

Mayor: Toby Strom * City Clerk/Treasurer: Melissa Finseth

Minutes

July 14, 2025

The meeting of the McIntosh City Council was called to order by Mayor Toby Strom at 7:00 PM Monday July 14, 2025

Present: Toby Strom, Luke Syverson, Beth Hagen, Mark Simonson

Absent: Adam Strutz

Guest: Mary Goodwin

1) Motion by Councilmember Hagen and seconded by Councilmember Simonson to approve the June 17, 2025 minutes. Passed and carried.

2) Mary Goodwin was in attendance to ask when the city streets will be repaired. Mayor Strom responded that the expense exceeds our budget, but the city will either hire a contractor to fill the potholes or purchase the asphalt and do it ourselves. Ms. Goodwin also asked what the city can do to get people to mow and clean up their yards. The City Clerk responded by saying that she sends letters and calls residents throughout the year but finds that it's difficult to get people to do the work. The city does assess fines to the tax roll if we have to clean up properties.

3) MEDA and Poplar Meadows Committee Reports:

Poplar Meadows Committee member Boehrsen reported there are currently 23 residents at Poplar Meadows with two open apartments.

Quotes for a new propane tank and contract prices for propane were submitted. Fertile Oil Company offered a prepay price of \$1.29 per gallon and a summer fill rate of \$1.19 per gallon. CHS Ag Services offered a three-year contract with 12,000 gallons locked in at \$1.35 per gallon and 3,000 gallons of summer-fill at a rate of \$1.15 per gallon, and Red Lake County Co-op offered a prepay price of \$1.30 per gallon and a summer fill rate of \$1.03. Ms. Boehrsen reported that Poplar Meadows uses roughly 16,000 gallons of propane a season. Motion by Councilmember Simonson to accept the quote from CHS Ag Services and was seconded by Councilmember Hagen. Councilmember Syverson abstained from the vote.

Ms. Boehrsen informed the Council that July is a three-payroll month and may need to ask the city to cover the third pay period in the amount of \$15,000.00 if insurance payments are not received in time. Councilmember Syverson motioned to cover the payroll, if needed, and was seconded by Councilmember Hagen and carried.

Motion by Councilmember Syverson to approve the submitted claims for Poplar Meadows in the amount of \$72,325.55. Motion seconded by Councilmember Simonson and carried.

4) Melissa Finseth informed the Council that she is working with Polk County to parcel out the annexed property, south of Highway 2, as part of the land subdivision process. Parceling out the property is necessary before lots can be sold. Councilmember Syverson motioned to price the lots at \$2,750.00 per acre. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hagen and carried.

5) On June 27, 2025 Vector Disease Control International (VDCI) informed the city that they could not spray the city for mosquitoes, in the timeframe we wanted, due to severe storm damage on their property. Melissa Finseth called several pilots in the area, and no one had the plane or the license for mosquito control. Ms. Finseth also investigated truck-mounted foggers and found that the cost was far beyond the city's budget. Robert Aslesen, owner and pilot of VDCI, provided an update on July 11, 2025 that at least one plane is operational, and mosquito control can resume.

6) The preliminary budget meeting was set to immediately follow the August 14, 2025 Council meeting.

7) A request to vacate an alleyway in the North McIntosh Addition was brought to the Council for discussion. The Council weighed the benefit versus the legal costs and found there was no value in it to the city and that the property owners would not lose anything by not vacating the alley. Councilmember Simonson motioned against considering the vacation. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hagen and carried.

8) Motion by Councilmember Syverson to approve the City's monthly bills in the amount of \$136,905.77. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hagen and carried.

9) Council and Staff Reports:

Mayor Strom informed the Council that there is a watermain leak in the alleyway between Larry Hedlund and Lloyd Lievsay. Peter Tranby informed the City Clerk that it was safe to shut off the water since it does not affect any resident's home, just Larry Hedlund's shop. The fire hydrant in the vicinity is offline until the repairs can be made.

Mayor Strom also informed the Council that one of the city's older tractors, used for mowing and snow removal, suffered extensive damage and is not worth repairing. The Maintenance Department has other tractors to use until the city can budget for a new one.

The City Clerk informed the Council that Heidi Lewis was notified to clean up her property at 305 Second Street NW. Ms. Lewis did not respond or did any cleanup work, so the city will do the work and assess her property taxes.

Ms. Finseth also informed the Council that several complaints were made about the dump road needing gravel, especially after the June 21st storm, so Knife River was called to deliver several loads of class 5.

10) Councilmember Syverson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Simonson and carried.