

CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Webster called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Webster invited the Council and audience to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council observed a moment of silence in honor of Renee Good and Alex Peretti.

III. ROLL CALL.

Present: Mayor Webster, Doolan, Jenson, and Elnagdy.

Absent: Randle

Also Present: City Manager Charlie Yunker, Assistant City Manager Ashley Morello, Police Chief Jeff Spiess, Public Works Superintendent Josh Moellman, and City Engineer Justin Messner

CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

IV. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA.

Motion by Councilmember Doolan, seconded by Councilmember Elnagdy, to approve the City Council Meeting Agenda of January 27, 2026.

Motion carried 4-0.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS.

A. Council Statement on Community Safety, Inclusion, And Immigration Enforcement.

Mayor Webster noted that the Council first discussed this item at a worksession on January 13th after the Council directed staff to create a webpage focused on immigration, safety, and resources. She welcomed any additional comments from the Council on the statement as it is drafted.

Councilmember Elnagdy stated that she presented this proposal at the last meeting. She referenced input received, which stated that this is a statement of policy, and asked what this would look like in practice. She was unsure if that would be specified in the statement or whether the information would be found somewhere else.

1 Councilmember Jenson stated that the Council is going to have a detailed discussion on that with
2 the appropriate members of City staff, legal counsel, and the Council, noting that it was decided
3 to hold that meeting the following week.
4

5 Councilmember Doolan referenced comments that were received earlier today in the listening
6 session and commented on the need for increased engagement and communications. She
7 recognized that these are principles and agreed that they will need to further discuss what that
8 looks like in practice. She suggested that the City Attorney engage in conversations with
9 Minnesota Attorney General Ellison, suspension of on-street parking towing, and consideration
10 of an eviction moratorium. She would like to continue to explore different avenues that could
11 help.
12

13 Councilmember Elnagdy also suggested that a review of City Ordinances be done to determine
14 amendments that could limit Federal involvement. Councilmember Jenson agreed.
15

16 Councilmember Doolan had questions about the different levels of authority between local,
17 State, and Federal and what could or could not be done at each level.
18

19 Mayor Webster recapped the comments made by the Council. She recognized that while some
20 items are at the State level, the impact is felt throughout the metro.
21

22 Councilmember Elnagdy provided examples of different ordinances that she believed could be
23 reviewed to effectively limit Federal involvement.
24

25 Mayor Webster thanked staff for creating the requested webpage and making it live the next day,
26 following the direction from the City Council. She asked the Police Chief to provide additional
27 information on Policy 413.
28

29 Police Chief Spiess acknowledged that many people in the community are fearful in this time of
30 uncertainty, noting that they are all trying to navigate the waters as best they can. He stated that
31 they have worked hard to build relationships in the community to ensure that members of the
32 community feel safe. He stated that Policy 413 is not a new policy and is something that has
33 been followed for many years. He provided an overview of the policy and how it works in
34 practice. He stated that the Police Department is committed to public safety and keeping the
35 community safe.
36

37 Mayor Webster commented that the Police Department has never asked members of the
38 community about their immigration status. She provided an example of an encounter that she
39 had a few years ago with someone who was under the influence and attempting to get into her
40 home, noting that she called 911, and Officers provided assistance. She explained that if the
41 person banging on her door was ICE and if she were to call 911, if she were detained when
42 Officers arrived, they would not be able to intervene because the Police Department is not aware
43 of her immigration status and cannot interfere with Federal actions. She recognized that the
44 tactics being used by ICE violate rights, and that creates fear and uncertainty.
45

1 Police Chief Spiess commented that although the department cannot interfere with Federal
2 activity, if people are in fear for their safety, they should still call 911. He noted meetings that
3 have been held with local police departments and Ramsey County to discuss the best way to
4 ensure public safety while not obstructing Federal law enforcement.

5
6 Councilmember Doolan asked if ICE would have access to public data information, recognizing
7 that the Police Department does not ask or keep records of immigration status. Police Chief
8 Spiess confirmed that the department still has to follow the Public Data Practices Act, but
9 because they do not collect data on immigration, they would not have that information to share.
10 He stated that if someone were to voluntarily tell an Officer they were having immigration
11 issues, the department would not document that information.

