

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CALEDONIA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA

April 27, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor Jeremy Leis called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Leis led the Council, City staff, and visitors in stating the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council members present: Mayor Jeremy Leis, Member John Rauk, Member Amanda Ninneman, and Member Bob Klug. Member(s) absent: Member Dave Fitzpatrick. Staff present: Jake Dickson, City Clerk/Administrator, Stephanie Mann, Finance Officer. Visitors present: Bryan Spier, Tracey Knutson, Dane and Kathryn Lamb.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Rauk moved to approve the minutes from the April 13th, 2026 regular City Council meeting with one revision. Motion seconded by Member Klug, motion passed unanimously, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Prior to the vote, two items required attention. Regarding item (f), Approve Youth Baseball Umpire Wage Increase, a council member noted a clerical error in the agenda: the approved wage increase of \$5.00 per level should result in new rates of \$35 and \$30, but the document incorrectly reflected \$35 and \$25. The Clerk/Administrator acknowledged the error.

Regarding item (d), Approve 5' Setback Variance at 412 E Grant, a council member noted that the staff report reflected a recommendation against approval, while the agenda referenced a 5-foot setback. The Clerk/Administrator clarified that the agenda item heading should have been updated to reflect what the Planning Commission actually approved, and recommended pulling item (d) from the consent agenda to ensure the motion language would be precise. Item (d) was therefore moved to New Business for separate consideration. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda from Member Ninneman, seconded by Member Rauk. Motion passed unanimously, motion carried.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- a. Approve Payments and Disbursements
- b. Approve Lifeguard Hires
- c. Approve Ambulance Department Mutual Aid Contracts with Spring Grove and Houston
- d. Approve Subdivision and Rezoning at 814 Main St W
- e. Approve Youth Baseball Umpire Wage Increase
- f. Approve Public Works Storage Cabinets

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Bryan Spier spoke in favor of striped parking spaces downtown. The Planning Commission will consider the proposal.

Ambulance Director Mike Tornstrom spoke to the City Council about the upcoming ambulance department fundraiser on May 3rd.

PUBLIC WORKS/ZONING DIRECTOR: None

CITY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR: City Clerk/Administrator Dickson updated the City Council on storm sewer and sinkhole repair, the draft snow emergency ordinance, upcoming mediation for the WWTP, the upcoming Minnesota City/County Management Association conference, youth ball coaches meeting, and an EDA luncheon with local landowners.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Approve Tort and Liability Waiver: Clerk/Administrator Dickson presented the annual tort and liability waiver decision as part of the property and casualty insurance renewal process. The Council was advised that if the City does not waive the statutory municipal tort limits, any claimant's recovery is capped at \$500,000 per claim. Waiving that limit would remove the cap entirely. The recommendation was to not waive the limits and to maintain the existing \$2,500 deductible, consistent with the prior year's decision. Motion made by Member Klug, seconded by Member Rauk to not waive the monetary tort liability and maintain the \$2,500 deductible. Motion passed unanimously, motion carried.
- b. First Quarter Financials: The City's finance staff presented first quarter financials. Cash and investments as of the end of March stood at \$9.2 million. General fund expenses included: the Fire Department showing a deficit due to the purchase of SCBAs in January at a cost of \$222,000; and the Stormwater Fund going negative in January following payment of a \$74,000 invoice from Zenke for the Hokah-Ramsey project. The Stormwater Fund is expected to recover at approximately \$5,000 per month. Debt service items noted included principal payments in February for the Kingston Street reconstruction and aquatic center. The Sewer MIDI loan is expected to fall off soon, with obligations running through 2028, and the pool loan through 2032. Overall first quarter general fund expenses were at 24.9%.
- c. Consider Extended Warranty for Snow Plow: City Clerk/Administrator Dickson presented a 5-year extended warranty for a new snow plow, recommended by the Public Works/Zoning Director. It was noted that the truck is unlikely to reach 100,000 miles within five years, making the time limit the operative factor. Staff advised that any single repair bill would likely exceed the cost of the warranty, making it a sound investment. Motion made by Mayor Leis, seconded by Member Klug to approve the extended warranty. Motion passed unanimously, motion carried.
- d. Approve Joint Powers Agreement with Houston County: City Clerk/Administrator Dickson presented a Joint Powers Agreement with Houston County for the upcoming Warrior Avenue Extension. The City received \$1,500,000 through the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) and every LRIP project requires a sponsoring agency. The City has completed numerous sponsored programs with Houston County. Motion made by Member Klug, seconded by Member Ninneman to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with Houston County.

- e. Overtime Reports: Pay Periods March 30th through April 12th: The City Council reviewed the reports and took no action.
- f. Approve 5' Setback Variance at 412 E Grove: The applicant originally requested a 10' setback and the Planning Commission recommended a 5' setback, as the resulting 0' setback on the 10' variance would deprive the neighbor of the same opportunity. Motion made by Member Klug, seconded by Member Rauk to approve the 5' setback variance at 412 E Grove Street. Motion passed unanimously, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. The next regular Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Leis adjourned the City Council Meeting at 6:44PM

Jeremy Leis
Mayor

Jake Dickson
Clerk/Administrator