



Ivanhoe City Council Meeting
Regular City Council meeting
City Council Chambers 401 N Harold St
Monday February 9, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Ivanhoe was held February 9, 2026, at City Hall, 401 N Harold Street. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Mayor Shad Lipinski. In addition to Lipinski, the following members were in attendance: Michelle Sullivan, Brad Blanchette, Kyle Krier, Absent: Adam Panka. Staff present included: Dianne Beckendorf, Others: Scott Leddy, Rich Uckert of Banner & Associates Engineering, Greg Nelson, Drew Martig, Ottertail Power Company

Consider Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting Held on January 12, 2026

There were no amendments to the minutes from the meeting held on January 12, 2026.

Motion made by Councilmember Kyle Krier, Seconded by Councilmember Brad Blanchette to approve the minutes from January 12, 2026. Voting Yea: Mayor Lipinski, Councilmember Sullivan, Councilmember Blanchette, Councilmember Krier. The motion Carried. 4-0.

Engineer Presentation

Representatives from Banner & Associates Engineering, including Scott Leddy, PE, Client Service Manager, and Rich Uckert, Business Department Head, addressed the council to outline the range of services their firm offers. Banner & Associates is a locally based engineering firm specializing in supporting small cities. As Client Service Manager, Scott Leddy is responsible for coordinating projects and providing regular updates to ensure all parties remain informed throughout the project lifecycle.

The firm's philosophy centers on being present and actively communicating with all stakeholders to build and expand relationships. Banner & Associates follows a proven process that emphasizes clear presentation, open communication, and effective direction. They take the time to listen to the needs of their clients, engage with partners to explore opportunities, provide constructive feedback during design, and support the successful completion of projects.

Banner & Associates has been working with the city since 1997 and has completed a variety of projects within the community. Their services include assistance with zoning, ordinance development, planning efforts, and the establishment of municipal standards. In addition, they offer grant writing services and have experience working on projects funded by MAP and Rural Development programs. Scott Leddy and Rich Uckert concluded their presentation by expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to address the City Council.

Ottertail Power Company

Ottertail Power Company Streetlight Replacement Presentation
Greg Nelson and Drew Martig from Ottertail Power Company addressed the council regarding the process for replacing streetlights within the city. They explained that, under the proposed arrangement, Ottertail

Power would install new poles and LED lights in place of the existing fixtures. Once installed, Ottetail Power would retain ownership of the new poles and lights and would be responsible for their ongoing maintenance. The city would pay a monthly fee per fixture, determined by the specific lights installed.

At present, the city owns most of the streetlights, except for those located in alleys or mounted on wooden poles, which are already owned by Ottetail Power Company. The council was informed that the existing sodium lights are no longer manufactured, necessitating a plan for phased replacement in the coming years. Ottetail Power would handle the segmented installation of new poles and LED lights, including on wooden poles, throughout the city.

The installation of new poles, lights, and wiring would be provided at no cost to the city. However, the city would be responsible for the costs related to the demolition and removal of the current lighting fixtures, which are now reaching the end of their useful life.

As the next step in the process, Ottetail Power will coordinate with Border States to conduct an aerial drone survey of the city's streetlights at no charge. The findings from the drone images will be used to develop recommendations for future lighting needs and replacement plans.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

There were no requests to remove an item on the consent agenda for additional discussion.

Motion made by Councilmember Kyle Krier, Seconded by Councilmember Brad Blanchette to approve the items on the consent agenda. Voting Yea: Mayor Lipinski, Councilmember Sullivan, Councilmember Blanchette, Councilmember Krier. The motion Carried. 4-0.

1. Consider approval of Claims 1.27.26, 2.9.26
2. Consider approval of December 2025 Financials
3. Consider approval of January 2026 Financials
4. Consider approval of Ambulance Facility Use and Rental Agreement
5. Consider approval of MN Budget Management Pay Equity Report
6. Consider approval of ILS Liability Insurance Renewal with Illinois Casualty Co.

Approval of items pulled from Consent Agenda: No items were pulled from the Consent Agenda

Public Comments/Open Forum: None

Department Reports:

7. Lincoln County Sheriff's Dept. – Curtis Szerlip report sent

The Sheriff dept report was in the agenda packet for information. No further discussion

8. Ambulance- Rebecca Paluch, Kathleen Wall - Report in Agenda Packet
The ambulance is now housed at the Ivanhoe school, and all necessary supplies have been relocated to this facility. This move ensures that ambulance operations are consolidated and organized within the school premises.

