

Minutes
Silver Lake City Council
Regular Meeting
6:30pm, February 17, 2026
Silver Lake Auditorium

Mayor Bebo called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members Present: Mayor Bruce Bebo, Councilor Joanna Jacobs, Councilor Josh Mason, Councilor Roxanne Yurek, Councilor Ted Gehring

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Diane Pedersen, Jarrett Whitney, Chris Penaz, Dale Kosek

Others Present: Brody Bratsch, Deputy Jensen

Motion by Councilor Jacobs second by Councilor Yurek to approve the agenda. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve minutes from January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting
2. Approve SEH minutes from January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting
3. Approve minutes from February 11, 2026 Special Meeting
4. Approve Payroll 2 & 3, January Council and January Ambulance
5. Approve Payment Application #10
6. Approve Disbursement #10
7. Approve Claims

Motion by Councilor Jacobs second by Councilor Mason to approve the consent agenda. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Public Comment – None

Department Business

1. Public Works
 - a. SEH – Infrastructure Project
 - i. Public Hearing for Change Order 2

Motion by Councilor Jacobs second by Councilor Mason to open the public hearing. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

1. Proposed Improvements
 - a. Full Reconstruction on Main St from Grove Ave to Century Lane
 - i. Streets
 - ii. Sanitary Sewer
 - iii. Water Main
 - iv. Storm Sewer
 - b. T.H. 7 Sanitary Sewer and Water Main extensions and CIPP Lining
2. Estimated Project Costs and Project Financing
 - a. Total Cost \$2.3M
 - b. Street Costs \$1.1M
 - c. Storm Sewer Costs \$210 thousand
 - d. Sanitary Sewer Costs \$720 thousand
 - e. Watermain Costs \$340 thousand
3. Proposed Assessments

- a. \$283,000 for Change Order 2 Assessments
- b. Assessment hearing will be held in the fall of 2026
- c. Estimated Assessment Rates
 - i. Preliminary assessment rate is 4.5% over 20 years. This will be finalized in the fall of 2026.
- 4. Project Schedule Reviewed
- 5. Public Questions Addressed

Motion by Councilor Jacobs second by Councilor Gehring to close the public hearing. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- 6. Resolution 26-12: Resolution Ordering Improvement and Preparation Plans

Motion by Councilor Mason second by Councilor Yurek to approve Resolution 26-12 Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- b. Public Works Liaison Report
 - i. Finishing up a few details for the project for SEH
 - ii. Exploring sealcoat products and options for the future.
 - iii. Started looking at a few update projects at the pool
 - 1. Painting the floor
 - 2. Other small updates
 - iv. Assisted the fire department with pumping water from a broken pipe at the school.
 - v. Assisted with the power outage.
 - vi. Assisted with some updates at the MLS.
 - vii. Asking to sell the old tractor at the city shop which hasn't been used in years. It does not fit the current program (Farmall Super A 1947-1954). Will be sold through sealed bids. Advertising will be in the paper and on Facebook and the city website. The ad will run for about one month.

Motion by Councilor Jacobs second by Councilor Gehring to approve the sale of the public works tractor through sealed bids. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- viii. Asking for approval to purchase a skid loader or tool cat with attachments at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.

Motion by Councilor Jacobs second by Councilor Yurek to approve seeking out and locating a tool cat with the intent to purchase. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- ix. Received a bid for Christmas light wiring. Will work on obtaining a second bid by next council meeting.
- c. Reviewed PeopleService reports.

2. Public Safety

- a. Fire Department
 - i. Fire calls reviewed.
 - ii. City/Township Annual and 2026 Budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, at 7:00pm in the Auditorium.
 - iii. March 14-15, three firefighters will be attending Stat Fire School classes at Lake Crystal. The classes they will be attending include electric vehicle fire extrication and farm equipment fire extrication.
 - iv. The Department is receiving a 6'x12' enclosed trailer from the DNR which will be used to carry SLFD members grain bin, high rescue equipment and ice/water rescue equipment.
 - v. In cooperation with the Silver Lake Lions, the fire department fundraiser meat raffle will take place at the Muni during Ice Golf on Saturday, February 21.
 - vi. Request for Action to purchase a 2015 GMC Crew Cab 1-ton from the DNR to replace Rescue 2 (black pickup) for approximately \$13,000. The purchase will be made using Relief funds.