12
13 Councilmember Elnagdy used the example where a resident is being detained, and the Police
14 Department does know their immigration status, either because they know the person or the
15 person has their passport, and asked if the department could intervene in that situation. Police
16 Chief Spiess recognized that every situation will be different and, therefore, it is hard to speak to
17 hypotheticals. He stated that the department would do its best to document the situation, identify
18 the agents involved, and work with local and State partners. He noted that Federal agents are
19 under no obligation to share information with local police.

20
21 Councilmember Doolan appreciated the effort of the Police Department, but recognized that
22 some community members have lived experiences that cause distrust in the police. She was
23 unsure how they could build trust with those members of the community or explain what to
24 expect if they call 911 for this type of issue. She noted a recent discussion she had with a State
25 Representative related to constitutional observers and the need for that documentation to be sent
26 to Attorney General Ellison. She asked if the observations and documentation from the police
27 were also sent to the Attorney General. Police Chief Spiess replied that they do not send
28 bodycam videos to the Attorney General and explained how they provide that footage to the City
29 Attorney's office or the County Attorney's office.

30
31 Councilmember Doolan stated that all traffic laws and signals should be obeyed when acting as a
32 constitutional observer. She asked for more information on the role of the Police Department to
33 execute and watch for local/State law violations versus not impeding a peaceful protest. Police
34 Chief Spiess commented that there was a situation where a member of the community, who was
35 mistaken for ICE and was being followed aggressively, noting that this cannot happen. He stated
36 that traffic complaints are one of the main complaints they receive. He cautioned against telling
37 people what they can or cannot do in those situations. He noted that there have been recent
38 demonstrations in the community that have been peaceful, and they have been happy and
39 impressed that there have been zero issues with those. He stated that when people are not
40 peaceful, they need to find ways to mitigate that, and it takes resources away from addressing
41 other things in the community.

42
43 Councilmember Doolan encouraged those interested to go through the constitutional observer
44 training, as it provides good information. Councilmember Elnagdy suggested that the City host a
45 town hall where established organizations can provide constitutional observer training.
46

Councilmember Jenson thanked Police Chief Spiess for answering tough questions. He recognized the role of the Police, if called to an incident, to document what is happening.

Mayor Webster commented that during the past two weeks, students have chosen to walk out of school in protest. She appreciated that with notice, the Police were able to ensure traffic safety during those times. She acknowledged that the students are doing a phenomenal job of modeling peaceful protesting.

Councilmember Doolan asked if the Police Department is present at school drop-off and pick-ups. Police Chief Spiess commented that the department has been in contact with all the schools, and while they do not want a visible presence, they do drive by and continue to be in regular communication to address any issues.

Mayor Webster read aloud the draft statement, acknowledging that they will continue to research additional actions that could be considered and noted that a follow-up worksession will be scheduled for the following week.

Motion by Councilmember Doolan, seconded by Councilmember Elnagdy, to approve the St. Anthony Village Statement on Community Safety, Inclusion, and Immigration Enforcement.

Further discussion: Mayor Webster stated that although Councilmember Randle is absent tonight, he did voice his full support for this item.

Motion carried 4-0.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA.

- A. Approve January 13, 2026, Council meeting minutes.
- B. Licenses and permits.
- C. Claims.

Motion by Councilmember Jenson, seconded by Councilmember Elnagdy, to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried 4-0.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSION AND STAFF – NONE.

IX. GENERAL BUSINESS OF COUNCIL.

- A. Public Works Snow Plowing Operations Presentation.

Public Works Superintendent Moellman provided a presentation on the snowplowing operations for the community. He provided information on decision-making, public notification, pre-wetting with salt brine, plowing, and community outreach.

Councilmember Doolan thanked Mr. Moellman and his staff for the excellent job they do, recognizing the need for their schedules to adjust to snow events as they do not work 24/7. She also appreciated the cooperation with MWMO related to the use of salt, noting that the City is always recognized as a star example by the MWMO.

Councilmember Elnagdy recognized the great job the department has done to respond to all the snow events this winter and acknowledged the remarkable timeline the department follows. She believed that this information would help to counter some of the complaints.

Councilmember Jenson also appreciated the attention the streets receive and commented on the great service that continues to be provided to the community.

Mayor Webster appreciated the presentation and the effort of staff. She noted that she enjoys knowing which driver handles each segment of the community and the ability for residents to know who their driver is. She also recognized the great leadership that Mr. Moellman provides and the great work his team does.

