



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## Regular Council Meeting

**June 24, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Supple at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

*Council Present:* Mary Supple, Mayor; Walter Burk; Sharon Christensen; Sean Hayford Oleary; and Rori A. Coleman-Woods.

*Staff Present:* Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; Melissa Poehlman, Community Development Director, Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; and Michelle Friedrich, City Clerk.

*Others Present:* Hennepin County Commissioner Goettel, Tynika Smith; Terry Smith, Director of the Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Supple led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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| <b>ITEM #1</b> | <b>2025 GENE AND MARY JACOBSEN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION</b> |
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Mayor Supple invited Kim Jacobsen to present the award.

Mr. Jacobsen introduced the award, providing background information before presenting it to Tynika Smith. He recognized Ms. Smith’s accomplishments and her volunteer contributions to the community. Ms. Smith expressed her gratitude, praised the community’s support, and encouraged continued kindness.

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| <b>ITEM #2</b> | <b>HENNEPIN COUNTY UPDATE -- COMMISSIONER GOETTEL</b> |
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Mayor Supple welcomed Hennepin County Commissioner Goettel to Richfield.

Commissioner Goettel provided an update, noting a tribute in memory of Melissa Hortman and her husband following their passing. Commissioner Goettel presented a breakdown of Hennepin County 2025 expenditures and shared information regarding investments in affordable housing in

Hennepin County, noted the Elevate Hennepin program that connects entrepreneurs with 1-on-1 mentorship in Hennepin County. Commissioner Goettel highlighted partnerships with County schools, emphasizing Hennepin County has one of the strongest school-based behavioral health systems in the nation. Commissioner Goettel discussed efforts to expand mental health support across the county. Commissioner Goettel reviewed the work of the Human Services Department within the community including access to aging and disability services, mental health and substance use services, and progress toward child safety and well-being. Commissioner Goettel noted current and future road construction projects in Hennepin County. Commissioner Goettel thanked Council and staff for their work and for the opportunity to present at the Council meeting.

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| <b>ITEM<br/>#3</b> | <b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b> |
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**MOTION:** made by Councilmember Hayford O'Leary, seconded by Councilmember Burk to approve Agenda with the removal of agenda item 6.

City Attorney Tietjen noted removal request of item 6 was to allow the item to be heard by an independent hearing officer. Council requested information on the hearing schedule.

Motion carried: 5-0

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| <b>OPEN FORUM</b> |
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Mayor Supple reviewed the participation options for residents at the Council meeting including in-person comments, comments by voicemail or email, and an option to request to participate virtually with advance notice. Mayor Supple noted more information on submitting comments can be reviewed at [www.richfieldmn.gov/citycouncil](http://www.richfieldmn.gov/citycouncil).

Karole Kelly discussed recent, derogatory comments posted on the City of Richfield's social media site regarding the PRIDE event. Ms. Kelly noted the importance of safety, kindness, and a welcoming environment. Ms. Kelly noted supporting efforts and ensuring all people are seen, and that Richfield is inclusive. Ms. Kelly thanked Council for making Richfield a welcoming community.

Christina Kelley noted that she does not support the ban of menthol cigarettes. Ms. Kelley stated the concerns she has with the ban on flavored cigarettes and opined the ban hurts businesses.

Kareem Wazwaz, tobacco shop owner for over 30 years, does not support ban and noted that banning flavored menthol is harming his business. Mr. Wazwaz added that he takes many steps to prevent selling to minors, noting that minors will find other ways to buy these products that may be more dangerous. Mr. Wazwaz requested Council reconsider the ban on menthol tobacco.

Larry Ernster discussed a past case of prohibiting flavored tobacco sales in 2023. Mr. Ernster stated that the owner of Richfield Tobacco should be reprimanded, and their license should be revoked for not obeying the ordinances in the City of Richfield.

Susan Hamlin, non-resident of Richfield, does not support the ban on menthol cigarettes. Ms. Hamlin noted support of Richfield Tobacco and stated that she would not like to see the owner's business suffer from the ban.

City Clerk Friedrich read an email from Sloan Martin stating their disappointment with the destruction of basketball hoops in the City parks.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** made by Councilmember Christensen, seconded by Councilmember Burk to approve the minutes of the: (1) City Council Work Session from June 10, 2025, and (2) City Council Regular Meeting from June 10, 2025.

Motion carried: 5-0

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| <b>ITEM #4</b> | <b>CONSENT CALENDAR</b> |
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

- A. Consider adoption of a resolution authorizing the City to affirm the monetary limits on statutory municipal tort liability. (Staff Report No. 78)

**RESOLUTION NO. 12326  
RESOLUTION AFFIRMING MUNICIPAL TORT LIABILITY LIMITS ESTABLISHED  
BY MINNESOTA STATUTES 466.04**

