

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ANOKA CITY COUNCIL  
ANOKA CITY HALL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Skogquist called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present at roll call: Mayor Skogquist, Councilmembers Campbell, Rostad, Scott, and Weaver.

Also present: City Manager Greg Lee; Assistant City Engineer Ben Nelson; Police Chief Andy Youngquist; Enterprise Operations Director Kevin Morelli; Public Services Administrator Lisa LaCasse; and Senior City Planner Clark Palmer.

Absent at roll call: None.

**3. COUNCIL MINUTES**

3.1 January 26, 2026, Worksession.  
February 2, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Councilmember Rostad noted corrections to the January 26, 2026, worksession minutes to include the name of Rick Wesp on Page 9 and correcting the reference to the aggregate to 1% and not .1% on Page 13.

Mayor Skogquist shared corrections to names in the worksession minutes of Zach Menter and Lori Allert throughout.

Motion by Councilmember Scott, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, to approve minutes of the January 26, 2026, Worksession as corrected and the February 2, 2026, Regular Meeting as presented.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

**4. OPEN FORUM**

4.1 Police Activity Update.

Police Chief Andy Youngquist shared about two significant calls recently that included felony warrants and how officers responded correctly, so the situation didn't quickly deteriorate and was an example of proactive policing. He

elaborated further on one incident that occurred near the senior living facility that included the K-9 team to locate a suspect, and how inaccurate postings on social media shared about shots fired. He shared how staff corrected this information and the importance of verifying information before shared then commented on the amazing work of the K-9 unit and how the Anti-Crime Commission was working to support an endowment for another K-9 that would be named from one of the donating families.

### **OTHER INFORMATION UNDER OPEN FORUM**

Jason Abelser, Anoka, requested that the spelling of his name be corrected to his name in the January 26, 2026, worksession minutes and thanked the Council for their good work and goal setting for the City.

Motion by Councilmember Rostad, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, to approve minutes of the January 26, 2026, Worksession as corrected regarding the spelling of Jason Abelser's name.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **5. PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

None.

### **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Weaver referred to Item 6.6 and asked if the store was following City ordinance regarding the display and sale of certain items. Chief Youngquist said two compliance checks have been conducted and that staff have met with the owners, who have been very cooperative regarding displaying certain products for sale, but that staff still needs to confirm that full compliance has been achieved.

Councilmember Weaver suggested postponing approval of this item until compliance can be confirmed, noting there is currently signage regarding the sale of glass products as well as kratom, an herbal supplement and stimulant that was prohibited under this license.

Motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Rostad, to remove Item 6.6 from the Consent Agenda and table consideration pending confirmation of full compliance.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Scott, seconded by Councilmember Rostad, to approve Items 6.1 through 6.5 of the Consent Agenda.

- 6.1 Verified Bills.
- 6.2 Revising and Setting Council Calendars.
- 6.3 Trunk Highway 47 Corridor and BNSF Grade Separation Project; Approve and Authorize the Execution of the FY 2023 through FY 2024 Railroad Crossing (RCE) Grant Agreement with Federal Highway Administration.
- 6.4 Waiving Facility Charges for 2026-2028 for Designated Organizations.
- 6.5 Approve LG240 Bingo Permit; Anoka Knights of Columbus, March 28, 2026.
- ~~6.6 Approve Issuance of Lower Potency Hemp Products (LPHE) Registration and Renewal Applications for Anoka Smokes LLC, 2010 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.~~

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

## **7. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS**

None.

## **8. PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATION**

None.

## **9. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

- 9.1 ORD/Zoning Text Amendments to City Code Section 78-2 – Definitions; Adding Definition of “Historical Society” and City Code Section 78-239 – Low Density Residential District; Adding “Historical Societies When Located Within a Historically Significant Building or Structure, as Defined by City Code Section 38-2” as a Conditional Use.

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading*

Senior City Planner Clark Palmer shared a background report stating the Anoka County Historical Society (ACHS) was pursuing the purchase of the Ticknor House, located at 1625 3rd Avenue, with the intention of relocating some of their operations to the property, specifically their offices and research library. Built in 1867, the Ticknor House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic property was currently home to the Ticknor Hill Bed & Breakfast (B&B), which was established in 1996 following approval of a conditional use permit (CUP) from the City of Anoka. Since its establishment, the B&B has essentially operated as a home-based business, with the owners residing in the back half of the building and the front half functioning as the B&B. ACHS plans to continue to operate the B&B in addition to relocating some of its operations to the property. The existing CUP, which allows for the B&B to operate in the R-1 Low