Motion by Councilor Gehring second by Councilor Jacobs to approve the purchase of a 2015 GMC Crew Cab 1-ton from the DNR to replace Rescue 2. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- b. Sheriff's Report
 - i. Reviewed Event Totals Report
 - ii. Reviewed Police Hours
 - iii. Looking to set a date for the bike rodeo.
 - c. Ambulance
 - iv. Annual Med Variance and Blood Borne Pathogens completed the week of February 9, 2026.
 - v. Bi-annual refresher to be completed the weekend of February 28-March 1, 2026.
 - vi. Staffing reviewed
 - vii. Calls reviewed
2. Municipal Liquor Store/Auditorium
- a. Business Review
 - i. Food down most of January until new oven arrived, then limited options while learning new equipment.
 - ii. New menu launched on February 2, 2026.
 - b. Staffing Review
 - i. New hire started February 10.
 - ii. Reviews and council action completed for Emily Wurm and Addie Plath.
 - c. Operations Review
 - i. New equipment purchased and installed
 - 1. Oven, back bar coolers, kitchen fridge, kitchen prep top cooler, food warmer
 - 2. New floor mats for bar/kitchen have arrived
 - ii. Price changes to go into effect by 3/1/2026.
 - iii. "Muni Jam" ready to move forward
 - 1. 4 bands
 - 2. 3 food trucks
 - 3. Working on sponsors
 - 4. Request for Action to approve the use of budgeted funds from "Promotion" account to fund needs for "Muni Jam" on May 9, 2026. Funds to be used for bands equipment, marketing, and promotional materials totaling \$8500.
 - iv. Request to remove the MN State Lottery ticket machine as few people play it but having it brings people in wanting to cash in their winnings from other locations causing the Muni to go in the red.
- Motion by Councilor Yurek second by Councilor Mason to approve removing the MN State Lottery ticket machine from the MLS. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.***
- v. Setting up a time for Victor's PC Solution to come in and look at completing some rewiring in the building.
 - vi. Project Gamechanger is evolving
 - 1. Revenue and cost projections compiled to send to Shannon Sweeney
 - 2. Initial plan shows a promising result in 1/3/5-year planning.
 - 3. Location to be determined
- d. Auditorium Review
 - i. Fish Fry March 6th.
 - ii. Civis Bean Bag Tournament March 14th.
 - iii. Committed to one ad for the auditorium in bridal publication
 - iv. Communicate bartender fee for organizations requesting bartender for their event. Will discuss auditorium agreements.
 - e. Facilities Review
 - i. Huge shout out to public works for their help moving equipment.
 - ii. Positive feedback on the changes at the bar: paint, new shelves, coolers, lighting, etc.

- iii. Walk-in cooler needed extensive work in January.
- iv. Getting quotes for 3-compartment sink and hot water heater.
- f. Action Items
 - i. Request for Action to approve the use of budgeted funds from “Promotion” account to fund needs for “Muni Jam” on May 9, 2026. Funds to be used for bands, equipment, marketing, and promotional materials totaling \$8500.

Motion by Councilor Yurek second by Councilor Jacobs to approve the use of budgeted funds from “Promotion” account to fund the needs for “Muni Jam”. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- ii. Request to approve the 6-month review for Emily Wurm and to retain with a step increase from Grade 11 Step 2 \$16.41/hour to Grade 11 Step 3 \$16.82/hr. effective 1/5/2026 PP #2.

Motion by Councilor Yurek second by Councilor Mason to approve the 6-month review for Emily Wurm and to retain with a step increase from Grade 11 Step 2 \$16.41/hour to Grade 11 Step 3 \$16.82/hour. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- iii. Request to approve the annual review for Addie Plath and to retain with a step increase from Grade 11 Step 2 \$16.41/hour to Grade 11 Step 3 \$16.82/hour effective 1/5/2026 PP#2.

Motion by Councilor Yurek second by Councilor Jacobs to approve the annual review for Addie Plath and to retain with a step increase from Grade 11 Step 2 \$16.41/hour to Grade 11 Step 3 \$16.82/hour. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- iv. Request for Action to approve the hire of Betsy Rodriguez as a part-time bartender at Grade 11 Step 2 \$16.41/hour.

Motion by Councilor Yurek second by Councilor Jacobs to approve the hire of Betsy Rodriguez as a part-time bartender at Grade 11 Step 2 \$16.41/hour. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- g. Financials were reviewed
 - i. MTD & YTD \$9884

3. Community Development

- a. Reviewed Zoning Ordinance Sections 1 & 2.
 - i. Section 2.15 – B – 3 Fences
 - 1. Is this a civil dispute that should not involve the city? Should the city impose a civil penalty?
 - a. Council’s recommendation is to eliminate the sentence: “If the fence owner does not comply within 30 days, the zoning administrator may request the city to remove it at the owner’s expense.”
 - i. If proper procedures are followed, this should not be an issue. If it is an issue, it is a civil dispute between the property owners, not the city.
 - ii. Section 2.52 - b Multi-Unit Housing Complexes
 - 1. Should the definition of Multiple Dwelling include “on the same premises”?
 - a. Council’s recommendation is to include the additional wording.
- b. Reviewed Ordinance 100 – Sewer Service Compliance Subd. 7 & 8
 - i. First Reading of proposed amendments Subd. 7
 - 1. Item #3
 - a. Wording clarifications
 - 2. Item #4
 - a. Include the statement “a copy of the repair estimate must be included with the escrow agreement”.
 - 3. Item #5
 - a. Addition of clarifying statement “from the date of the inspection”.
 - 4. Item #7
 - a. Addition of clarifying statement “or fails to complete the corrective action in the timeframe allowed”

