

WOODLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:00 P.M. Monday April 13th, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Suerth called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Suerth and Councilmembers Dave Daniels, Tom Newberry, Hank Zucker and Juan Vazquez.

Staff: City Clerk Kimberly Lenarz-Greenwaldt, Dan Madsen City Administrator and Planning Director Pat Smith

Guest: Jim Dowds, Tony Paul and Will Inglis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Newberry and seconded by Vasquez to approve the following consent agenda items;

- A. Approve March 9th, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Payment of Claim & Financial Report
- C. Approve Resolution 16-26 Residential 2026-2028 Waste Reduction & Recycling Grant Agreement

Motion carried, Voting in favor was Mayor Suerth and Councilmembers Dave Daniels, Juan Vazquez, Hank Zucker and Tom Newberry. 5/0 Vote.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

NOTHING

PUBLIC HEARING LBAE

- A. Micheal Smeardon

Mayor Suerth opened the Public hearing.

Michael Smerdon of the Hennepin County Assessor's Office presented the 2026 assessment information to the Council and was available for questions. A total of seven property owner inquiries were received, including three valuation questions and two formal appeals. No residents appeared before the Council.

The Council reviewed two valuation adjustments that had been previously agreed upon between the County Assessor and the respective property owners.

For 17950 Breezy Point Road, the estimated market value was adjusted from \$9,555,000 to \$8,744,600, and the property classification was changed to seasonal recreational residential.

Motion was made by Councilmember Newberry and seconded by Councilmember Daniels to approve the changes.

Motion carried, Voting in favor was Mayor Suerth and Councilmembers Dave Daniels, Juan Vazquez, Hank Zucker and Tom Newberry. 5/0 Vote.

For 25080 Cedar Ridge Road, the estimated market value was adjusted from \$4,923,900 to \$4,736,000.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daniels and seconded by Councilmember Newberry to approve the change.

Motion carried, Voting in favor was Mayor Suerth and Councilmembers Dave Daniels, Juan Vazquez, Hank Zucker and Tom Newberry. 5/0 Vote.

PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS:

A. 2550 Spirit Knob Road

Smith presented the staff report. The City Engineer approved the original grading plan that did not need a grading variance on April 11, 2023, prior to starting the construction of the house at 2550 Spirit Knob Road. During the construction process, the applicant (Landscape Renovation) changed the grading plan and constructed a five-foot berm on the east side of the house. The zoning ordinance limits the change in grading to three feet before needing a variance. Staff supports the variance request because the berm does not negatively effect the stormwater drainage and the character of the neighborhood does not change as the berm is screened from the road.

Mayor Suerth opened the public hearing.

Tony Paul with Landscape Renovation addressed the City Council. They could have used a solid screen but wanted a more natural look of a berm to screen the utility equipment. Tony Paul said the berm is not higher than the wall that is already there.

Councilmember Newberry motioned to close the public hearing, Councilmember Zucker seconded. Motioned carried 5/0.

Councilmember Daniels questioned if the variance request met the findings for approving a variance because the berm is not needed because of the uniqueness of the lot, just the desire of the homeowner. Councilmember Vazquez asked why the

berm was not included in the original plans. Tony Paul said the landscape architect was unaware of the regulations.

Tony Paul said it would not be terribly difficult to reduce the height of the hill. Councilmember Zucker motioned, Councilmember Newberry seconded, to approve the variance to exceed the grading limit by three feet as proposed. Motion carried 3/2 with Councilmembers Daniels and Vazquez voting nay.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Woodland Signs

The Council reviewed a proposed modification to the Woodland sign approved on March 9, 2026. Following a design review with Mayor Suerth, Councilmember Daniels, and the City Clerk, an upgrade from 2x2 to 4x4 aluminum posts was recommended to improve durability and appearance. The upgrade would add \$750 to the project, bringing the total to \$7,700, which remains within the approved budget. Staff recommended approval of the upgrade.

Motion was made by Newberry and seconded by Daniels to approve the \$750.00 for the 4X4 post.

Motion carried, voting in favor was Mayor Suerth and Councilmembers Newberry, Vazquez, Zucker and Daniels. 5/0 Vote

NEW BUSINESS:

A. .GOV discussion

Staff provided an update on the City's transition to a .gov domain, noting that WoodlandMN.gov is the recommended domain. Council directed that staff and Council email addresses will use the first initial and last name format at woodlandmn.gov. Staff will proceed with implementation.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Suerth gave an update on the fraud that happened, and Chief Johnson is still working on it.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

A. Daniels: Nothing

B. Newberry: Nothing

C. Vazquez: Councilmember Vazquez requested that Smith review Woodland's policy regarding downed and dead trees within the public right-of-way, with the goal of clarifying the language and improving overall understanding.

- D. **Zucker:** Councilmember Zucker questioned the outstanding checks and asked that Finance Director Keller look into getting those taken care of. He would also like to know where things stand for the watermain replacement.

On the budget, Councilmember Zucker requested the addition of a new line item reflecting the year-to-date percentage for the water and sewer report.

STAFF REPORTS:

- A. **Police:**
- B. **Fire:**
- C. **Admin:**

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Newberry and seconded by Vazquez to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm.

Motion Carried, Voting in favor Mayor Suerth and Councilmembers Zucker, Newberry, Vazquez and Daniels. 5/0 Vote

Typed Respectfully on May 6th, 2026
By: Kimberly Lenarz-Greenwaldt
Deephaven City Clerk