

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
4:30 PM**

**CITY OF OIL CITY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 13, 2026**

Meeting called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Kluck at 4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Mayor Kluck, Councilman Walentosky, Councilman Craig, Councilman Gustafson, Councilwoman Wisniewski.

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: None.

Recording Secretary: Jena Knight

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 23, 2026 was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES – REGULAR
MEETING – MARCH 23,
2026

REVISION OF AGENDA

REVISION OF AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A Letter was Received from the YWCA Samuel Justus Summer Playground Program Requesting Use of the Hasson Park Playground and Mitchell Avenue Playground for the 48th season of providing recreational activities for the youth of Oil City. The program will begin on June 8, 2026 and end on July 10, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. There will be a variety of arts and crafts, contests and sporting events. Daily lunch will also be provided in collaboration with the County of Venango.

WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS

LETTER FROM YWCA
SAMUEL JUSTUS
SUMMER
PLAYGROUND
PROGRAM – USE OF
HASSON PARK AND
MITCHELL AVENUE
PLAYGROUNDS

Mayor Kluck remarked that this program has served area youth for many decades. It is a great program.

A motion to Approve the Request of the YWCA Samuel Justus Summer Playground Program for Use of Hasson Park Playground and Mitchell Avenue Playground from June 8, 2026 through July 10, 2026 was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Craig and was approved.

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The next item was a Letter from Cork N Screw Wines Requesting Permission to Close Seneca Street for an Event on August 15, 2026. Jodi and Shawn Podrat, owners of Cork N Screw Wines were present to speak. Mrs. Podrat indicated that they would like to close Seneca Street from Clifford Street to Center Street on August 15 from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The event will include outdoor activities and will allow other Seneca Street businesses the opportunity to participate as well.

**LETTER FROM CORK N
SCREW WINES –
PERMISSION TO CLOSE
SENECA STREET FOR
AN EVENT - TABLED**

Mayor Kluck voiced a concern about this proposed event. He did not know if anyone had spoken with PennDOT about it. He is unsure if they will allow the street closure in conjunction with the closure of the Veterans' Bridge for BridgeFest. Mayor Kluck asked Chief Ruditis about it. Chief Ruditis said that it is up to PennDOT as to whether or not they will approve it. Mrs. Podrat said that they were unsure as to the steps needed to take. Chief Ruditis said that approval from the governmental agency comes first, then PennDOT is petitioned for approval.

Councilman Gustafson asked if there is any space on the bridge. Mrs. Podrat said that she was told that the Arts Council asked vendors from outside of the area to participate.

Councilwoman Wisniewski said that she would like to check into this as she is the Council representative for the Arts Council. She wants to have local businesses take precedent at this type of event. She was not in attendance at the last Arts Council meeting. She would like to look into this further to see if there may be a solution. Mrs. Podrat is fine with that. She said that they did send correspondence to the Arts Council about the issue. She stated that, initially, the response was positive; however, follow through has not been good. They know that, during last year's BridgeFest event, other businesses on Seneca Street were not seeing an influx of patrons.

Mrs. Podrat said that, if they could not be a part of the BridgeFest event, they could try to do something on the street.

Mayor Kluck asked if this should be approved, pending word from PennDOT. Councilman Walentosky then asked Mrs. Podrat if they would rather be on the bridge or on the

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street. She replied that “no one wants to be the second-choice vendor.” At the same time, she believes that there is a lot which she and her husband could do on Seneca Street. She said that the success with First Fridays has been very good. The proposed event would not be on a huge scale. They want a “street fair” type of atmosphere. They have not yet spoken with other businesses. They wanted to make sure all was approved before approaching anyone. Their first choice would probably be street closure.

Councilman Gustafson said that most people would be on the bridge. He said BridgeFest is a very popular event.

