City of Fairmont
100 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031

City Council Minutes — October 6, 2026
Special Meeting – Liquor Store Manager Hiring Process — City Hall, 4:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Fairmont City Council met in special session at the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Baarts called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council present: Lee Baarts, Mayor
Wayne Hasek, Councilmember
Britney Kawecki, Councilmember
James Kotewa, Councilmember
Randy Lubenow, Councilmember
Jay Maynard, Councilmember

Absent: None

Staff present: Jason Baker, City Administrator
Matthew York, Director of Public Works/Utilities
Paul Hoye, Finance Director
Michael Beletti, Police Chief
Betsy Steuber, City Clerk
Nicholas K.C. Garcia Lisle, City Attorney (Flaherty & Hood)

ROTATING VOTES

Please note that votes taken by roll call are called by the City Clerk on a rotating basis; however, the written minutes list the Councilmembers in alphabetical order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council and all present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Hasek to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS
Item 4.1

Attorney Garcia Lisle, City Labor Attorney, advised Council regarding provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and Open Meeting Law, while advising Councilmembers to limit discussion to the Liquor Store Manager hiring process rather than specific applicants or employees.

Administrator Baker provided information regarding the hiring process noting that 38 applications were received during the recruitment process. Baker stated that a candidate was offered the position but declined. It was subsequently determined that the remaining candidates would not advance and the Liquor Store Manager position would be reposted.

Councilmembers continued to discuss the recruitment and hiring process with concerns raised regarding reopening the position, the number of applicants received without successfully filling the position, Liquor Store staffing, and the impact of staffing levels resulting in the temporary closure of the Municipal Liquor Store on Sundays.

Around 4:15 p.m., Councilmember Lubenow made a motion to adjourn. Prior to action being taken on the motion, Attorney Garcia Lisle distributed a legal memo to City Council for review. Council took a few moments to review the memo. Attorney Garcia Lisle advised Councilmembers with additional questions on the hiring process could meet individually with Administrator Baker to receive additional information that could not be discussed during the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Maynard seconded Councilmember Lubenow's pending motion to adjourn the meeting, as there was no further business to come before the Council. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. The Fairmont City Council adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:

Betsy Steuber, City Clerk