

City of Bowlus
June 1st, 2026
City Council Meeting Minutes

Council Members in attendance: Travis Bartkowicz, Terri Trettel, Jessy Lashinski
Others in attendance: Nicky Lahr, Amber Brenny, Laura Montag, Brad Psyck, Josh Seelen, Joe Sobania, Becca Kleist, Elaina Sand, Alyssa Gindele, Church representatives.

Mayor Travis called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consent Agenda: Jessy made a motion to approve the consent agenda from June. Terri seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Guests: Alyssa, Becca and Elaina made a request to hold a weekly farmer's market on city property on Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. The council approved the outdoor market to take place in the NE corner of the Community Center property in the grass area (keeping vehicles off the grass). The Council requested that all vendors agree to waive liability to the City and/or provide their own liability insurance coverage. The organizers agreed and will provide the City with a copy of the application they come up with as well as the handbook with rules and regulations. Travis made a motion to approve the market. Terri seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Jessy made a motion to approve a land use permit, to tear down the old garage, and rebuild. Terri seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Amber gave the treasurer's report. She shared that the City is continuing to try to find a way to keep the First Response group covered under the City's insurance policy. The City Attorney has been asked to draft an agreement which should allow the coverage, and the shared use of the vehicles. Amber also shared that the City received \$441.10 from Tyco for a PFAS settlement, and a payout from the insurance company in the amount of \$203 for the replacement window at the Community Center. She also received confirmation of a refund check from the IRS for overpayment of 2025 Q4 and 2026 Q1 taxes. Amber reported the Water Tower capital CD from Pine Country Bank matures on July 22. Terri made a motion to reinvest at the highest rate we can get for 1 year or less. Jessy seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Lastly, the Community Center funds are in the negative. It was decided to take no action until the end of the year to see what the true costs to run the center are.

Fire Department Report: Brad gave the Fire Department report. He submitted 4 training reimbursements to the State of MN. He is working on getting quotes on new trucks as they are comparable in price to used. He is also applying for 2 grants.

Utility Department Report: Josh reported that Sarah sent the Utility bills out.

Public Works Report: Josh gave the Public Works report. He mentioned that the lawnmower needed servicing. The Council asked him to get trade-in quotes on a new unit while it's at Powerhouse.

Water/Sewer Report: Joe stated that the Chlorine injector pump had a sheared shaft. He had the motor replaced and also ordered another from USA Blue Book to get it up and running. Paul Shultz will add plug-ins to all of the pumps for easier removal/install. Travis and Joe met with the DNR. They found out the City hasn't been paying annual water fees, and will be invoiced going forward. They also found that the irrigation well next to the city will not impact the City's well, and is in a different aquifer. Jessy made a motion to approve MN Warn resolution. Terri seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Community Center Report: Lara turned in \$910 from the Community Center. She said the window is scheduled to be repaired on July 7th, and is also working on updating the rental contract. The glass companies did recommend the blinds be changed to venetian style next time they are replaced.

Clerk's Report: Nicky has everything set for the next election. She also created a poster to try to get more interest in applications for Council. The State approved all of the liquor licenses and they have been issued. Fire dept. CD was rolled over and the rate increased. Sewer CD was reopened with Edward Jones, as well as the Water tower account. Nicky also had the LMC give recommendations on the Community Center contract. They had small recommended changes that Laura will work on. Nicky is also working on Land Use permit applications.

Committee updates: The Committee will watch for Sourcewell grants that are coming out soon.

Old Business: The Council discussed the Old fire hall. It was mentioned that the County had the former Mayor's address listed on the property IDs. Nicky will make that correction. Also, Jordie is receiving the electric bill and would like the city to move that over, also indicating that the foundation is giving the building back to the City. Amber will check with the electric company to see if there needs to be ongoing charges at that location if the building will be removed in the near future, or if the meter needs to be moved. There were thoughts that the meter may connect with other city properties. It is possible that there is a well inside the building that needs to be capped also. Discussions on building a storage shed on the lot when the building is torn down.

The Community Center internet connection was reviewed. With Josh's help, the city was able to get a better quote for fiber installation. Josh will work with Sytek to get it installed in the correct location, and have it bored underground. Jessy made a motion to approve the installation. Terri seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Looking forward: The next City Council Meeting will be on August 3rd at 6:00 pm. The Candidacy filing period is July 14-28th. Call City Hall or Nicky to make arrangements to file for an open position.

Travis made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Jessy seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicky Lahr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicky Lahr
Interim City Clerk