Mayor Kluck then asked if this should be approved, pending PennDOT’s approval and Councilwoman Wisniewski’s report from the Arts Council. Councilman Gustafson said that it would be better if they were on the bridge and Councilman Craig concurred, but is not against the street closure. Councilman Gustafson commented that Seneca Street would be the only way to get through town, with the bridge closure. He does not know how the street closure will affect traffic in the downtown area. Councilwoman Wisniewski has the same concerns.

It was decided to table this request until more information is garnered. Mayor Kluck said that information will be sought from PennDOT regarding the possible closure of Seneca Street.

A motion to Table the Request of Cork N Screw Wines to Close Seneca Street on August 15, 2026 was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

The next item was a Communique from Oil City Main Street Requesting Permission to Revise Prior Requests Approved by City Council in January 2026. There were just a couple of revisions to the events. The first was adding July 25 from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. as an additional First Friday/Christmas in July. Regarding Curb Market, no parking was requested. For the ARMA Fest, a battle of the bands was requested to be held.

A motion to Approve the Revision of Oil City Main Street Previously Approved Requests was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman

**COMMUNIQUE FROM
OIL CITY MAIN
STREET – PERMISSION
TO REVISE PRIOR
REQUESTS APPROVED
IN JANUARY 2026**

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Walentosky and was approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Hoovler informed Council that the street sweeper is still out of commission. A part has been on order and should be delivered to the City very soon.

The new leaf truck was recently delivered. It is a nice truck. Training for operators will be scheduled later in the month. It can be used for storm clean-ups, etc. It can be used for things other than during leaf season.

Mayor Kluck asked if the truck could be parked on Seneca Street sometime so that people can view it. He suggested that it be a part of the Touch-A-Truck event with the Oil Heritage Festival. Everyone thought that would be a great idea.

Mrs. Hoovler then said that there have been several meetings recently regarding pickleball. It has been decided to convert approximately 25% of the skatepark into pickleball courts. The Public Works Department has begun to move some of the skate equipment into another section in order to free up some space. They are also making some repairs to the existing skatepark to improve the area.

She then spoke briefly about parking in town. A meeting was held recently with Mayor Kluck, Chief Ruditis, Chris Gorman and Joan Schettler to discuss some parking issues. It was decided to remove the loading zone in front of the Hileman & Woods building. A couple of parking spots were created on Seneca Street. There will be another meeting soon in order to finalize some further suggestions to present to Council for discussion.

Mayor Kluck saw that the parking spots have been created. He asked if the first one will be designated as a handicapped space. The answer was yes.

Mrs. Hoovler then stated that Jolene Hurrelbrink of the Fire Department secured a grant in the amount of \$20,054.00 from Firehouse Subs. This funding will allow the department to purchase three new, top-of-the-line thermal imaging cameras. They will replace the ones that the department currently has which are outdated.

MANAGER'S REPORT

**STREET SWEEPER
UPDATE**

LEAF TRUCK UPDATE

PICKLEBALL UPDATE

PARKING IN THE CITY

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
GRANT
PROCUREMENT**

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Firehouse Subs will purchase the cameras and send them to the City. There will be no exchange of monies. Seventy percent of the funds which are distributed by Firehouse Subs comes from their customers.

Mrs. Hoovler then said that the Community Development Department is undergoing two separate monitorings by the DCED. One is for the 2018 and 2019 contracts. The other is for fiscal monitoring for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. Council will need to, post-monitoring, review and update several standard policies and there may be some new requirements which will be on the horizon.

**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT
MONITORINGS**

She then said that, by April 26, 2027, the City's website will be required to become ADA-compliant. It will need to have an audio component for visually impaired users, adjustable fonts for dyslexic users, etc. She is working with Mr. Hartman to meet with vendors to determine if the current site can be upgraded or if a new one would need to be constructed.

**CITY WEBSITE –
REQUIREMENT FOR
ADA COMPLIANCE**

She informed Council that a representative from Cultivate Power attended a recent Planning Commission meeting and made a proposal for a solar farm. This would take place on Oak Grove Street near the Oil City High School. The City does not currently have regulations related to solar farms. This matter may be on an upcoming Council agenda for discussion.

