



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Council Regular Meeting

April 14, 2026

ITEM #1	CALL TO ORDER
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The meeting was called to order by Mayor Supple at 7:00 p.m. on April 14, 2026, in the Council Chambers.

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

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; 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 Hayford Oleary, seconded by Council Member Coleman-Woods to approve the agenda as presented.

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford Oleary, Council Member Christensen, 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 Coleman-Woods to approve the minutes of the (1) City Council Work Session from March 24, 2026, and (2) Regular Meeting from March 24, 2026.

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

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #5	OPEN FORUM
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Mayor Supple noted the process for individuals wishing to speak during Open Forum and reviewed the three-minute time limit for public comments and explained the use of time warning cards to alert the speaker when their time is almost expired. Instructions were given for speakers to state their name and city of residence before speaking.

Two residents addressed the Council during the Open Forum opportunity.

Birgit Johnson, Richfield resident, encouraged openness to outside perspectives and questioned current definitions of conservatism. Ms. Johnson raised concerns about federal spending and immigration policies, including impacts on Minnesota communities, and emphasized that conservatism should focus on stability and long-term planning.

Theresa Guthrie, Richfield resident, raised concerns about immigration enforcement impacts, called for accountability and higher standards from government agencies, and noted issues with incomplete state projects and leadership oversight.

ITEM #6	PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
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- a. Proclamation celebration Arab American Heritage Month.

Mayor Supple read and presented the proclamation to Richfield School Board Member Callmie Dennis and Richfield Schools Director of Student Support Services Christina Gonzalez.

- b. Proclamation celebrating Earth Day.

Mayor Supple read and presented the proclamation to Richfield Recreation Director Karl Huemiller.

- c. Proclamation celebrating Arbor Day.

Mayor Supple read and presented the proclamation to Richfield Recreation Director Karl Huemiller.

- d. Presentation of the 2025 Food Safety Awards.

Support Services Manager Jennifer Anderson presented the annual Richfield Food Safety Awards, recognizing restaurants for excellence in food safety practices and inspection performance. She noted the program was established in 2006 and evaluates establishments on risk management, employee health policies, and training. Support Services Manager Anderson presented the 2025 awards to Broadway Pizza (full-service category) and Five Guys (fast food category), with both recognized for consistently high standards.

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

- a. Approve Disbursements/Claims

U.S. BANK	4-10-2026
A/P Checks/ETF's: (3-14-2026 through 4-3-2026)	\$1,941,220.34
Payroll (3-27-2026)	\$1,136,746.51

Payroll (4-10-2026) <i>Includes health insurance premiums for April 2026.</i>	\$1,411,657.06
TOTAL	\$4,489,623.91

- b. Approval of a Stormwater Construction and Maintenance Agreement with Woodlawn Terrace Cooperative located at 7421 Lyndale Ave South.
- c. Approval of the bid tabulation and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute a contract with Visu-Sewer for the 2026 Sanitary Sewer Lining Cured-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Project in the amount of \$790,929.60 and authorize the City Manager to approve contract changes up to \$175,000 without further City Council consideration.
- d. Approval of the bid tabulation and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute a contract with GMH Asphalt Corporation for the 2026 Mill and Overlay Project.
- e. Approval of a resolution prohibiting on-street parking on County State Aid Highway 52 (Nicollet Avenue) from 77th Street to 66th Street.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-12418
PROHIBITING ON-STREET PARKING ON COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY 52
(NICOLLET AVENUE) FROM 77TH STREET TO 66TH STREET**

- f. Approval of the updated Climate Action Plan.

MOTION: made by Council Member Coleman-Woods, seconded by Council Member Christensen to approve consent calendar items 7a-f as presented.

Council provided clarification that parking changes on Nicollet Avenue (Item 7e) will take effect after construction is completed and new signage is installed. Council noted 77th to 70th Street will be under construction in the first year, with remaining parking changes implemented the following year when construction is completed.

Voting Aye: Mayor Supple, Council Member Burk, Council Member Hayford O'Leary, Council Member Christensen, and Council Member Coleman-Woods.

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #8	CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS, IF ANY, REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR
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None.

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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None.

ITEM #12	OTHER BUSINESS
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- a. Consider confirmation of the appointment of Kate Croteau as Human Resources Director for the City of Richfield effective May 18, 2026.

Council Member Christensen presented staff report item 12a, appointing Kate Croteau as Human Resources Director for the City of Richfield, with an effective date of May 18, 2026.

City Manager Rodriguez thanked the council for elevating the HR Director position, noted a stronger candidate pool, and shared positive references for the selected candidate.

MOTION: made by Council Member Christensen, seconded by Council Member Coleman-Woods to approve the appointment of Kate Croteau as the Human Resources Director for the City of Richfield effective May 18, 2026.

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

Motion carried: 5-0

ITEM #13	CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
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City Manager Rodriguez reported at the last meeting there were three residents who addressed the concerns at the previous meeting. She noted one resident spoke on the importance of immigrants to the community, and two expressed concerns about the city’s use of nonprofit contracts for social services and noted no questions were raised for follow-up. Council and staff discussed confirmation of the towing contract approval process through the nonprofit contract for social services.

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

Council Member Coleman-Woods reported updates from the Community Services and Sustainability Commissions, including upcoming Earth Day activities with volunteer and community participation opportunities. Congratulations were extended to the Richfield High School boys basketball team for placing third in state, and anticipation was noted for the upcoming baseball season.

Council Member Hayford Oleary noted the Transportation Commission continues discussions on Penn Avenue, including planning for a future open house. He added updates focus on potential improvements and context-sensitive design considerations for the area north of 69th from the residential area.

Council Member Burk mentioned the Human Rights Commission is identifying potential speakers for future presentations and may reach out for participation and cooperation.

Mayor Supple provided meeting dates for the property tax “open book” meetings, including an in-person session in Richfield on April 20 for property valuation questions. Mayor Supple expressed appreciation to Representative Howard for submitting a state bonding request for an emergency water interconnect and noted previous bonding fund requests included Nicollet Avenue. Mayor Supple noted the business stabilization program for immigrant-impacted businesses open through April 27, and the significant philanthropic funding supporting rental assistance and food security efforts within the City of Richfield. Mayor Supple noted participation with Council Member Hayford Oleary at the Job Olympics event and expressed appreciation for the high school hosted event.

b. Council Liaison Reports

Brief reports noted above in Hats off to Hometown Hits.


ITEM #15	ADJOURNMENT
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MOTION: made by Council Member Coleman-Woods, seconded by Council Member Burk to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.


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

Motion carried: 5-0


Date Approved: April 28, 2026



 Michelle Friedrich
 City Clerk



 Mary Supple
 Mayor



 Katie Rodriguez
 City Manager