Density Residential District, will need to be amended to reflect the new use of the property. But before the CUP can be amended, the zoning district regulations need to be amended to allow ACHS to establish its use at the property. Consideration of the CUP amendment will be done following the second reading of this amendment, anticipated for the City Council meeting on March 2. The subject property is zoned R-1 Low-Density Residential. Historical societies are not a listed use in the R-1 district regulations. To allow the use, the zoning code needs to be amended to allow the use in the R-1 district. Staff recommended adding the use as a conditional use, which means the City would have to approve a conditional use permit for ACHS to establish its use at the property. Staff proposed the following changes to accomplish this change: amend City Code Section 78-2 – Definitions, adding the definition of Historical Society as a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of a specific place, group of people, or topic; and amend City Code Section 78-239 (d) adding historical societies as a conditional use when located within a historically significant building or structure, as defined by City Code Section 38-2. The Planning Commission reviewed the application and held a public hearing at its regular meeting on February 4, 2026. There were no public comments received concerning the proposed zoning text amendments. The Planning Commission discussed whether the proposed definition of historical society was too broad, so they recommended amending the definition to more narrowly tailor the definition to include historical society to mean a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of a specific place, group of people, or topic in Anoka County. Concerning the amendment to the R-1 zoning district use regulations, the Planning Commission recommended approval of adding historical societies when located within a historically significant building or structure, as defined by City Code Section 38-2, as a conditional use with the R-1 zoning district. The Planning Commission also discussed adding specific conditional use permit standards into the code that would apply to any historical society, as defined, that proposed locating within a R-1 zoning district. Again, the goal was to more narrowly tailor the amendment. Mr. Palmer outlined specific conditional use permit standards that were recommended to be added to the City Code in addition to adding the use as a conditional use within the R-1 zoning district: a minimum lot size of one acre; the property shall be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and maintain its status; City adopted noise regulations shall be met at all times; there shall be no on-street parking of vehicles associated with the use unless approved by the City Council; and outdoor events and activities shall be prohibited unless approved by the City Council. He said a formal review and recommendation by the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) is not required by Minnesota law or City Code; however, due to the nature of the proposed changes and subject property, staff thought it was important to provide the HPC a courtesy review and recommendation. The HPC reviewed the application at their regular meeting on February 10, 2026, and supported the zoning text amendments but recommended one change to the definition of historical society to mean a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of a

specific place, group of people, or topic in Anoka County or the City of Anoka. He outlined the HPC actions that included a motion to recommend approval of zoning text amendments.

Steve Florman, Board of Directors President, said they were grateful for the work of Mr. Palmer and staff and for the opportunity to stay in Anoka and reside in a historical location. He noted they will be cognizant of any special events held, if approved, and work to be a good neighbor.

Councilmember Weaver said the City was fortunate that the Wallace family had kept this property intact over time and that this use will protect the property into perpetuity. He said he fully supported the amendment and didn't want to hinder outdoor events as they were unique and important, then thanked Mr. Palmer for his work in creating this solution.

Councilmember Rostad said she was very excited to see the vitality in this space and thrilled to have an active history nearby.

Councilmember Campbell said this is a win for the City, neighborhood, and Historical Society as well.

Councilmember Scott thanked the ACHS for considering different spaces, as this will ensure vitality in this neighborhood and maintain the property for generations to come. He thanked Mr. Palmer and the Planning Commission for considering all the externalities that may have been a concern for the success of this plan.

Mayor Skogquist thanked everyone as well for their work, then spoke about an amendment to the definition and standards for a CUP. He said he liked tying the definition to the Society for approval, adding he was not concerned if the definition was narrowed to Anoka County or the City specifically, to allow for flexibility should the Society change in the future. He spoke about conditional uses as proposed and understood the need for limiting, but said it shouldn't be the intent for Council to approve each use, as he was less concerned with including everything in Code and having the permits be done administratively, if the size of an event was under a certain number of people.

Rebecca Desens, Executive Director of ACHS, said she appreciated the broader definition as each county has its own historical society and is always a non-profit organization preserving the physical history, and that centers are different. She said Tiknor may be the space, but the non-profit will always survive, especially during the digital age, adding that if Fridley loses its space, we could combine, or if ACHS goes away, the space could be used for Anoka Halloween and not necessarily be another historical society. Ms. Desens spoke about the street parking and outdoor events and how it would be difficult to tell if people were parking for their location or a food truck event, for example, short of issuing parking permits, adding that they didn't anticipate much need for parking on a

day-to-day basis. She said they would work around parking for smaller events, such as lawn yoga, and for larger events, such as food trucks, Halloween, or Diva Days, they would include an open house from only 2:00-4:00 p.m. She also noted Zion Lutheran and The Masons were willing to partner with them for larger events, adding that weddings would likely be smaller as well as other events, such as grooms' dinners and graduation events.