**SOLAR FARM
INFORMATION**

Councilman Craig remarked that William Moon had been in attendance at a Council meeting and informed Council that this matter might come up.

At this time, Mrs. Hoovler introduced a new employee. Allan Andres was hired as a mechanic in the Public Works Department. He has many years experience and should do a great job for the City. Mrs. Hoovler commented that, with the 2026 budget, money was allocated for a second mechanic.

**INTRODUCTION OF
NEW EMPLOYEE –
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
– ALLAN ANDRES**

CURRENT BUSINESS

CURRENT BUSINESS

The first item was Firehouse Subs Grant Approval. This was discussed earlier in this meeting. Chief Alex informed Council that this is a competitive grant. There was a lot of work placed into getting it. He said that grants such as this

**FIREHOUSE SUBS
GRANT APPROVAL**

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assist with getting new pieces of equipment which are needed by the department. Mayor Kluck lauded the department for their efforts in obtaining the funding for the cameras. Mayor Kluck stated that Oil City has the best fire department in the County.

A motion to Approve the Firehouse Subs Grant was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

The next item was a Letter of Interest from David Ragon for the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Ragon stated in his letter that he believed that his years of service with the City would make him a good fit for the board. Mr. Ragon would fill the last open spot on the board.

LETTER OF INTEREST –
ZONING HEARING
BOARD – DAVID
RAGON

A motion to Approve the Letter of Interest from David Ragon for the Zoning Hearing Board was made by Councilman Gustafson, seconded by Councilman Walentosky and was approved.

The next item was a Proclamation for Arbor Day. Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 24, 2026. Trees will be planted in Hasson Park, with fifth grade students from the Oil City School District in attendance to assist. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. on April 24.

ARBOR DAY
PROCLAMATION

The next item was a Proclamation for National Home Visiting Week. National Home Visiting Week will be held April 20 to April 24, 2026. Councilwoman Wisniewski commented that the home visitors and doulas do some very important work. It is imperative that children build bonds with their families so that they do not suffer negatively as they grow.

NATIONAL HOME
VISITING WEEK
PROCLAMATION

The next item was a Livestreaming Presentation by Rafi Perez & Klee Angelei. Mr. Perez saw in the newspaper that the City was in the market for livestreaming services. He provided, for Council's perusal, a listing of equipment which would be necessary for livestreaming, along with costs. He wanted to be able to assess what equipment the City already has and what would be needed.

LIVESTREAMING
PRESENTATION

Mayor Kluck was unsure as to whether or not the current microphones were in working order, as they would be needed. There is an interface. Mrs. Angelei asked if the

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entire Council Chambers would be included or if just the half in which the Council table is included. The answer was that the livestreaming would encompass the podium and the Council table.

Mr. Perez asked if they could come into Council Chambers to assess the room and what it would take to livestream the meetings. This would enable him to prepare a proposal. Mayor Kluck said that would not be a problem. He said that Mrs. Hoovler can be approached to access the floor.

Mr. Perez asked if a camera could be placed at the drop ceiling. That should be no problem.

Councilwoman Wisniewski said that the City has no equipment currently. Council has been looking into options. She then said that one of the Junior Councilpeople mentioned something called an owl for livestreaming purposes. She said that she believes that there is equipment which could be hooked into a laptop as well. Easy operation is being looked at as well. Mr. Perez said that is what he would propose. There is software which is "open source" and should be free. He said that the meeting could appear as a television program, if desired. The camera doesn't need to be fancy. He gave Council prices of equipment from lowest to highest prices. He said that he does livestreams all of the time. He has high-end equipment; however, he uses lower-end and it is just as good.

Councilman Gustafson said that he enjoys what Mr. Perez has done on YouTube. It is done well. He wants to be able to have people see what happens with the City. Councilwoman Wisniewski echoed that and said that she wants people to be able to know what is going on if they are not able to attend a meeting. She thinks it is important for the public to see how Council works together. Mr. Perez commented that there would be a good level of transparency with livestreaming the meetings. Councilman Walentosky asked if the number of views would be identifiable. The answer was yes. The meetings could be viewed on YouTube. Comments can be turned off.