B. Resolution 26-016 – Water Meter Upgrades.

City Engineer Messner presented information on the proposed city-wide water meter replacement project. He provided background information on the previous water meter replacement project that occurred in 2006, noting that those meters are reaching the end of their useful life and replacement is again necessary. He provided information on the proposed project and project cost.

Councilmember Doolan asked for more information on the ability for live reading and whether that requires internet within the home. Mr. Messner explained that the meter has a radio signal built into it and sends the information. Councilmember Doolan asked and received confirmation that a licensed contractor will be replacing the water meters rather than public works staff. She asked when the work would begin. Mr. Messner provided the proposed timeline if the action is approved tonight, estimating that water meter replacement would likely begin near the end of summer.

Councilmember Jenson asked if residents would receive a text ahead of time to alert them of when the replacement would occur. Mr. Messner commented that he does not have those details as of yet, as a contractor has not yet been selected. He noted that typically, a resident could schedule an appointment based on their availability and would receive a notification prior to the appointment.

Mayor Webster welcomed public input.

1 Dr. Bebe Neumann documented a resident impact concern related to the water meter replacement
2 project. She explained that this replacement would occur for all residential and commercial
3 properties. She appreciated the information found within the staff report about the potential
4 project, but believed that additional information was needed related to interior installation in
5 private homes, consent protocols, accessibility and disability accommodations, safety
6 considerations, and the long-term sustainability of requiring interior access for every technology
7 cycle.

8
9 Motion by Councilmember Doolan, seconded by Councilmember Jensen, to approve Resolution
10 26-016 – Resolution Authorizing WSB to prepare plans and specifications and Authorizing the
11 advertisement for bids for the CityWide Water Meter Replacement Project.

12
13 **Motion carried 4-0.**

14
15 C. Resolution 26-017 – Water Treatment Valve Automation.

16
17 Mr. Messner presented information on the proposed water treatment plant valve replacement
18 project. He provided background information and additional information on the need for the
19 project and the potential to automate the valves. He stated that the request is to solicit bids and
20 reviewed the estimated project cost and the elements within.

21
22 Councilmember Jensen asked about the frequency within one year that the valves are opened and
23 closed. Mr. Messner replied that it would depend on water usage and the water supply. He
24 stated that currently it is being done monthly. Councilmember Jensen asked for more
25 information on how a malfunction is detected. Mr. Messner provided details on how a valve
26 malfunction is manually detected currently and noted that if automated, the system would alert to
27 any malfunctions. He explained how the backwash water is reused.

28
29 Councilmember Doolan recognized that another benefit of the upgrade will be that more people
30 will be qualified to maintain the system. She asked if this upgrade would provide more
31 resilience and less risk of service disruption. Ms. Messner replied that this project would not be
32 related to service disruption, but it does ensure that the City will be able to complete the
33 necessary backwash process. Councilmember Doolan asked if there would be any risk to
34 residents during the change in infrastructure. Ms. Messner replied that there would be no
35 resident risk related to the valve replacement.

36
37 Councilmember Elnagdy asked for information on the public versus private bid system. Mr.
38 Messner commented that if the estimated cost of the project exceeds \$175,000, a public bid
39 process is required. He stated that even through that process, the City is aware of who will most
40 likely bid on the project, as there are contractors for water-related projects. He commented that
41 the City will reach out to those vendors to solicit quotes for the project and provided additional
42 information on the other benefits that the process provides to the City in terms of a shorter
43 timeline and less time and money spent on developing additional plans and bid documents for
44 the process.
45

Dr. Neumann stated that this project appears to be confined to internal City operations and suggested making a clear distinction between internal infrastructure upgrades and projects that require entry into private residences.

Motion by Councilmember Elnagdy, seconded by Councilmember Jenson, to approve Resolution 26-017 – Resolution Authorizing staff to solicit quotes for the Water Treatment Plant Valve Replacements.

Motion carried 4-0.

X. COMMUNITY FORUM.

Mayor Webster invited residents to come forward at this time and address the Council on items that are not on the regular agenda.

A. Public Comment – Council Statement On Community Safety, Inclusion, And Immigration Enforcement.

Mayor Webster invited residents to come forward at this time and address the Council on the Council Statement on Community Safety, Inclusion, and Immigration Enforcement.

