



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Council Regular Meeting

December 9, 2025

ITEM #1	CALL TO ORDER
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The meeting was called to order by Mayor Supple at 7:00 p.m. on December 9, 2025, in the Council Chambers.

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; Sack Thongvanh, Assistant City Manager; Melissa Poehlman, Community Development Director; Jennifer Anderson, Support Services Manager; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; and Michelle Friedrich, City Clerk.

Guests: None

ITEM #2	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
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Mayor Supple led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3	APPROVAL OF AGENDA
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MOTION: made by Council Member Burk, seconded by Council Member Coleman-Woods to approve the Agenda as presented.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: made by Burk, seconded by Hayford Oleary to amend the Agenda and move item 7c from the Consent Calendar to item 8a, under the Consideration of Items, if *Any Removed from Consent Calendar* section, for further discussion.

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

MOTION: made by Burk, seconded by Hayford Oleary to approve agenda as amended.

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #4	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
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MOTION: made by Council Member Hayford Oleary, seconded by Council Member Burk to approve the minutes of the (1) City Council Work Session from November 25, 2025, and (2) City Council Special Meeting (Truth in Taxation meeting) from November 25, 2025, and (3) Council Regular Meeting from November 25, 2025.

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #5	OPEN FORUM
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Mayor Supple reviewed the participation options for residents at the Council meeting including in-person comments, comments by voicemail or email, and an option to request to participate virtually with advance notice. Mayor Supple noted that more information on submitting comments can be reviewed at www.richfieldmn.gov/citycouncil.

Five residents addressed the Council during the Open Forum opportunity.

Ginny Morin, Richfield resident, expressed concerns about the Council's stance on supporting gun violence legislation as proposed in the September 23, 2025, work session. She opined that the recommendations would not reduce gun violence and would criminalize law-abiding citizens. She suggested that instead of adding more laws, the city should focus on ensuring prosecutors enforce existing laws.

Karole Kelly, Richfield resident, raised concerns about recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in Richfield. She described concerning incidents of ICE agents operating in apartment complex parking lots without proper warrants or documentation, expressing particular concern for vulnerable populations.

Erica Klein, Richfield resident and leader of Richfield Indivisible, posed two questions related to ICE activities and local policing: 1) whether there is a law prohibiting following U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents for more than three blocks, and 2) clarification on whether Richfield police could face job loss for intervening with ICE agents. She requested formal responses to these questions.

Steve McKeown, Richfield resident, expressed concerns about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities causing fear in the community and negatively affecting businesses and churches. He urged the Council to consider measures like those adopted in Minneapolis.

Beatriz Leon, Richfield resident, recounted an incident on December 7, 2025, involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. She stated that she and her husband were observing a church for potential ICE activity when they were approached by armed agents. According to her account, the agents surrounded the car and pointed their weapons at them, made mocking remarks, and asserted that local law enforcement had no authority over their actions. She reported that a responding police officer was courteous and attempted to assist but explained that local police had limited ability to intervene in matters involving federal agents.

ITEM #6	PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
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a. Proclamation Honoring Human Rights Month

Mayor Supple presented a proclamation declaring December 2025 as Human Rights Month in the City of Richfield. The proclamation recognized the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, first proclaimed by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, and its influence on legislation such as the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

Ally Beckman, representing the Center for Victims of Torture (one of the organizations mentioned in the proclamation), accepted the proclamation and shared brief remarks about the immigrants and refugees her organization serves. She noted these individuals have fled their home countries due to persecution based on political beliefs, religion, or ethnicity, and expressed appreciation for Richfield's diverse community.

ITEM #7	CONSENT CALENDAR
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City Manager Rodriguez presented the consent calendar.

a. Approve Disbursements/Claims

U.S. BANK	11-28-2025
A/P Checks/ETF's: (11/15/2025 thru 11/28/2025)	\$2,599,775.22
Payroll (12-5-2025)	\$1,035,262.45
TOTAL	\$3,635,037.67

b. Consider Adoption of a Resolution Designating Polling Places for 2026.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12377
DESIGNATING POLLING PLACES FOR 2026**

- c. Item moved to section Consideration of Item, if Any Removed From Consent Calendar as item 8a – Consider Adoption of the City’s Legislative Priorities for 2026.
- d. Consider approval for a Temporary On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor license for the Blessed Trinity Catholic School, located at St. Richard's Catholic Church, 7540 Penn Avenue South, for their 2026 Sno*ball Dance taking place January 31, 2026.
- e. Consider approval of the second amendment to the Response Sustainability Grant agreement with the City of Bloomington.
- f. Consider approval of the sixth amendment to the local public health services agreement with the City of Bloomington for 2026.
- g. Consider the renewal of the 2026 licenses for On-Sale Intoxicating, Club, On-Sale 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor and Wine, and Off-Sale 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor doing business in Richfield.
- h. Consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing Richfield Public Safety/Police Department to accept donations from the listed agencies, businesses and private individuals for designated uses.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12378
AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM LISTED AGENCIES,
BUSINESSES, AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS FOR DESIGNATED USES**