Mrs. Angelei said she would arrange a time with Mrs. Hoovler to view the space and talk about logistics.

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**FISCAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS**

**FISCAL,
CONTRACTUAL AND
BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS**

The following Vouchers were presented for Council's review and approval.

VOUCHERS

General Fund	\$	433,132.46
Water and Sewer		220,531.03
Investment Account		40,000.00
Capital Reserve Account		27,834.66
Arts Council		3,405.77
Payroll Account		922.95
Police 5K		546.45
Industrial Park		3,942.81

A motion to Approve the Vouchers was made by Councilman Craig, seconded by Councilwoman Wisniewski and was approved.

The next item was the February 2026 Financial Reports.

**FEBRUARY 2026
FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A motion to Approve the February 2026 Financial Reports was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Gustafson and was approved.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

**RESOLUTIONS &
ORDINANCES**

INFORMATIONAL

INFORMATIONAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Podrat of Cork N Screw spoke about buildings in the downtown area which have been boarded up. She feels that they do not look good. She hopes for a collaboration with the building owner or another entity to "beautify" the buildings.

**DOWNTOWN
BUSINESSES –
BOARDED UP**

Councilman Gustafson stated that he was under the impression that, several years ago, there was an ordinance adopted relating to the temporary boarding up of buildings with plywood. He believed the plywood was supposed to have been painted black. He said that OSB is a "dead giveaway" and the color black was to make it look like a "shadow" and not have so much attention drawn to it.

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Councilman Craig was in favor of the idea. He said that Council is reviewing ordinances to see how much the City can do relating to some of the buildings and getting property owners to take care of the buildings.

Mayor Kluck asked if the City can do something with the IOOF Building. He asked if the City technically owns it now. Mrs. Hoover said she thought it could be done. Mayor Kluck said that he could wash the windows.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that buildings covered over with OSB do not look good. Mayor Kluck said that there is a new piece of OSB in the downtown area. It is on the former Grandview Estates Building. One of the windows is broken.

This matter will be reviewed going forward.

Tessa Byham of the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce spoke about the upcoming Oil Heritage activities. The festival will be held July 23 to 26. They would like to have use of some areas in the City. They want to use Towne Square on July 22 for a concert in cooperation with the Main Street Program, close Central Avenue Plaza on July 23 for activities (all day), use of Justus Park on July 24 for a concert, closure of Seneca Street for Heritage Friday on July 24, closure of a portion of West First Street for the Firemen's 5K on July 25, closure of West First Street for the parade on July 25. There will also be another concert in Justus Park on July 25. They also want to use Towne Square for a craft show on July 25 and 26. Closure of Seneca Street was also requested on July 26 for a car show. Most of the requests are in keeping with what has transpired in the past. The only change is closing Seneca Street on July 24. Mrs. Byham said that the City has been consulted regarding these plans and how the City can support the plans.

**VENANGO AREA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE – OIL
HERITAGE REQUESTS**

Mayor Kluck stated that these requests will be approved at the April 27, 2026 Council meeting.

Mrs. Byham informed Council that the theme for this year is America's 250th Birthday Party. She said it will be interesting to see how people incorporate this into their float designs. Anyone can participate in the parade.

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Mayor Kluck then said that Main Street is having a window decorating contest in conjunction with the country's 250th birthday.

Lucas McFetridge spoke about the proposed solar farm. He said that he has concerns with that. He owns two properties in the area in which it is proposed. He is worried about property depreciation should it come to fruition. He currently works for PennDOT and has seen first-hand the effects from the solar farm placed in Cranberry Township on the Rockland Road. The road was destroyed. PennDOT was out almost everyday cleaning up. He wanted to bring this to Council's attention and advised them to do research before agreeing to anything. It was a nightmare in Cranberry Township. He assumed that this matter will be on an upcoming agenda. Mayor Kluck said that it will be.

