City of Bowlus
August 3rd, 2026
City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Travis Bartkowicz called the Bowlus City Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Council Members Jessy Lashinski and Terri Trettle, Interim Treasurer Amber Brenny, and Interim Clerk Nicky Lahr were present. Also present were Becky Hughes, Joe Sobania, Josh Seelen, Sarah Seelen, Brad Psyck, Laura Montag, Keith Silbernick, Nancy Silbernick, Jordie Stay, Tom Fussy, and Lucas Boyd. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Guests: Becky Hughes was welcomed and it was shared that she would be running for a City Council position at the November election. Travis asked if she was interested in joining right away since there is a vacant spot. Terri made a motion to approve resolution 26.8.1 appointing Becky to the City Council. Jessy seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Becky recited the oath of office.
Nancy and Keith Silbernick brought a draft for approval to build a garage on their property. The Council approved the projects committee to review when they meet on the 19th to determine if it follows all new zoning ordinances. Nicky will get them a copy of the new application to fill out.

Consent Agenda: Terri made a motion to approve the consent agenda including an amended copy of disbursements from Amber, and the minutes from July. Travis seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Amber reported further communication with the MN Dept of Revenue. She was told that they will probably not implement more fines, going back to further unreported fees, but they are requiring monthly deposits on the quarterly reportings. Amber also shared that Ferguson Waterworks found an overpayment of $2190 from 2024, and will mail a refund check. Premium Waters updated the account to closed status and issued a check for $19.10. Ben Nelson from Beiganiak Insurance, requested summary of relationship with Bowlus First Response and all vehicle titles. A contract drafted by the City Attorney was shared with Lucas from the First Responders. He asked for some slight modifications including Article 2 Section 1 - remove "in conjunction with…" and also section 2 - as they do not transport at all. Article 2 #3 spelling error of "properly". He also recommended removing the standard medical supplies and equipment from the City's responsibility to provide. Nicky will redraft this and send it back for signatures. Lucas offered to give annual updates to the Council. Jordie Stay called to change the utility bills for the old fire hall into the City's account. Amber will call to find options for removal/disconnection. Magnify has a CD maturing for the Fire department on 8/12/26. Brad requested $60,000 in cash and to reinvest the remaining amount. Jessy made a motion to approve the cashout and the reinvestment at the best rate. Becky seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. The city received interest checks from Edward Jones in the amount of $1126.52 on the water tower investments. Terri made a motion to reinvest $27,000. Travis seconded it, and the motion passed with all in favor. Amber is also requesting that the city apply for a Sourcewell grant for a new laptop that is Windows 11 capable for the Treasurer, and a tablet for Joe for water/wastewater. These should come in under the $2000 threshold for the grant application. Amber received a pre-buy contract for propane use. Terri made a motion to approve the recommended 4000 gallons. Jessy seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Jordie Stay explained that since her cafe business is now a personal residence, that she would like her utility rates changed to residential instead of commercial. The council agreed and Sarah will make the changes. Jordie also talked about camping at the park. Josh will check to see if there are signs and a drop box in place for this.

Fire Department Report: Brad asked for approval to increase the retirement fund benefit level amount from $1500 to $1700. Jessy made a motion to approve this increase. Travis seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Brad also let everyone know that the fire department would be using the council chambers on August 25th from 4:30-8:00. They will be busy with the Zapzalka funeral and Sobieski national night out event. Brad submitted 2 bids for purchase of a new truck, to keep on file. They will continue the process of the truck purchase.

Utility Department Report: Sarah reported that there is a residence that is not being sprayed for mosquitos due to their location. Terri made a motion to discontinue the service after this contract expires. Jessy seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Maintenance Report: Josh worked more with Sytek on the install of fiber internet at the community center. Jessy made a motion to approve quote A with no install charges. Terri seconded and the motion passed with all in favor. A contract will be sent to be signed by staff. Josh also shared 2 quotes for a brush hog. The City will be seeking Sourcewell grants for this. Travis mentioned to Josh that there may be repairs/adjustments done to the zipline at the park, there was a missing swing and some chains hanging loose. Josh said he would check with the individuals that installed the equipment. Joe recommended that the city does an annual playground inspection.

Public Works Report: Joe is working with Schultz to wire the pumps by the end of August. He also reported that 2 fire hydrants were repaired with rural water. More will need repairs in the future as well, since they are aging.

Community Center Report: Laura turned in $1250 from the Community Center, and reported that she updated the rental contract per recommendation. She said that one of the freezers was not working and would like someone to get rid of it if possible. Laura and Travis spoke about the window repair. They said that it was not done well, and she would call them back to fix the issues.

Clerk's Report: Nicky submitted the affidavit for candidacy applications to the county. She enrolled Josh and Laura into PERA, and set up ACH for PERA payments, and has been working on the PERA exclusion reporting. Nicky drafted a land use permit application.Council approved draft with minor corrections.

Committee Updates: Next meeting is scheduled for June 19th at 6:00 p.m. Grant applications will be the main topic of discussion.

Travis made a motion to adjourn at 7:48. Jessy seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Looking forward: Next Council meeting is September 1st, 2026 due to the Holiday.

Nicky Lahr
Interim City Clerk