The lease agreement governing the use and rental of the school facility for ambulances is included in the agenda for council approval. This formalizes the arrangement and provides a framework for ongoing use.

Ambulance Staff Compensation Considerations

There is a request to consider increasing wages for ambulance staff. Additionally, it has been proposed that all staff members should receive equal pay, with any wage increases occurring only when ambulance managers formally request them from the city council.

Next Steps

The city council has requested that the Ambulance team attend the next council meeting to further discuss these matters.

9. Public Works Report - Jim Wright Report in Agenda Packet.

Building Maintenance

The Public Works shop furnace needs repair. An estimate is being obtained for a potential replacement of the furnace.

Streets

Street maintenance continues with pothole patching efforts whenever conditions allow.

Water

In January, a water leak was discovered in the alley behind the Public Works shop. No repair was necessary as the issue was resolved and the leak was stopped.

Snow Removal

The snow hauler had its ignition switch replaced to ensure ongoing reliability during winter operations.

2026 Project Planning

Looking ahead 2026, there are two sunken manholes on Highway 19 that will require coordination with MNDOT for repairs.

Training

Jim will attend CPO training sessions in April and May and is scheduled to participate in the rural water conference in March.

Council Recommendations

The council has recommended replacing the furnace in the Public Works shop. There was also discussion about removing the wall and heating the entire shop, as the current furnace dates to 1983. Jim was asked to reach out to Dean Brandt Heating and Air Conditioning to obtain a quote for these upgrades.

10. Municipal Liquor Store Update

There were no questions or comments about the information only items.

General Information

There were no questions or comments regarding the information-only items presented for the Municipal Liquor Store.

Sales Performance

In January, sales totaled \$39,056.64, representing an increase of approximately 1% compared to the same period last year. The store experienced several slow days, primarily due to adverse weather conditions.

Equipment Updates

The older flyer experienced a burned-out fan motor. The replacement part has been ordered at a cost of \$500.00, plus labor. Preparations are underway to prepare the VFW bar for its first event on Saturday. Pepsi has provided a new cooler and ice sink for the VFW bar and will also be replacing the off-sale cooler at the store, which recently failed.

Building Maintenance

Jim is currently addressing issues with the water heater, which he suspects is due to a failed element. The store is also waiting for Shane to confirm when parts will arrive so that the beer lines can be changed out.

Events and Promotions

A wine pairing event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th. The goal is to have sixteen participants for this inaugural event, and currently, seven individuals are registered. Promotion for this event is being conducted via Facebook.

Preparations are also underway for the Valentine's Day menu for February 14th.

A luau event is being planned for March 14th, with a DJ booked to provide entertainment for the evening.

Misc - Brenda Visnovec from MMLB and Eric Luther (Marshall Liquor Store) visited our store on January 20. MMLB sends Brenda around the state to municipalities to look at how they operate and then give suggestions. She told me that our store is doing a good job. She was very impressed with our off-sale items and our wine selection. The report is in the agenda packet.

11. Administrative Updates

VFW Purchase and First Event

The purchase of the VFW has been finalized. The first event at the newly acquired VFW took place this past weekend, featuring bartender service. The event was executed smoothly and was well received by attendees.

Year-End Administrative Tasks

All year-end tasks have been completed, and the necessary filings have been made. The next step will be to upload relevant files to the auditor for review and record-keeping.

Streetlight Demolition Grant Inquiry

The council has requested that the administrator investigate the availability of grants that could help offset the demolition costs associated with the streetlights project.

Old Business

12. Westside Development- Follow up with Kalea regarding signs.
13. South Alley- No updates

New Business

14. Daycare- One of the two in town daycares will be closing in July. The council requested a meeting with the Mayor, School, EDA President, and City Administrator meet to discuss the daycare at the school and get a plan in place.

Mayor’s Report: None

Upcoming Meetings:

March 4, 2026, EDA Meeting 7:30am City Hall

March 9, 2026, City Council Meeting 5:30 pm, City Hall

April 13, 2026, Board of Appeals & Equalization 5:30 pm, City Hall

City Council Meeting 5:30 pm, City Hall

Adjourn

At 7:48 pm a motion made by Councilmember, Brad Blanchette, Seconded by Councilmember Shelly Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting. Yea: Mayor Lipinski, Councilmember Sullivan, Councilmember Blanchette, Councilmember Krier. The motion Carried 4-0.

Dated at Ivanhoe, Minnesota, this 9th day of February 2026

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF IVANHOE, MINNESOTA

BY _____

Shad Lipinski, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Dianne Beckendorf, City Administrator

