

**City of Fairmont
100 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031**

City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting

October 12, 2026
City Hall, 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Fairmont City Council met in regular session at the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Baarts called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council present: Lee Baarts, Mayor
 Wayne Hasek, Councilmember
 Britney Kaweck, Councilmember*
 *Arrived just after roll call due to an extended FEDA meeting
 James Kotewa, Councilmember
 Randy Lubenow, Councilmember
 Jay Maynard, Councilmember*
 *Arrived just after roll call due to an extended FEDA meeting

Absent: None

Staff present: Jason Baker, City Administrator
 Paul Hoyer, Finance Director
 Michael Beletti, Police Chief
 Betsy Steuber, City Clerk
 David Assaf, City Attorney, in person
 (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 Hasek, seconded by Councilmember Maynard to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS
Item 4.1**

Chief Beletti presented the Fairmont Police Department Body Worn Camera (BWC) Audit, dated September 15, 2026. Chief Beletti stated an audit is required every two years per Minnesota Statutes and no discrepancies had been found during the audit period. Chief Beletti also noted that all officers are equipped with body-worn cameras, with the equipment tested daily.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kotewa, seconded by Councilmember Hasek to Approve the Body Worn Camera Audit as Presented and Direct Staff to Submit the Audit Report to the State of Minnesota Legislative Commission on Data Practices and Personal Data Privacy. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION/
COMMENT**

Gregg Paulson, resident of Fairmont, addressed Council on Fairmont's lakes, referenced the recent Water Quality Workshop, and shared potential solutions to reduce nitrogen runoff, including use of TerraPlenish. Mr. Paulson concluded by encouraging Council to consider a pilot program to help improve water quality while emphasizing the need to address sources of pollution entering the lakes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Baarts introduced the consent agenda items as listed for consideration to be enacted by one motion unless an item was requested to be removed and placed under New Business. Mayor Baarts reviewed the consent items, as follows:

- City Council Minutes from the Regular Meeting held September 28, 2026
- City Council Minutes from the Special Meeting held October 6, 2026
- Event Permit for GLOWS Parade, Sponsored by the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce, on November 20, 2026
- Event Permit for Trunk or Treat, Sponsored by BACKYARD KREATIONZ Car Club, on October 31, 2026
- Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Martin County Preservation Association d/b/a Red Rock Center for the Arts for an Event on October 31, 2026
- Resolution 2026-37 Approving an Application and Agreement for Special Assessment Deferral (1191 Lake Avenue)
- Submission of a Mayo Clinic Health System Community Impact Grant Application

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

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

**NEW BUSINESS
MOTION
Item 9.A.1**

Clerk Steuber presented Agenda Item 9.A.1, Consideration to Set a Date to Canvass Municipal Election Returns. Steuber referenced the agenda memo, noting that to be in compliance with City Charter, election returns must be canvassed within five days following the election. Steuber shared that she had been in discussion with the Martin County Auditor's Office

regarding preparation of the Abstract of Votes and its anticipated completion within the required timeframe.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Kotewa to Set a Special Meeting of the Fairmont City Council for Friday, November 6, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. to Canvass the November 3, 2026, Municipal Election Returns in the Fairmont City Hall Council Chambers. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION
Item 9.A.2

Administrator Baker and Attorney Assaf introduced the next item of New Business, Discussion and Consideration of Next Steps Regarding the Fair Board and Hockey Association Agreements. Attorney Assaf explained that the Fair Board rejected the proposed interim agreement following Council's amendment regarding the cost of repairs to the arena beams, with the Fair Board requesting the City pay 100% of the repair costs.

Council discussion and questions followed regarding the City's ownership interest in the arena, previous financial contributions, maintenance responsibilities, and the condition of the beams. Attorney Assaf discussed potential next steps, including negotiations and mediation.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hasek to appoint himself and Councilmember Kotewa to participate in negotiations and potential mediation with the Fair Board. Mayor Baarts requested further Council discussion before proceeding with the motion.

Councilmembers expressed concerns regarding the estimated repair costs, responsibility for those costs, and the need for an updated engineering assessment to determine the condition of the beams, extent and potential cause of the damage, necessary repairs, and estimated costs before moving forward.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kawecky, seconded by Councilmember Kotewa, to obtain an RFP for an engineer's assessment of the beams at the Martin County Arena as soon as possible. On roll call: Councilmembers Lubenow, Hasek, Kawecky, Kotewa, and Maynard voted in favor. Motion carried.

Council returned to Councilmember Hasek's motion to appoint himself and Councilmember Kotewa to participate in negotiations and potential mediation with the Fair Board. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Maynard. On roll call, Councilmembers Hasek, Kotewa, and Maynard voted

in favor; Councilmembers Kaweck and Lubenow voted against. Motion carried.

STAFF/LIAISON REPORTS

Administrator Baker provided an update on the Blue Earth Avenue project, noting that soil contamination was discovered near Casey's Gas Station (intersection of Blue Earth Avenue and Park Street), with the source of contamination unknown. He stated that staff are working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding soil testing and the necessary work to address the issue, with a portion of the project potentially delayed as a result.

Councilmember Hasek reported that Julie Zarling announced her resignation during the recent Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Councilmember Lubenow reported on the recent CER Board meeting and noted that the HRA Board meeting had been rescheduled.

Councilmember Maynard reported that the FEDA Board met and discussed forming a committee to review the Bowen housing study and develop an action plan to address the identified housing needs.

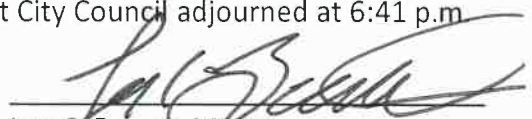
Mayor Baarts reviewed upcoming events and meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Lubenow 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 6:41 p.m.

ATTEST:


Betsy Steuber, City Clerk


Lee C. Baarts, Mayor