- b. Additional statement “Any property that is in violation of this ordinance for three months will have their water shut off until all repairs are completed.
 - c. Discussion was held regarding condemnation of a house due to lack of utilities if the repairs are not made within the three months timeframe of receiving civil penalties and the water gets shut off.
- ii. Subd. 8
 - 1. Item #6
 - a. Addition of clarifying statement “from the date of the inspection”.
- 4. Administration
 - a. Clerk’s Report
 - i. January Treasurer’s Report
 - ii. Request for Action to accept the resignation of Becky Dammann, Pool Manager.

Motion by Councilor Mason second by Councilor Jacobs to accept the resignation of Becky Dammann as Pool Manager effective immediately. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- iii. Blight discussion
 - 1. Issuance of blight notices has been taken over by the Sheriff’s Office. They will be issuing the initial warning and then following up after 10 days and issuing a ticket if necessary. This eliminates the middleman and will save the city money on sending certified letters.
 - 2. They will also inform the city if any action regarding blight cleanup is necessary.
 - 3. Discussion held regarding Subd. 2 – C, the city removing garbage, refuse or other materials accumulated on a property at the expense of the owner and assessing the removal cost of the bill remains unpaid.
- iv. Auditors will be here February 23-25 and will be set up in the ambulance office.

Old Business

- 1. Resolution 26-11: Resolution adopting a Wellness Program Policy

Motion by Councilor Mason second by Councilor Yurek to approve Resolution 26-11 adopting a wellness program policy. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- 2. Bulk Water Sales
 - a. Discussed whether the sales area outside of city limits should be limited to residents in the fire district. The council did agree that bulk water sales should be restricted to residents within the fire district.
 - b. Bulk Water Rates
 - i. Currently set at \$15 within city limits and \$20 outside of city limits. It is recommended that it remains at \$15 within city limits but be increased to a \$50 base fee and \$50 per 1,000 gallons of water for outside city limits.

Motion by Councilor Yurek second by Councilor Jacobs to approve increasing the bulk water rate outside city limits but within the fire district to a \$50 base fee plus \$50 per 1,000 gallons. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- 3. Review of Fee Schedule
 - a. Addition of a Civil Penalty to the fee schedule
 - i. City Ordinances reference a civil penalty, but that is not currently part of the fee schedule. It is recommended that it be added.

Motion by Councilor Gehring second by Councilor Yurek to approve adding a civil penalty of \$100 per offense to the 2026 fee schedule. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

New Business

- 1. Resolution 26-08: Resolution Approving Workers Compensation Insurance Premiums
 - a. The preliminary premium for 2026 is \$29,388 and the total budget is \$45,340.

Motion by Councilor Gehring second by Councilor Mason to approve Resolution 26-08 approving workers compensation premiums for 2026. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

2. Resolution 26-09: Resolution Approving Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting
 - a. Local Board of Appeal and Equalization open book meeting will be held on April 6, 2026, at 6:00pm in the council chambers.

Motion by Councilor Mason second by Councilor Jacobs to approve Resolution 26-09 approving Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting date of April 6, 2026, at 6:00pm. Vote for: Unanimous.

Motion carried.

3. Resolution 26-10: Resolution Reestablishing Unchanged Precincts and Polling Places.
 - a. Precincts and Polling Places for the City of Silver Lake remain the same.

Motion by Councilor Jacobs second by Councilor Yurek to approve Resolution 26-10 reestablishing unchanged precincts and polling places. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

4. Request to approve Church of the Holy Family Gambling License for March 1, 2026.
 - a. The Church of the Holy Family is requesting to hold bingo on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

Motion by Councilor Yurek second by Councilor Jacobs to approve the request from the Church of the Holy Family to hold bingo on Sunday, March 1, 2026. Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

5. Reviewed McLeod County Hearing Notice.

Open Discussion

1. Councilor Gehring proposed the addition of a student liaison to the city council.
 - a. Student liaison to the city council
 - b. Councilor Gehring will reach out to the high school and try to set up for next year.
2. Councilor Gehring provided an update on the ReLeaf Community Forestry Grant with the MN DNR, sharing that the city did not receive the grant and should resubmit it at a later time.
3. Discussed the city hall remodel.

Motion by Councilor Yurek second by Councilor Jacobs to adjourn the meeting Vote for: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Diane E. Pedersen, Clerk/Treasurer

Seal of the City: