

City of Bowlus
January 5th, 2026
City Council Meeting Minutes

Bowlus City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Travis Bartkowicz, Council Members: Jessy Lashinski and Terri Trettle, Treasurer Molly Sobania, and Interim Clerk Nicky Lahr present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jessy made a motion to approve Roll Call, and Terri seconded it. Motion passed.

Jessy made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes with a correction that Paul Schultz will be submitting a quote for lighting at the Community Center. Terri seconded it, and the motion passed.

Molly presented the bills to be paid, and included one addition. Terri made a motion to approve December's payables. Jessy seconded it and the motion passed.

Molly gave the Treasurer's report. As this was her last day, she shared the tasks that were completed for month and year end. Molly explained that she completed the year end report, but it would need to be submitted to the State yet. Payroll and W2's and W3's were completed for the year. She said that the 1099s would need to be completed for 2025. Molly reported that all proprietary fund balances were in the positive and 2026 budgets and levy were set. Molly handed out budget details for each of the department heads. She turned in the City laptop and agreed to be available for questions if they arose. Terri made a motion to approve the report. Jessy seconded it and the motion passed. Terri made a motion to accept the vacancy of the Treasurer position, and to remove Molly Sobania, Jude Stodolka, and Jake Wentland from the City's bank account. Jessy seconded it, and the motion passed.

Fire Chief Brad Psyck gave the Fire Department report. The truck build is in process and will be meeting with the company for an update and to submit the final specs for the build. He is also working with Stearns Electric for a low interest loan for approximately \$300,000-\$350,000. He shared that the call volume was up in 2025 from past years with 23 total. Brad is also working on changing out door codes for the fire hall.

Sarah Seelen presented the Utilities report. She has the quarterly bills printed and asked if any City notices should go out with them. Travis requested a memo to be included that lists the open positions including Treasurer, Council Member and Clerk. He would also like the notice to inform residents of the updated ordinance list that is now available on the City website. Nicky will draft this and make 140 copies. Josh Seelen also requested that memos be sent out to a few residents reminding them of winter parking and snow placement ordinances. Sarahh will get that information to Nicky. She also mentioned that envelopes and stamps would need to be ordered soon.

Joe Sobania issued the public works report. He is in the process of looking for sewer mapping for an issue that was brought to his attention on 4th Street. There was also a resident's question about sewer location and what type of pipes were used so root cleanouts could safely happen. Joe took their contact information and will get back to them. Joe also shared a pamphlet to the Council for Bollig Engineering firm, that he feels would be more responsive. Moore Engineering would like followup with awning and land use ordinances. Jessy will follow up and give the recommended changes.

Jordie Stay turned in \$1800 from Community Center rentals. She introduced Laura Montag who took over the position as of January 1st. Jordie said she is waiting on a bid for replacement lights in the community hall. She also mentioned that the City will need to come up with a solution for taking phone calls for the Community Center rentals. Jordie asked if someone would call Sytek and have them record a new directory message on the voicemail that would forward calls directly to Laura. She said that could be done with other departments as well. The Council asked Nicky to do this and to also have the VM login codes changed.

A resident reported that he lived near the hockey rink and was happy to see the heavy use this year. He mentioned that he was picking up trash left behind and asked that a garbage can be placed outside. Terri said she would move one over from the community center and the resident offered to put the can on the curb for Long Prairie Sanitation to pick up weekly. Sarahh will inform LPS of the change.

In old business, the Equalization meeting will be on April 10th and open to the public. The 2026 levy will remain at 12%

In new business; A liner was purchased for the ice rink. The Fire Department donated \$1000 towards this. Lucas Boyd turned in a receipt for reimbursement and mentioned that he is looking into the possibility of moving the ice rink after this year. They would like to see it closer to the community center. Laura Montag was hired for the Community Center, and the final payroll check was issued to Doreen Loomis. Molly Sobania resigned as Treasurer, and Travis mentioned that his sister may be willing to step in for interim. A special meeting took place on December 17th where Nicky Lahr was hired as interim City Clerk until a Clerk can be elected, and Travis Bartkowicz was sworn in as Mayor.

Terri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46. Jessy seconded it and the motion passed.

Nicky Lahr

Nicky Lahr
Interim City Clerk