**SOLAR FARM
COMMENTS**

Councilman Gustafson commented that he believes that there may be some hurdles to jump with this issue. Mr. McFetridge said that he just wanted to voice his concerns over the matter.

Harry Whittemore of the Venango County Veterans' Affairs Office was present to give an update regarding the banners for the bridges. He brought some of the banners with him for all to view. They turned out very well. The banners will be placed on the bridges soon. He was able to get Senator Hutchinson's office to procure twenty-five new American flags. They will also be placed on the bridges. New hardware will be utilized.

**VETERANS' AFFAIRS –
BANNERS FOR
BRIDGES**

Mr. Whittemore said that he had the banners made in the size which the City already uses. The hardware will not need to be changed out when the time comes to place holiday banners.

He then showed Council the banners which he brought. There were a couple of banners depicting Spc. Jonathan Kephart, which will be placed on the Spc. Jonathan Kephart Bridge (the former Petroleum Street Bridge).

Mr. Whittemore stated that the people who sponsored flags will receive a mini flag to display as well.

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He said that there will be a lot of nice banners going up on the Veterans' Bridge also. He believes that everything will look great once the banners have been placed. He hopes the life of the banners would be two years. The banners will be stored at the American Legion when taken down for the season.

Mayor Kluck asked when they will be placed. Mr. Whittemore said that they will be placed very soon and taken down the day after Veterans' Day.

Mayor Kluck asked if the banners shown on this date are sponsored by Veterans' Affairs. Mr. Whittemore stated that they are sponsored by several individuals and entities. He said this will be done for two years to see how things go.

Mr. Whittemore said that the VFW will also have banners going up in town. He doesn't know where in the process they are.

Mayor Kluck said that the Veterans' Affairs banners will go up on the bridges and the VFW has ordered twenty banners which will be placed in town. The VFW is still taking applications.

It is hoped that, with the removal of the banners during the winter months, they will last longer. Mr. Whittemore stated that the true test of the banners will be the bridges. The wind will be a factor. He doesn't want to see torn flags on the bridges. He said they were tested and the airport wind tore them up. It will be trial and error.

Councilman Walentosky commented that the banners are very nice. Mayor Kluck said this is a fantastic program. Councilman Gustafson likes the Kephart banners. Mr. Whittemore said that he hopes Spc. Kephart's father can come to view the banners.

Mr. Whittemore said these banners are durable and the company stands by their product. He stated that there are more spots available for them. He also wants to put some out at Two Mile.

The banners being placed on the bridges are for those veterans who received purple hearts. Venango County is

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called a Purple Heart County due to the fact that the County has a lot of Purple Heart Veterans.

He went on to say that there are a lot of good photos on the banners.

Mayor Kluck thanked Mr. Whittemore for all of his work with this project. It will be a nice addition to the City. The project began in 2021.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

**CITY COUNCIL
REPORTS/COMMENTS**

BLIGHT IN THE CITY

Councilman Gustafson commented that there is a significant blight problem in the City's neighborhoods. The City has been focused on the downtown business district. He said that, because the City has had a good relationship with the County and Commonwealth, some things have been rectified. He has had communication with people in residential neighborhoods asking what they can do to deal with some of the blight. He has been doing research and found the 2025 judicial tax sale. Twenty-four properties have been added to the unsold property list. There are currently 125 condemned properties in the City. The majority are in residential neighborhoods. There is no easy answer for the problem. He said he would like to begin exploring some of the issues behind this problem. He wants to bring people in with some knowledge to have informal meetings. He wants to get some strategy to curb the issue.

He went on to say that, at one time, there were over 24,000 people in the City. The population is now under 10,000. There are a lot of homes which will not get any attention again. He believes the City needs to begin to be more aggressive and find ways to remove blighted influences. He believes that if one blighted property is removed, the neighbors begin to make improvements. He said this has always been an issue for him. He has served on several boards and has seen blighted issues for many years. He said that, once he was elected to Council, infrastructure problems were the focus. He has heard some good suggestions recently regarding cleaning up blight. He wants to try to get some resolution. Some property owners are out of state. Private sales of properties cannot be stopped.

