

**State Center City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**

State Center City Council met in special session on Tuesday February 10, 2026, in the City Hall Council Room. Mayor Pfantz called the meeting to order. Roll Call: Darrow, German, Latimer, Quick and Schoppe. Also present were L. Bearden, M. Kielly, J. Ellis, K. Yates and B. Pfantz.

- Motion by Darrow, 2nd by Quick to approve the agenda. Motion passes 5-0.
- Motion by Latimer, 2nd by Schoppe to accept the resignation of Erik Thompson. There was discussion regarding the need to secure Grade 2 certification services for the water treatment plant and Grade 1 certification services for wastewater treatment. Ellis should soon take his Grade 1 exams for but there will be a waiting period before he can take the exam for Grade 2. Motion passes 5-0. A Zoning Administrator will also need to be appointed as Thompson filled that role.
- An interview committee of Ellis, Mayor Pfantz and Councilman Schoppe interviewed 3 applicants for the Public Works Utility position vacated by T. Kifer. Ellis offered opinion that of the three candidates one stood out with experience that would allow the Public Works department to operate with a staff of two rather than three (not replacing E. Thompson) to reduce budget stress in public works. The city will continue to hire a temporary summer position for mowing. Motion by Quick, 2nd by German to offer the position to Jamie Kirby with a \$30.00/hour wage and an immediate vacation bank of 40 hours (one week). Motion passes 5-0.
- Bearden shared a legal opinion by Matt Brick, City Attorney regarding Graphite Construction Group that finds the apparent low bidder not responsive. German moved to adopt Res. 26-44, a resolution to award the contract for the State Center Fire Department Renovation & Addition - Redesign project to Keystone Construction Services, Waukee, Iowa for the base bid of \$1,850,000.00. Latimer 2nd; Res. 26-44 is adopted 5-0 roll call.
- Motion by Darrow, 2nd by Latimer approving up to \$2,338.00 total for LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program) for qualifying State Center Fire & EMS volunteers. This first installment will be for the calendar year 2026. Going forward contributions will be made on a fiscal year basis. The city will contribute up to \$167.00 per qualifying volunteer annually and the State will match up to \$500.00 per volunteer. Motion passes 4-0 with German abstaining as he is one of the volunteers that will benefit from the LOSAP.
- Bearden, having worked on the FY27 city budget, is recommending the elimination of the part-time Clerk's Assistant position at the end of this fiscal year (June 30). She also asked the council and mayor to give thought to reducing the number of hours the city hall office is open to the public. Both concepts are being suggested to increase efficiency and reduce costs in the office in anticipation of replacing the city clerk when she retires. The pending switch of accounting software and addition of electronic document retention should also increase efficiency. Motion by Schoppe, 2nd by Latimer approving the elimination of the part-time clerk assistant position as of June 30, 2026. Motion passes 5-0. A change in the public open hours will be unchanged until more information can be presented.
- Kielly and Bearden presented and gave some explanations of the proposed FY27 budget. As of now, the proposed city rate is at \$15.80402, an increase of 81 cents /1000.00 of taxable value over FY26. Pfantz spoke of the State's continued move

toward limiting the local government's growth of revenue. Unrelated to the property tax rate, Kielly has worked to reduce costs in the utility budgets but some of these reductions will limit the city's ability to keep up with mandated and other necessary improvements and repairs without rate increases.

There being no further business, Darrow moved to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Schoppe 2nd; motion passes 5-0.



Craig Pfantz, Mayor

Attest:



Lori Bearden, City Clerk