- i. Consider the adoption of a resolution accepting grants and donations received by the Richfield Recreation Services in 2025 and authorizing staff to administer the funds in accordance with any applicable grant agreements and terms prescribed by donors.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12379
AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS AND DONATIONS FROM RICHFIELD
RECREATION SERVICES IN 2025 AND AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ADMINISTER THE
FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE GRANT AGREEMENTS AND
TERMS PRESCRIBED BY DONORS**

MOTION: made by Council Member Coleman-Woods, seconded by Council Member Burk to approve the consent calendar as amended with item 7c moved to item 8a under section *Consideration of Items, if any, Removed from Consent Calendar*, for further discussion. Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

Mayor Supple thanked all donors who had given generously to both the police department and the recreation department.

ITEM #8	CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR
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- a. (Item 7C moved from Consent Calendar.) Consider the Adoption of the City’s Legislative Priorities for 2026.

Mayor Supple presented the executive summary of the City’s legislative priorities, highlighting support for making 4d1 aid permanent for all affected cities and for repealing or modifying the 2024 legislation related to group assisted living facilities. Mayor Supple also noted the City’s support for additional legislation aimed at reducing gun violence, the introduction of measures to lower local contributions to county and state projects, and the advancement of bonding priorities including the Nicollet Avenue reconstruction and the Richfield emergency water interconnect projects.

MOTION: made by Council Member Burk, seconded by Council Member Hayford Oleary to approve the Adoption of the City’s Legislative Priorities for 2026.

Council proposed an amendment to include a federal legislative priority requesting that Representative Omar support federal legislation establishing requirements for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Council proposed requirements should include wearing clothing that clearly identifies them as ICE agents, immediately identifying themselves upon request, notifying state and local law enforcement of ICE activities within their jurisdictions, and ensuring that due process is followed when interacting with or apprehending individuals.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: made by Council Member Burk, seconded by Council Member Hayford Oleary to amend the motion and include proposed legislation establishing requirements for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents within municipal jurisdictions as an additional priority in the Adoption of the City’s Legislative Priorities for 2026.

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

Council also briefly discussed the resident’s earlier concern about gun legislation. Council members explained that the ability to regulate guns on city property was particularly important, and several members, including a legal gun owner, expressed support for the gun-related legislative priorities as written. Council noted that the legislation wasn't intended to restrict legal gun ownership but rather to implement common-sense measures like limiting high-capacity magazines.

MOTION: made by Council Member Burk, seconded by Council Member Hayford Oleary to approve the Adoption of the City’s Legislative Priorities for 2026 as amended.

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #9	PUBLIC HEARINGS
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None.

ITEM #10	PROPOSED ORDINANCES
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None.

ITEM #11	RESOLUTIONS
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- a. Consider resolutions approving the 2025 Revised/2026 Proposed Budgets, Tax Levy and related resolutions.

Council Member Coleman-Woods presented the staff report.

City Manager Rodriguez thanked Debit, Cash, and Budget Manager Steve McDaniel, department directors, council members, and community members who spoke at the Truth in Taxation hearing. City Manager Rodriguez acknowledged that while budget development is challenging for staff, annual increases are also challenging for taxpayers and promise to carry that perspective forward in future budget planning.

MOTION: made by Council Member Coleman-Woods, seconded by Council Member Burk, to adopt the resolutions approving the 2025 Revised/2026 Proposed Budgets, Tax Levy, and related resolutions.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12380
AUTHORIZING REVISION OF 2025 BUDGET OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

**RESOLUTION 12381
ADOPTING A BUDGET AND TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2026**

**RESOLUTION 12382
ESTABLISHING PUBLIC WORKS ON-CALL COMPENSATION RATES FOR 2026**

**RESOLUTION 12383
ESTABLISHING WASTEWATER SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES, WATER REATES
AND CHARGES, SPECIAL WATER SERVICE CHANRGES, STORM SEWER RATES**

AND CHARGES, STREET LIGHT RATES AND CHARGES, AND 6.5% PENALTY ON PAST DUE ACCOUNTS

**RESOLUTION 12384
ADOPTING THE 2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION 12385
ADOPTING THE 2027-2030 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**RESOLUTION 12386
RELATING TO THE 2026 GENERAL PAY PLAN**

**RESOLUTION 12387
RELATING TO THE 2026 SPECIALIZED PAY PLAN**

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

- b. Labor Agreement with Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. Local 123 (Police Officers) and Teamsters Local 320 (Police Sergeants and Police Lieutenants) for 2026-2027.

Council Member Burk presented the staff report.

Assistant City Manager Thongvanh thanked all parties involved in negotiations and noted that the net-budget impact would be approximately \$75,000. He explained that the market has stabilized compared to 2024, when the city implemented an 11.4% increase (including 8.4% market adjustment).