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He believes that residents want to see blight stopped. Taxes are paid to the City and property owners want their property values to remain high and neighborhoods to be livable.

He would like to take the issue on, if Council agrees. He doesn't want formal meetings. He wants to garner information and report to Council. He believes more demolition needs to be done. He wants to see partnerships with neighbors, etc.

Mayor Kluck spoke with Mrs. Ryen about this. There is always grant funding available. He suggested neighbors providing half of the money for demolition and the City providing the other half. More properties could be demolished.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that the Venango County Landbank has been a good partner with this. They have assisted with clearance. They have a dumpster program. They have up to \$500.00 available for people who have been cited for clutter on their property. This is a means for clean up.

He went on to say that there are rental issues. Councilwoman Wisniewski said that this is a big concern for her as well. She cares about code enforcement and having blight removed. She is glad that Councilman Gustafson brought this issue up. She will be happy to help in any way she can. She wants to look at rental properties. There are many rentals in the City. She would like to have people safe.

Councilman Gustafson appreciates any help he can get with this problem. He needs help setting up a meeting.

Councilman Craig remarked that the City needs to be more aggressive with this matter.

Mayor Kluck then believes that the City needs to have dumpsters placed in neighborhoods so that people can clean up the outside areas of their homes.

Councilman Gustafson remarked that there is a rental inspection ordinance. It never really worked. He thought there may have been issues between City departments.

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Some firemen were certified to perform the inspections. Mrs. Hoover remarked that there are still some who are certified. Appointments need to be made to inspect. It doesn't always work out.

Councilman Walentosky commented that, in the 80's, there were a lot of nice neighborhoods. They have gone to ruin now. He has no answers. Councilwoman Wisniewski said that it is "poverty dynamics." Councilman Gustafson said that there are more houses than are needed. They were built for a larger population.

Councilman Gustafson believes that, once a house has been razed, the rest of the neighborhood takes an interest and works on their own properties. He also wants to state that the perception that the City doesn't care is not the case. Councilwoman Wisniewski said the City does care and that there are barriers to getting things accomplished. Money is the large barrier. Only so much can be done. The City doesn't want to raise taxes constantly. Education is the key in finding out what help can be garnered. There are programs at the County and Commonwealth levels to assist people in fixing up their homes. Everything takes time. Mayor Kluck said that it's not easy to find contractors to perform work.

Councilwoman Wisniewski suggested forming committees to move forward. She said that residents may have other ideas in mind from what Council has in mind. She thinks public participation is important. Councilman Walentosky would like to see people from neighborhoods get involved and provide ideas as to how to improve the neighborhoods.

Councilman Gustafson is willing to take suggestions via email. This way things can be tracked.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. was made by Councilwoman Wisniewski, seconded by Councilman Walentosky. Motion approved.

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PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

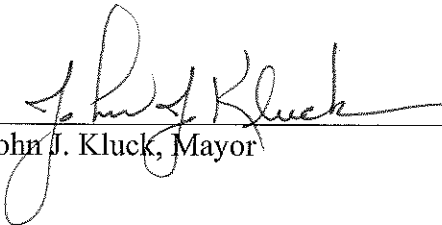
Robert Varsek, Staff
Michelle Hoovler, Staff
Kelly Ryen, Staff
Yvonne Greene, Staff
Chris Gorman, Staff
Jason Herman
Cory Ruditis, Staff
Tim Alex, Staff
Lucas Andres, Staff
Allan Andres, Staff
Morena Bricca, Junior Council
Allyson Vanderhoff
Amanda Shaffer
Shawn and Jody Podrat
Harry Whittimore
Lucas McFetridge

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APPROVED BY COUNCIL THIS

_____ 27th _____ DAY OF _____ April _____, 2026



John J. Kluck, Mayor

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Council meeting of April 13, 2026.



Michelle M. Hoovler, City Clerk