

Pursuant to due call and proper notice thereof, a meeting of the Breckenridge City Council was held on February 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, Breckenridge, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Russell Wilson; Council Members Beth Meyer, Jim Jawaski, Jamie Rezac, Chris Vedder and Scott Wermerskirchen. City Administrator Sydney Wiertzema.

Members Absent: Council Member Brooks Klinnert and City Attorney Jason Butts.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Rezac moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Vedder and carried unanimously.

Open Discussion: Chief Karlgaard presented a Life Saving Award to Sergeant Josh Ebert, Officer Ian Cottrell, and Wahpeton-Breckenridge Ambulance Service Member Sarah Murray. There were two members that could not attend, the caller and the dispatcher, Angela Lanners. This Life Saving Award was for saving the life of a woman on January 1st, 2026, in the early morning. She was found lying in the snow, tucked away in the shadows where traffic couldn't see her. The temperature was around two below zero with 10-15 mile an hour wind.

Motion by Council Member Rezac to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following:

- A. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting on January 26, 2026.
- B. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Public Utilities meeting of January 26, 2026.

Council Member Vedder offered Resolution No. 13565-13/2026, "**A RESOLUTION ALLOWING BILLS AND CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE, MINNESOTA,**" and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Rezac and carried unanimously.

Officer Christopher Harrington was administered the Oath of Office and was welcomed to the City.

Council Member Vedder offered Resolution No. 13566-14/2026, "**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER, CHRISTOPHER HARRINGTON, BE ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION POLICE AND FIRE PLAN,**" and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Wermerskirchen and carried unanimously.

Council Member Meyer offered Resolution No. 13567-15/2026, "**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEED SCDP (SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM)**

HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS BY WILKIN COUNTY,” and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Jawaski and carried unanimously. This is a County program and they will administer it. Commercial businesses can apply for funding to upgrade their storefront. Residents can also apply but it depends on their income (it is for low- and very low-income families) for their homes.

Joshua Ebert will be the new Emergency Manager for the City of Breckenridge. He will be working alongside Briana at the County. Josh has done this type of work previously, with Clay County, for 10 years. He will get an organizational chart together and get everyone trained on what to do in an emergency situation. Josh said that any disaster or any funding dollar requests still have to go through the county and we have to flow through the county for certain things.

Chief Karlgaard spoke about the Wahpeton Special Event/Street Closure Meeting. Chief said that there is a meeting this Thursday, February 5th at 10 a.m. at Wahpeton City Hall to discuss that Wahpeton might not be able to close Dakota Avenue down, because it is a State Highway, for parades or other events. If they did close it down, it might have to be through a permit process, and it might come with an expense. This would affect Breckenridge because 2 of our three parades, NDSCS and Blue Goose, start in Breckenridge and go into Wahpeton. We wouldn't be able to have those parades if we couldn't go into Wahpeton.

Council Committee Reports:

- A. Finance – None.
- B. Public Works – None.
- C. Personnel – None.
- D. Public Safety – None.
- E. Others as needed – LEC Committee; Special Assessments, Active Living, Arts Council, Library – There is a Boy Scout that wants to take on a project, an Eagle Scout award. In the back of the library, he wants to do a big overhaul. He will present it to the library board first, to give him the experience, then come to council and present it here.

Staff Reports:

- City Administrator – Brooks sent an email: He sent his heartfelt thanks to Neil's team for the outstanding work that they did early Sunday morning to clear and prepare the skating rink. He said that it was great to see the rink ready for families, neighbors and to see the kids getting back outside after such a long and bitter cold snap. Your willingness to be out there early in tough conditions and on a weekend made it possible for so many people to enjoy a safe, clean and beautifully maintained space. Community moments like these don't happen by accident, they happen because dedicated city employees show up with pride at work and care of the people who live here; Sydney is also filling out a \$1 Million grant to be used for roadways and utility infrastructure out at Northport. Sydney will be presenting it to

the county on Tuesday and her, and Neil will be presenting it to the JPA the following Tuesday.

- City Attorney – None.
- Director of Public Services – None.
- Building Official/Codes – None.
- Chief of Police – Christopher Harrington is our new part-time officer; Chief wanted to publicly acknowledge Sergeant Josh Ebert and Officer Ryan Drews for the work and dedication that they have put in. They are part of the original team here locally. They have stayed and worked through the staffing issues and shortages. Sergeant Ebert has taken on a lot of extra duties as well as being a field training officer. Officer Drews is our new Police Department detective along with a number of other roles that he's willingly taken on within the department. He also wanted to thank Josh Nack for all of his work.

Mayor's Comments: Russ thanked the officers as well. Superbowl weekend! Everybody have fun, enjoy the game, but be safe! The weather is going to be nice. Valentine's Day is a week away.

Other Comments: Beth wanted to congratulate the officers but also their wives.

Motion by Council Member Jawaski to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Vedder and carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

RUSSELL WILSON, Mayor

SYDNEY WIERTZEMA, City Administrator