



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session May 12, 2026

ITEM #1	CALL TO ORDER
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Mayor Supple called the work session to order on May 12, 2026, at 5:45 p.m., in Bartholomew Conference Room.

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

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Karl Huemiller, Recreation Director; Jay Henthorne, Police Chief; Jennifer Anderson, Support Services Manager; Scott Kulzer, Senior Analyst; Jordan Vennes, Utilities Engineer; Russ Lupkes, Utilities Superintendent; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney; and Michelle Friedrich, City Clerk.

Guest Presenter: Sean Korn, Utility Rate Study Consultant with HDR.

ITEM #2	ITEM DISCUSSION
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a. Discussion of Park Alcohol Ordinance Update

Recreation Director Huemiller presented proposed updates to the city’s alcohol policy for parks and city facilities to allow limited alcohol service at designated events and facility rentals, including the Wood Lake Nature Center, Community Center, Ice Arena, and certain city-sponsored park events. Staff reviewed proposed ordinance changes related to low-alcohol beverage definitions, temporary liquor licensing, designated service areas, event oversight, staffing and security requirements, permitting, enforcement provisions, and community celebration permits. Council and staff also discussed THC beverage and cannabis regulations, with clarification that the ordinance changes applied only to alcohol and that smoking remains prohibited in parks.

Council consensus supported the proposed updates, including clarification of designated decks, patios, and designated outdoor service areas, and allowing expanded alcohol service, including hard liquor service at the Wood Lake Nature Center and Community Center, subject to licensing, staffing, and security requirements.

b. Utility Rates

Senior Analyst Scott Kulzer and HDR Utility Rate Study Consultant Sean Korn presented an update on the city’s water utility rate study, reviewing current residential tiered billing and flat-rate structures for multi-family and commercial customers. Staff and consultants analyzed 2025 water consumption data to evaluate potential tiered rate structures, finding that most residential users remain in the lowest tier and that multi-family properties would largely fall within lower usage tiers, resulting in a

modest projected revenue difference under a tiered alternative. For commercial accounts, staff noted significant variability in usage across business types and cautioned that a uniform tiered structure could present administrative and equity challenges. Council discussed potential tiered approaches in relation to sustainability, fairness, conservation goals, irrigation usage, and system cost recovery. Staff recommended no change to multi-family rates and provided no specific recommendation on commercial tiering, instead deferring the policy decision and offering to provide additional analysis for Council review.

Council consensus supported maintaining the current multi-family rate structure and requested further information and analysis from staff on commercial usage and tiered rate options.

ITEM #3	ADJOURNMENT
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Mayor Supple adjourned the work session at 6:51 p.m.

Date Approved: May 26, 2026



Mary B. Supple
Mayor



Michelle Friedrich
City Clerk



Katie Rodriguez
City Manager