- B. Consider the approval of setting a public hearing to be held on July 22, 2025, to consider the issuance of new On-Sale Wine and 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor licenses for SK Food, LLC dba K-ChiMac, located at 6420 Nicollet Avenue South. (Staff Report No. 79)
- C. Consider the approval of an agreement for Prosecution Services with the City of Richfield and H/J Law. (Staff Report No. 80)
- D. Consider accepting the bid tabulation and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to take all necessary steps to award and execute a contract with the responsible low bidder for the 73rd Street Safe Routes to School project (SP 157-593-003) upon authorization from MnDOT and authorize the City Manager to approve contract changes up to \$175,000 without further City Council consideration. Accepting the bid tabulation is only a formal acknowledgement of the City’s receipt of bids for the project. It does not include an award of the contract. (Staff report No. 81)
- E. Consider a resolution accepting a Hennepin County Youth Sports Equipment Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the purchase of skate aids, hockey equipment, rental skates, and rink dividers at the Richfield Ice Arena, and authorize staff to execute a grant agreement. (Staff Report No. 82)

**RESOLUTION NO. 12327  
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A HENNEPIN COUNTY YOUTH SPORTS EQUIPMENT  
GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ICE SKATING  
EQUIPMENT FOR THE RICHFIELD ICE ARENA.**

- F. Consider a resolution accepting two State of Minnesota Solar on Public Buildings Program Grants for \$67,064 and \$68,785 to purchase and install solar energy equipment on the roofs of the Richfield Ice Arena and the Richfield Public Works building. (Staff report No. 83)

**RESOLUTION NO. 12328**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TWO MINNESOTA SOLAR ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS PROGRAM GRANTS, FOR \$67,064 AND \$68,785, FOR THE PURCHASE OF SOLAR ENERGY EQUIPMENT FOR THE RICHFIELD ICE ARENA AND THE RICHFIELD PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING.**

**MOTION:** made by Councilmember Hayford Oleary, seconded by Councilmember Christensen to approve the consent calendar.  
Motion carried: 5-0

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| <b>ITEM #5</b> | <b>CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR</b> |
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None.

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| <b>ITEM #6</b> | <b>CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REVOCATION OF A TOBACCO LICENSE ISSUED TO RICHFIELD TOBACCO &amp; VAPE OUTLET, DBA SMOKE &amp; PURE VAPE, LOCATED AT 6535 NICOLLET AVENUE SOUTH, FOR EGREGIOUS FLAVORED PRODUCT AND CANNABIS SALES VIOLATIONS (STAFF REPORT NO. 84)</b> |
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Public Hearing item was removed from the agenda.

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| <b>ITEM #7</b> | <b>CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH METRO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO OPERATE UP TO FIVE ADDITIONAL HOUSING UNITS UNDER THE FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM. (STAFF REPORT NO. 85)</b> |
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Council Member Burk presented Staff Report 85.

Terry Smith, Director of Metro Housing and Redevelopment Authority provided a background on the coop item.

Council shared their appreciation for working to provide more affordable housing options in Richfield.

**MOTION:** made by Councilmember Burk, seconded by Councilmember Coleman-Woods to approve an amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with Metro Housing and Redevelopment Authority to operate up to five additional housing units under the Family Affordable Housing Program.  
Motion carried: 5-0

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| <b>ITEM #8</b> | <b>CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. (STAFF REPORT NO. 86)</b> |
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Councilmember Christensen presented Staff Report 86.

**MOTION:** made by Councilmember Christensen, seconded by Councilmember Coleman-Woods to approve the appointment of Jacob Olsen as Transportation Commissioner commencing on June 24, 2025, and expiring January 31, 2026.

Motion carried: 5-0

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| <b>ITEM #9</b> | <b>CITY MANAGER’S REPORT</b> |
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City Manager Rodriguez shared Deputy Chief Mike Flaherty is retiring and noted his last day will be June 25, 2025. City Manager Rodriguez thanked him for his years of dedicated service. Council expressed appreciation to Deputy Chief Flaherty for his years of service.

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| <b>ITEM #10</b> | <b>CLAIMS AND PAYROLL</b> |
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**MOTION:** made by Councilmember Coleman Woods, seconded by Councilmember Hayford Oleary to approve the following claims and payroll:

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| <b>U.S. BANK</b>          | <b>06/20/2024</b>     |
| A/P Checks: 336807-337219 | \$1,816,019.67        |
| Payroll: 197470-197861    | <u>\$1,133,137.31</u> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>\$2,949,156.98</b> |

Motion carried: 5-0

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| <b>ITEM #11</b> | <b>HATS OFF TO HOMETOWN HITS</b> |
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Councilmember Hayford Oleary expressed excitement for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and is thankful for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee for its work on planning the celebration.

Councilmember Burk thanked the Public Works Department for working on water quality and for sending out that information.

Councilmember Coleman-Woods thanked City staff for working to keep them safe as elected officials.

Councilmember Christensen noted appreciation for the Richfield 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee. She also mentioned the Committee still needs volunteers and provided the information for volunteering.


Mayor Supple thanked everyone who attended the State of the Community event. She also thanked everyone involved in the Juneteenth pop-up event.

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| <b>ITEM #12</b> | <b>ADJOURNMENT</b> |
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**MOTION:** made by Councilmember Hayford Oleary, seconded by Councilmember Christensen to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Motion carried: 5-0

Date Approved: July 22, 2025



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Mary B. Supple  
Mayor



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Michelle Friedrich  
City Clerk



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Katie Rodriguez  
City Manager