Mayor Skogquist said he was not in favor of retaining Items D and E as they could be interpreted as very restrictive and suggested they be included in the CUP as specific to the property and ensure they adhere to the noise ordinance for attendees of 50 people, for example, overnight parking, and capacity. He added he was very excited about this use and knew it would help the Society and be a good partnership.

Mr. Palmer said the second reading would include the amended language regarding being added to the CUP to be capped at a specific size, which would then trigger further review.

Councilmember Weaver suggested the Wallace family be acknowledged for their great work. Mayor Skogquist suggested they be considered for an award by the HPC.

Motion by Mayor Skogquist, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, to hold first reading of an ordinance approving a Zoning Text Amendment to City Code Sections 78-2 and 78-239; Establishing Use Regulations for Historical Societies Located in the R-1 Low Density Residential District as amended, striking Items D and E from Section G under LDR Districts and removing the definition of Anoka County or City of Anoka.

Upon a roll call vote, Mayor Skogquist, Councilmembers Campbell, Rostad, Scott, and Weaver voted in favor. Motion carried.

9.2 RES/2026 Street Overlay and Street Surface Improvement Projects; Amending the Assessment and Public Improvement Hearing Dates.

**RESOLUTION**

Assistant City Engineer Ben Nelson shared a background report stating that on January 20, 2026, the City Council adopted four separate resolutions (RES-2026-006, RES-2026-007, RES 2026-008, and RES-2026-009) calling for the public improvement and assessment hearings. These hearings, originally proposed for February 17, 2026, shall be set for March 2, 2026, due to administrative and project-related factors, including the time needed to complete the special benefit analysis, the preparation and verification of a larger mailing, and additional time provided to finalize the proposed assessment amounts. Council should be aware that a schedule update was published on the project's website the week of

February 8, 2026, for this date change of the hearings. He said the hearings are proposed to be set for 7:00 p.m. on March 2, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the Anoka City Hall.

Mayro Skogquist asked if the mailings had already occurred. Mr. Nelson said the mailings have been sent and will be published in the City's official newspaper, then noted the resolution would be updated to remove the hearing date and time, as that information was not required to be included.

Motion by Councilmember Scott, seconded by Councilmember Scott, to adopt a resolution for the 2026 Street Overlay and Street Surface Improvement Projects; Amending the Assessment and Public Improvement Hearing Dates.

Upon a roll call vote, Mayor Skogquist, Councilmembers Campbell, Rostad, Scott, and Weaver voted in favor. Motion carried.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **11.1 Recommendation on Appointments to the Charter Commission.**

Mayor Skogquist said he would be abstaining from consideration of this item due to a potential conflict of interest.

City Manager Greg Lee shared a background report stating seven seats on the Charter Commission have an expiration date of March 1, 2026, and included Michael Baldwin who has applied for reappointment; Douglas Dehn who has applied for reappointment; Angela Eaton who is not reapplying; Daniel Knapek who has applied for reappointment; Alan Norton who as applied for reappointment; Chad Wetzel who is not reapplying; and Jeremy McFarland who is not reapplying. Staff have advertised for applications according to our City policy. Appointments to the Charter Commission are made by the 10th Judicial District. The City Council makes recommendations on the appointments. He noted that if the appointments are made, there will be three vacant seats on the Charter Commission. Staff will continue to advertise these openings, and applications will be submitted to the City Council as they are received. Residency is required to serve on the Charter Commission. Charter Commission terms are four years.

Motion by Councilmember Rostad, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, to request the Council make a recommendation to the 10th Judicial District Court on the reappointment of Michael Baldwin, Douglas Dehn, Daniel Knapek, and Alan Norton.

Councilmember Scott thanked Commissioners Eaton, McFarland, and Wetzel for serving.

Vote taken. All ayes; Mayor Skogquist abstained. Motion carried.

11.2 Appointment to the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Councilmember Campbell said he would be abstaining from consideration of this item due to a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Lee shared a background report stating that the City has a vacancy on the Heritage Preservation Commission. This term has an expiration date of December 31, 2028. Staff have advertised this vacancy according to City policy. The City received one application from Ann Campbell of Anoka.

Motion by Councilmember Rostad, seconded by Councilmember Scott, to appoint Ann Campbell to the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Vote taken. All ayes; Councilmember Campbell abstained. Motion carried.

