



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## City Council Work Session

### January 27, 2026

<b>ITEM #1</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
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Mayor Supple called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

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

*Remote Access:* Council Member Christensen participated remotely via interactive technology for an excused medical reason.

*Staff Present:* Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Chris Link, Deputy Public Works Director; Karl Huemiller, Recreation Director; Andrew Spear, IT Manager; Rachel Lindholm, Sustainability Coordinator; and Michelle Friedrich, City Clerk.

*Guests:* None.

<b>ITEM #2</b>	<b>ITEM DISCUSSION</b>
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- a. Review and discuss the Fleet Electrification Analysis conducted by the fleet electrification consultant Sawatch Labs

Sustainability Coordinator Lindholm presented the results of the recent fleet analysis study, the purpose of the analysis study, and the findings of the study related to guidance of future EV fleet purchases, budget, and sustainability decisions. The study, conducted by Sewatch Labs from October 2024 through January 2025, evaluated 68 of the City's 254 vehicles, and focused on light-duty vehicles where viable electric options currently exist. Sustainability Coordinator Lindholm noted that based on total cost of ownership, vehicle use patterns, and charging feasibility, the study identified 24 light-duty vehicles as strong options for conversion to battery electric vehicles: estimating approximately \$140,000 in savings and significant greenhouse gas reductions. Sustainability Coordinator Lindholm reviewed the charging infrastructure needs identified in the study, and the study recommendation indicating Level 2 chargers at facilities such as Public Works and City Hall. Deputy Public Works Director Link emphasized a phased approach beginning with infrastructure installation before EV fleet vehicle acquisition.

Council and staff discussed budget impacts, leasing versus purchasing, the current practice of cascading police vehicles to other departments, and the importance of rightsizing both vehicle type and fleet size.

Mayor Supple adjourned the work session at 6:26 p.m.

Council and staff requested additional work session discussion.

Mayor Supple reconvened the work session at 6:27 p.m.

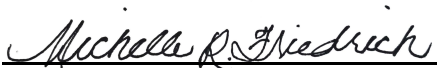
Deputy Public Works Director Link asked for Council feedback on EV fleet vehicles. Council discussed next steps following the fleet analysis and emphasized the need to conduct a separate study of police vehicles and to complete a detailed financial analysis before committing to a transition to electric vehicles. Council expressed general support for exploring EV fleet vehicles and discussed leasing versus purchasing. Council highlighted the importance of understanding long-term costs, maintenance implications, and budget impacts through a clear side-by-side financial comparison before moving forward. Council indicated interest in pursuing the EV fleet vehicle concept cautiously and methodically, with financial analysis as the first priority related to city budget constraints.


<b>ITEM #3</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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Mayor Supple adjourned the work session at 6:30 p.m.

Date Approved: February 10, 2026

  
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 Mary B. Supple  
 Mayor

  
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 Michelle Friedrich  
 City Clerk

  
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 Katie Rodriguez  
 City Manager