

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF LITTLEFORK IN THE COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING AND STATE OF MINNESOTA INCLUDING ALL ACCOUNTS AUDITED BY SAID COUNCIL

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Call to Order

Mayor Mike Fort called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Fort, Councilor Lehman, Councilor Wendt, Councilor Sims, Councilor Thydean

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Holly Hoy, Preston Hoy, Austin Schaaf

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Lehman, seconded by Councilor Sims, to approve the agenda with the addition of Minnkota Power under New Business. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilor Wendt, seconded by Councilor Lehman, to approve the January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Wendt, seconded by Councilor Thydean, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Items approved under the consent agenda included:

- Monthly bills for January
- Water and sewer service terminations
- Voyageur Country ATV Club January Meeting Minutes
- Economic Development loan payoff
- Koochiching Technology Initiative January Meeting Minutes
- Safe Routes to School January Meeting Minutes

Public Hearings

1. None.

Petitions, Requests, and Communications

1. Austin Schaaf from Three S Design provided an update on progress in transitioning the city's services from the previous provider.
2. A motion was made by Councilor Lehman, seconded by Councilor Thydean, to approve two new members of the Planning & Zoning Committee: Heather Kennedy and Amy Marty. Motion carried.
3. A Koochiching County Board of Commissioners meeting was held at the Littlefork Community Building on Tuesday, February 10th. Several county employees attended, along with Councilor Lehman and Administrator Hoy.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Ambulance Department

No report; no representative present.

Fire Department

No representative was present. Special thanks were extended to Fire Chief Dan Wendt for replacing the front door on the fire hall.

Maintenance Department

No report: no representative was present due to snow removal efforts following heavy snowfall.

SnoFun Days Report

Committee Chair Sara Wendt reported on the many activities during SnoFun Days. She noted interest in adding more outdoor activities next year, possibly including curling. Donations were received from Border GM, Trustar, and Cross River Hall.

Financial Report

The financial report was presented by Holly Hoy.

A motion to approve the report was made by Councilor Thydean, seconded by Councilor Sims. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Blandin Foundation Grant

The City of Littlefork and project manager Antonio Rossell from Community Design Group have worked together over the past year and a half to identify needs, gather ideas and discuss the future of Littlefork. The Blandin Foundation granted the city \$20,000, which was utilized for the initial phase of the city's Comprehensive Plan.

Little Fork River Watershed

Councilor Sims made the motion to add the City of Cook to the Memorandum of Agreement, seconded by Councilor Lehman. Motion carried. The focus remains on stormwater and groundwater, with a goal of replacing 100 septic systems in the watershed over ten years.

Ordinance No. 127 – Amending the Zoning Ordinance

Councilor Wendt made a motion to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 127, Amending the Zoning Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Lehman. Motion carried.

Resolution 2026-3: Authorize Grant Application for Littlefork Public RV Campground

After discussion, the council decided not to move forward with the RV Campground grant application. Instead, the council discussed improvements for Lofgren Park and the city park. Councilor Lehman made a motion to install a flagpole at city park, seconded by Councilor Thydean. Motion carried.

New Business

Accept Lofgren Park Caretaker Resignation

A motion was made by Councilor Wendt, seconded by Councilor Sims, to accept the caretaker's resignation. Motion carried.

Water Treatment Plant Ventilation System

The current ventilation system needs updating. Maintenance Supervisor Kory Williams will contact Rural Water, and prepare a quote.

Yearbook Ad Sponsorship

Councilor Lehman made a motion to purchase the same business card-sized ad as last year for the yearbook, seconded by Councilor Wendt. Motion carried.

Minnkota Power

Tricia Johnson, Property & Right of Way Agent for Minnkota Power, contacted the city regarding setbacks, right-of-way, and related information for the preliminary design of their new substation. The council determined that if Minnkota Power maintains the same footprint, no issues are anticipated; however, if the footprint changes, a variance may be required. Minnkota Power will submit updated design photos for council approval.

Miscellaneous

None.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Wendt, seconded by Councilor Thydean. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Attest: Holly Hoy, City Clerk

Approved: Mayor Mike Fort