11.3 Entertainment/Business Opportunity on the Rum River; Hot Tub Boats.

Public Services Administrator Lisa LaCasse shared a background report stating Matt Witt, owner of Minnesota Hot Tub Boats LLC, has submitted a proposal to operate a hot tub boat rental business on the Rum River within the City of Anoka. The proposed operation would be based out of Riverfront Memorial Park, utilizing the City's existing boat slips as the primary docking location. She outlined the proposed business operations that would include renting electric-powered hot tub boats in two-hour increments, multiple times per day, all reservations would be made online, guests would be provided with life jackets and have the option to purchase towels, sunscreen, and other merchandise, all participants would be required to sign a waiver before departure, and boats would be operated by the guests, not by staff. She said for safety, each vessel includes a GPS tracking system to aid in emergency response, an anchor, a fire extinguisher, an air horn, and a CB radio. Ms. LaCasse noted a temporary storage shed may be needed to serve as a changing room and storage area until the City's planned restroom facility is constructed. She shared that he was in the process of purchasing boats from Spacruzzi, a U.S. manufacturer specializing in luxury hot tub boats then spoke about infrastructure needs that include no existing utilities (electric, water, sewer) at any of the City's docking locations, estimated installation cost of \$30,000–\$50,000, a lift station of some kind may be required due to elevation differences between the street and shoreline, which may increase cost and complexity, and final utility cost estimates would be refined if the project advances. She reviewed the proposed vendor fee structure that included a negotiated annual fee for three dock slips and utilities, and whether Council would entertain an agreement for repayment of a portion of the utility

infrastructure costs, as this may lead to other business ventures. She further reviewed the proposal that included the Council to consider a loan from the Urban Redevelopment Fund, which had a current balance of \$183,000, then said the loan could cover upfront utility installation costs and that past loans to small businesses have been five years at 5% interest. Ms. LaCasse said staff was looking for direction on whether the Council wanted to continue to explore this entertainment/small business opportunity on the Rum River and provide direction on utility costs and funding.

Matt Witt, Minnesota Hot Tub Boats LLC, shared more about his proposal, which was in other cities across the country but would be the first in Minnesota. He said the boats would travel a maximum of five miles per hour and would provide a relaxing, peaceful experience for those visiting downtown Anoka, and thanked staff for their assistance to date.

Councilmember Weaver said he liked the concept, which would be similar to a paddle wheeler boat at Peninsula Point, which could be combined there instead, but said he saw the vision for this on the Upper Rum River and supported exploring this further.

Councilmember Scott said if the dam improvements occurred in the future, this may not work as there may not be enough time to navigate the river in under two hours, but supported further discussions, then asked about safety procedures and how they would ensure appropriate proximity away from the dam. Mr. Witt said that it has been discussed and there are ways to restrict people from remaining too close to the dam, and that all rentals would include an extensive safety briefing, safety signage, and GPS trackers to warn if people have gone too far towards the dam. He said they will also have a staffed boat on the river to ensure all safety protocols are adhered to, then explained how the boats travel very slowly and were bottom-heavy, making them very difficult to tip.

Mayor Skogquist suggested not investing too many funds until the payback on the electric and water models can be determined, as opposed to the sewer models, for items such as changing areas.

Ms. LaCasse said staff will continue to work on this proposal, adding that power will have to be included, which was estimated at \$8,500, and needs water access as well for any potential restroom/changing area facilities. She noted staff would likely return with an agreement for consideration in March, as Mr. Witt would like to begin operating this year if approved.

## **12. UPDATES AND REPORTS**

### **12.1 Tentative Agenda(s).**

The Council reviewed tentative agendas.

Mr. Lee said the March 2 agenda will include the hiring authorization of an Electric Utility Director.

## 12.2 Staff and Council Input.

Enterprise Operations Director Kevin Morelli shared about the recent grand opening of the Anoka Cannabis Company, stating they had a great turnout on February 5. He said their product selection has been extremely well-received and that reservations were filled for the first three days of business. He spoke about challenges they are working through, such as limited suppliers and staffing, and how they were focusing on educating the public on these products. He shared current financials that included gross sales of \$202,159 with a net profit of \$64,083, which would be an annual projection of over \$2 million.

Councilmember Scott said he was pleased with the report and hoped that staffing and technology would bring wait times down then spoke about the different demographics of people visiting the dispensary during different times of the day.

Mayor Skogquist said he was pleased to see the proforma was close to what was projected and said that while the wait times may be longer than hoped, people were pleased to be there.

Mayor Skogquist shared a summary of the Minnesota Municipal Power Association that included renewable energy statistics, proposed and current projects, and renewable natural gas, then shared concerns regarding missing access panels on some downtown light poles and asked for a response. Mr. Lee said the staff was working on replacing and repairing the access panels replaced and repaired.

## 13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Scott made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council meeting. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion.

Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by: Cathy Sorensen, *TimeSaver Off-Site Secretarial, Inc.*

Approval Attestation:

Amy T. Oehlers, City Clerk