Jessica Swiontek, 2704 Marie Avenue, commented that because of the way she looks, she is able to leave her home without fear, although she still has fear sharing her address. She commented on observations that she has noticed and that her camera has picked up in the alley, and different observations of masked individuals driving in the community. She stated that a person wearing a mask to complete their job is someone who is not proud to do their job. She asked that St. Anthony ask all Federal agents to be unmasked and identified when working in the community. She commented that she works in food safety and has experience with chemicals, and therefore has received calls from people wanting to know how to get tear gas off of them. She commented on a friend who had a gun pulled on them while in their vehicle, instructing them to move their vehicle. She commented that the government is beating people, taking them, and releasing them without shoes or phones. She stated that her friend with a PHD is afraid to leave their home without their white husband. She commented on the differences between the tactics being used by ICE compared to the whistles being used by protestors. She asked the City to take action now.

Noah Oien-Rochat, 2916 31st Avenue NE, commented that he was flabbergasted at the comments by the Police Chief. He noted that on the surface, the comments seem normal, in that local Officers cannot obstruct Federal agents, but noted that these are not normal circumstances. He noted that anyone can purchase flack jackets off Temu and use small arms, so how would the Police know whether the people doing a kidnapping are Federal agents. He commented that it seems that the Police Chief has abdicated the job of public safety. He asked the Council to dissolve the Police if they would not do their job and use that money to equip a citizens' militia group to respond to violent kidnappings. He stated that the additional funds could be used to fund a typical police force that does not carry weapons and can respond to emergencies. He

1 stated that it is not normal to live under a constant threat of losing one's life to one's own police
2 force.

3
4 Dr. Neumann acknowledged the statement of the Council and stated that it is important for local
5 government to name its values. She commented that value statements are most effective when
6 paired with procedural clarity. She explained that residents want to know the information that is
7 not shared, how requests are denied, and what information is tracked in the system. She asked
8 that the statement be treated as a starting point with future work to identify guardrails,
9 transparency, and a process for review.

10
11 James Levoir, 2612 Pahl Avenue, acknowledged the harm that the ongoing occupation of ICE
12 has had on the communities. He asked that the City formally denounce all unlawful ICE
13 activities, ask the Governor to implement an eviction moratorium, adopt a separation ordinance
14 that prevents City employees from working with Federal immigration officers, and require ICE
15 agents to remove their masks. He took a moment to remember Renee Good, Alex Peretti, and all
16 others who have experienced violence from interactions with ICE.

17
18 B. Public Comment – Water Meter Upgrades.

19
20 Mayor Webster invited residents to come forward at this time and address the Council on the
21 Water Meter Upgrades.

22
23 C. Public Comment – Water Treatment Plant Valve Automation.

24
25 Mayor Webster invited residents to come forward at this time and address the Council on the
26 Water Treatment Plant Valve Automation.

27
28 **XI. REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

29
30 City Manager Yunker had no report.

31
32 Councilmember Elnagdy had no report.

33
34 Councilmember Jenson reported that he attended a Zoom meeting for Meeting in the Middle to
35 discuss ICE actions and potential responses. He stated that he also attended meetings for
36 Northeast Youth and Family Services and the earlier town hall meeting.

37
38 Councilmember Doolan commented on the recent goal-setting meetings the Council and staff
39 participated in and appreciated the opportunity to have discussions with department leaders. She
40 also attended meetings for the Metropolitan Council Land Use Advisory Commission, a League
41 of Women Voters-sponsored discussion with local leaders, and the Minnesota Cities Climate
42 Coalition.

43
44 Mayor Webster stated she attended the local leader support group related to the challenges with
45 immigration enforcement, the annual goal-setting sessions, and had a phone call with the auditor
46 ahead of the annual audit process. She also spoke at the badge ceremony for the Fire Department

1 and recognized the new rookies who completed one year of training to serve as part-time
2 firefighters. She appreciated the on-duty Police Officers who attended the ceremony. She
3 advised of a recent meeting to discuss ongoing community engagement during this time of
4 misinformation.

5
6 **XII. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

7
8 A. Future Agenda Items.

9
10 No comments.

11
12 **XIII. ADJOURNMENT.**

13
14 Mayor Webster adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

15
16
17 Respectfully submitted,
18 Amanda Staple
19 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

20
21 _____
Mayor

22 ATTEST: _____
23 City Clerk
24