MOTION: made by Council Member Burk, seconded by Council Member Coleman-Woods, to adopt the resolutions approving the provisions of the 2026-2027 labor agreements with Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. Local 123 (Officers) Bargaining Unit, and Teamsters Local 320 (Sergeants and Lieutenants) Bargaining Unit and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements.

**RESOLUTION 12388
RESOLUTION APPROVING LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF RICHFIELD AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES, LOCAL 123 (OFFICERS) BARGAINING UNIT FOR YEARS 2026-2027**

**RESOLUTION 12389
APPROVING LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF RICHFIELD AND TEAMSTERS, LOCAL 320 (SERGEANTS AND LIEUTENANTS) BARGAINING UNIT FOR YEARS 2026-2027**

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

- c. Consider a request for an Interim Use Permit (IUP) to allow temporary and occasional employee parking in a vacant lot adjacent to Lakewinds Co-op.

Council Member Hayford Oleary presented the staff report.

Council Member Hayford Oleary noted the Planning Commission held a public hearing on November 24, received no public comments, and voted 3–2 to recommend approval, with

dissenting commissioners favoring a shorter three-year term with potential administrative two, single-year extensions rather than a full five-year approval.

MOTION: made by Council Member Hayford Oleary, seconded by Coleman-Woods, approving a 5-year interim use permit for occasional employee parking on vacant lot 4 adjacent 6420 Lindale Avenue South.

Council Member Hayford Oleary expressed support for the 5-year IUP, however addressed concerns about the unsightly nature of the parcel since 2013. Council Member Hayford Oleary proposed an amendment to reduce the IUP term to three years with two one-year administrative extensions, requiring the co-op to meet with staff to discuss progress on long-term plans. Council Member Hayford Oleary also noted that the co-op had available on-street parking that wasn't being utilized.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: made by Council Member Hayford Oleary, seconded by Burk, amending the 5-year interim use permit for occasional employee parking on vacant lot 4 adjacent 6420 Lindale Avenue South, to a 3-year interim use permit term with two possible one-year administrative extensions as discussed by the Planning Commission, and requiring the co-op to meet with staff to discuss progress on long-term plans.

Council and staff discussed and clarified administrative approvals and staff time involved with the two 1-year administrative extensions.

A representative from Lakewinds Co-op explained that their business has grown tremendously, making additional parking increasingly important. The representative confirmed that their long-term desire would be to combine the lots with permanent parking, as additional development on the site beyond parking would constrict access to their business. Regarding on-street parking, he noted that those spaces, only available in the past year, are heavily used by residents of nearby apartment buildings.

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

**RESOLUTION 12390
APPROVING AN INTERIM USE PERMIT TO ALLOW OCCASSIONAL EMPLOYEE
PARKING BY LAKEWINDS FOOD COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEES AT 6430 LYNDALE
AVENUE SOUTH**

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #12	OTHER BUSINESS
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None.

ITEM #13	CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
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City Manager Rodriguez noted a short-term rental owner spoke during Open Forum at the last meeting to express concerns about the newly adopted short-term rental fee. City Manager

Rodriguez noted the speaker stated the fee remains too high and believed it exceeds fees in neighboring cities. City Manager Rodriguez reviewed many neighboring cities have banned short-term rentals and discussed the varying initial fees and subsequent fees of neighboring cities. City Manager Rodriguez noted staff will review the short-term rental fee after the first year. City Manager Rodriguez address the tourism tax revenue and noted staff clarified that 95% of the tourism tax is required to be remitted to the Richfield Tourism and Promotion Board and cannot be used for this enforcement cost purposes.

City Manager Rodriguez reported that Mayor Supple facilitated a meeting with community volunteers, Chief Henthorne and Deputy Chief Griffin, and staff regarding recent ICE activity. The group discussed the City’s role and limitations in responding, agreed to continue communication and collaboration, and emphasized efforts to keep residents safe and the significant community volunteer efforts supporting impacted families.

ITEM #14	COUNCIL DISCUSSION
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a. Hats off to Hometown Hits.

Council Member Coleman-Woods expressed thankfulness to the community volunteers for their efforts in keeping the community safe regarding the recent ICE activity within the city.

Council Member Hayford Oleary gave a brief liaison report of the last Transportation Commission meeting and noted general information regarding road construction were presented. Council Member Hayford Oleary seconded the sentiments expressed by Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Mayor Supple thanked the Public Works department preemptively for the upcoming snow plowing and snow removal from city streets. Mayor Supple thanked the community volunteers for coming together from the impact and actions of ICE agents within the city. Mayor Supple express gratitude for the Public Safety department in deescalating tense situations and working to keep the community safe.


ITEM #15	ADJOURNMENT
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MOTION: made by Council Member Coleman-Woods, seconded by Council Member Burk to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

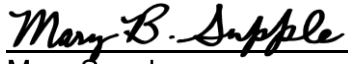
Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen (remote), and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0


Date Approved: January 13, 2026



 Michelle Friedrich
 City Clerk



 Mary Supple
 Mayor



 Katie Rodriguez
 City Manager