police Chief Smith provided the council with the August activity report. There were 29 traffic warnings, of which 21 were for excess speed, 7 for no proof of insurance, and 1 for illegal parking. There were an additional 2 citations for speed.
- Officers conducted extra patrols on Cottontail Drive, Snowshoe Lane, Getaway Circle, Powder House Road, Agate Shores Road, Fox Run Lane, Oak Lane, Maple Shores Road, Iron Hub Road, Kennedy Drive, Mine Shaft Place, Foothills Drive, Maple Shores Road and Foley Street.
- Among the monthly activities, officers received reports of an intoxicated driver on Foley street, a lost Kindle and notebook, a medical on Kruse Street, a harassing communications on Agate Shores Road, an unpaid camper in the Cuyuna Campground which the City Clerk handled, reports of suspicious activity on Powder House Road, a civil problem on Agate Shores Road, a suspicious vehicle driving around Foley Street, and a request for extra patrol on Foley Street.
- CPD provided several agency assistances to Crosby PD including disturbances on Michigan Avenue, Main Street, and Wallace Avenue. Officers also assisted the Deerwood PD with Summerfest and a personal injury accident on Front Street. The department also assisted the MN State Patrol with a motor accident on Hwy 210 and County Road 111.
- The department is helping with the planned Cuyuna Fall Festival.

Engineering Report:

- No update from Rural Development on the review for the future city water project. Widseth will be helping the City with the next phase of the Lead Service Line Inventory Survey.

Campground Report:

- RV site reservations continue to fill up with the nice fall weather.

Public Comments:

- No comments were received.

Unfinished Business:

- Justin Burslie, City of Cuyuna Zoning Administrator, reported the property for the Foley Street non-compliant violations is now in compliance for all 6 violation items and the property looks great. The property owner was present to thank the council for its patience. The council thanked the owner for getting the property in compliance. None of the previous complainants on the property were present in the audience to speak.
- Council heard from the city attorney that the violation of the shed on Kruse Street is still in the court process.

- Clerk-Treasurer shared there has been no response to two letters sent to the property owner to remove the bus located on the Cottontail Drive property.
- **Motion by Stockard for the city attorney to send a letter to the property owner of the bus to remove the bus. Second by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Council discussed the Agate Shores Road quiet title property. There is a house built on this property and the adjacent property owner wishes to acquire the property. Councilmember Stockard shared the quiet title property should not be given freely to the adjacent property owner who initiated the quiet title. Also, it is not fair to the neighbors and city taxpayers. He said the quiet title property is city property and the plat shows it as an extension of the city street, not a separate parcel. The county shows the property on the plat is the city's public property. He stated the title company should have caught this. Mayor Brix expressed he also agrees with Councilmember Stockard's comments. Councilmember Workman also commented the property is public. The city attorney shared he had not received any legal documents from the quiet title person's attorney, but there was a public notice in the paper for the Hautala Petition requesting vacation of the property to the adjacent property owner. The city attorney will look into the legal documents more before advising the city of any action.

New Business:

- The City water tower will be inspected and cleaned in September, requiring coordination with the fire department, the contractor, and the city water operator.
- Fire Chief Hasskamp discussed the yearly retirement contribution to the volunteer fire fighters. The current contribution is \$1,400/year/volunteer. The contribution has not risen for several years. Cuyuna firefighters are 100% volunteers, meeting all training requirements, and do not get paid for meetings, drills, training time, and callouts. The retirement contribution by the city is their only compensation. Area city retirement contributions range from \$2,600 to over \$3,000. The Fire Chief requested an increase to \$1,600/year/volunteer which would be a \$4,992 cost to the city in 2026. At the current rate of \$1,400/year/volunteer, the city does not have a contribution expense in 2026. Council discussed how the fire department adds value to the city community and shares back to the community.
- **Motion by Stockard to raise the city's yearly contribution to the volunteer fire fighters to \$1,600/year/volunteer. Second by Workman. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Council reviewed and discussed in detail the year-to-date revenues and expenses for the city, the projected year-ends, and proposed 2026 budget and levies scenarios. Council member Workman shared a small increase in the levy could help with unexpected expenses, Council member Stockard expressed leaving the levies the same with no increase. Mayor Brix shared he would not like to see the levies increase.
- **Motion by Smith to set the 2026 Expense Budget at \$489,545. Second by Stockard. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion by Smith to set the 2026 General Levy at \$316,000, the Cuyuna Fire Department Equipment Levy at \$16,000, and the Cuyuna Police Department Equipment Levy at \$16,000. Second by Stockard. Motion carried unanimously.** The 2026 levy amounts remain the same as the 2025 levy amounts; no increase.
- Council received a quote of \$13,500 for blacktop repair to the city portion of Cottontail Drive. The city 2025 budget has remaining funds for this repair. Council expressed concern that not

repairing portions of the road could lead to the snowplowing this winter scrapping up the blacktop. Also, it noted there will be increased traffic on Cottontail Drive during the summer of 2026 when the bridge on CSAH#31 is in construction resulting in detoured traffic. Some of the repairs will be overlays and two areas will be cutouts replacements.

- **Motion by Stockard to approve the quote of \$13,500 from Holmwig Excavating to repair city blacktop portions of Cottontail Drive. Second by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment:

- **Motion by Smith to adjourn. Second by Stockard. Motion carried unanimously. 6:45 pm.**

William F Bedard
Clerk.

Lloyd Brix
Mayor

Approved