

**WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2026**

Mayor Mullin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Council Members present, in-person, in the community room at City Hall offices:, Koch, MacDonald, and Sorensen. Absent: Plechash. Also present: Interim City Manager Aurora Yager, Public Works Director/City Engineer Mike Kelly, Community Development Director Alex Sharpe, Chief of Police Jamie Baker, City Clerk Kathy Leervig, and City Forester Bennett Myhran. MGT Consultants Ellen Hiniker was also present. Resident Pam Safar was present as the representative for the Downtown Beautification request.

5:30 p.m. Update on City Manager Recruitment

Mayor Mullin provided an update on the City Manager recruitment subcommittee, consisting of himself and Council Member Sorensen. The subcommittee has been working with MGT consultants Ellen Hiniker and Pam Dmytrenko. MGT received more than 30 applications and, through the pre-screening process, narrowed the pool to 10 candidates. One candidate subsequently withdrew, resulting in nine remaining candidates. MGT will present the nine candidates, identified only as Candidate 1, Candidate 2, etc., at the February 5 Council workshop. Council will then select 3-4 candidates for 1st round interviews on February 12th.

Discussion also included the selection of a community panel to assist with the interview process during the second-round interviews scheduled for February 24. The subcommittee will reach out to recommended members of boards and commissions, as well as local business owners and residents, to participate. The February 24 interview process will include three panels (staff, community panel, and City Council), along with a tour of the City.

6:15 p.m. Discussion of Resident Request for Downtown Beautification

Mayor Mullin presented that over the last few years, many of the dogwoods along Lake Street started exhibiting signs that they were struggling. Some of them were treated, but many died despite these efforts and staff began planning for their replacement.

In the Summer of 2025, a group of residents approached the Mayor noting their desire to see improved plantings along Lake Street, including, but not limited to, the replacement of the failed dogwoods. Since then, this group of residents hired Damon Farber to evaluate the performance of the plantings on Lake Street in the prepared report.

Pam Safar, a representative from the group of residents noted that the group was willing to get involved to help in any way from raising money to helping with labor.

The Council discussed the request and there was consensus to work with this group of residents on a revised planting plan. Council Member MacDonald added that the scope of work could be broadened to include looking at the lack of shade in general on Panoway.

Next steps would include creating a working group to recommend a revised planting plan for Lake Street. Recommendations would be brought back to the Council in a workshop for consideration before the summer. If Council supported, the plan would transition into implementation in part or in whole before the 2026 planting season ends.

6:40 p.m. Discussion of Future Council Topics

Below is a list of planned workshop topics. These are subject to change:

54 • February 10 – Parks and Trails Board – Master Plan Update Discussion and Comprehensive Plan
55 RFP

56 • February 24 - Lake Street Closures - Event Planning Update and PUD Ordinance Discussion

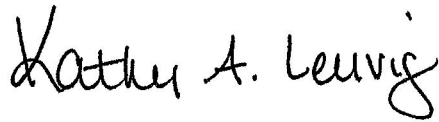
57 • March 10 - Pre Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting with Hennepin County

58
59 Council Member MacDonald commented on the importance of city staff getting direct feedback from
60 businesses for the Lake Street closures workshop.

61
62 Council Member Sorensen noted that there is a future topic planned for this summer to review what we
63 can do as a City for retail and that it can be expanded to more than just Pres Homes.

64
65 Mayor Mullin added that a future workshop update on the status of the Lake Minnetonka Legislative
66 Coalition would be coming soon.

67
68 Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy A. Leervig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

69
70 Kathy Leervig, City Clerk
71