



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

November 25, 2025

ITEM #1	CALL TO ORDER
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The meeting was called to order by Mayor Supple at 5:15 p.m. in the Bartholomew Conference Room.

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

Absent: Council Member Christensen

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Joe Powers, City Engineer; Matt Hardegger, Transportation Engineer; Sack Thongvanh, Assistant City Manager/Administrative Director; Melissa Poehlman, Community Development Director; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director; Karl Huemiller, Recreation Director; Chris Fierst, Liquor Operations Manager; Courtney DesCamps, Senior Analyst; and Michelle Friedrich, City Clerk

ITEM #2	ITEM DISCUSSION
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Mayor Supple noted a change to the item order discussion moving Update on Hennepin County's Nicollet Avenue Cost Share presentation as item 2a, and moving item Consider Richfield's Proposed 2026 Legislative Priorities to item 2b.

a. Update on Hennepin County's Nicollet Avenue Cost Share

City Engineer Powers presented the Nicollet Avenue Cost Share Program with Hennepin County. Staff provided an update on the Nicollet Avenue cost-share negotiations with Hennepin County. Although the County declined to modify its cost-participation policy or accept a lump-sum alternative, it did re-evaluate specific project items, resulting in about a \$1 million reduction to the City's share. The estimated city cost is now just under \$8.7 million to be paid to Hennepin County, with an additional \$700,000 in city staff costs. Staff requested direction to move forward so the County can bid the project early next year, noting that delays could increase construction costs and prolong community disruption.

Council members discussed potential future benefits from the County's upcoming cost-participation policy review and emphasized the importance of documenting the City's cooperation and continued push for a more equitable policy, especially in anticipation of the Penn Avenue project. Questions were also raised about transparency of engineering cost estimates, as the County's \$2.5 million share is not included in current documents.

b. Consider Richfield's Proposed 2026 Legislative Priorities

City Manager Rodriguez introduced Senior Analyst Courtney DesCamps to present the Proposed 2026 Legislative Priorities. Council and staff reviewed proposed 2025 legislative priorities. The top four includes making 4d(1) aid permanent and available to all impacted cities, modifying or repealing 2024 legislation prohibiting cities from subjecting state licensed group assisted living facilities to city rental licensing requirements, supporting stronger state action to reduce gun violence, and reducing local financial obligations and long-term maintenance responsibilities for county and state projects. Senior Analyst DesCamps noted the two bonding priorities were identified as the \$10 million for Nicollet Avenue and \$2.5 million for the Richfield–Minneapolis emergency water connection.

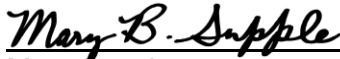
Each department presented their own legislative items. Council and staff discussed the impacts of supporting and opposing legislative priorities within the community. City Manager Rodriguez noted Representative Omar advocating for Richfield’s Community Project Funding (CPF) at the congressional level to the Appropriations Committee for the Emergency Water Interconnect Project with Minneapolis’ water system network.

Council consensus was in support of the top 4 priorities presented. Council supported continuing Nicollet project negotiations and advancing key legislative priorities for the 2025 session.


ITEM #3	ADJOURNMENT
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Mayor Supple adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm.


Date Approved: December 9, 2025



 Mary Supple
 Mayor



 Michelle Friedrich
 City Clerk



 Katie Rodriguez
 City Manager