



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2025 7:00 PM
Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway

Vision Statement

The City of Cologne is a vibrant small town that respects its heritage, embraces its future and offers a high quality of life for all who live, work and visit our community.

Mayor: Matt Lein
Councilmember: Sarah Bruss
Councilmember: Jeri Bowers
Councilmember: Selmer Olson
Councilmember: Carol Szaroletta

NOTE: AGENDA ITEMS ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF DISCUSSION. TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT FOR ITEMS OF INTEREST, PLEASE ARRIVE AT 7:00 PM.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Lein called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmembers Bowers, Olson and Szaroletta were present. Also present was City Administrator Michelle Morrison. Councilmember Bruss was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADOPT AGENDA

Administrator Morrison advised that since mailing the packet out last week several items have come in to be added to the agenda. Under the Consent Agenda the following has been added:

d. Resolution 25 – 21 Accepting Donation from Minnesota Valley Electric Operation Round Up Trust

e. Approve Gambling Permit for Cologne Hollanders Bingo November 14, 2025

And under New Business the following has been added:

c. Res No 25 – 22 Approving Assignment of an Early Grading Agreement

Motion by Councilmember Bowers to adopt the agenda as revised, second by Councilmember Olson. Motion carried 4 - 0.

4. VISITOR'S PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, CORRESPONDENCE

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed below are considered routine and non-controversial by the Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Councilmember, Staff or Citizen. If removed, the item will be discussed at the end of the regular agenda.

a. **September 2nd, 2025 City Council Minutes**

b. **Accounts Payable from September 3rd, 2025**

c. **September 9th, 2025 Payroll Summary**

d. **Res No 25 - 21 Accepting Donation**

e. **Approve Gambling Permit for Cologne Hollanders Bingo
November 14, 2025**

After discussion, Councilmember Szaroletta made a motion to adopt the consent agenda, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried 4-0.

6. NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. **Approve Purchase of New Mixer for WWTP**

Administrator Morrison reviewed the two bids received for a replacement mixer for the WWTP after a power surge destroyed the existing mixer, noting that the League of Minnesota Cities is working on a claim that will reimburse the city for all costs related to the incident. After discussion Councilmember Szaroletta made a motion to accept the low bid from Quality Flow at a cost not to exceed \$27,975, second by Councilmember Boers. Motion carried 4-0.

b. Resolution 25-20 Approving 2026 Preliminary Tax Levy

Administrator Morrison reviewed her memo to the Council regarding the proposed levy, and tax impact stating that this is just the preliminary levy and the final levy will be adopted in December with the budget. The final levy can be lower than the preliminary levy, but not higher. The total preliminary levy increase is 9.81% over the 2025 adopted budgeted levy.

After discussion Councilmember Bowers made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-20 Approving the 2026 Preliminary Tax Levy, second by Councilmember Szaroletta. Motion carried 4-0.

c. Resolution 25-22 Approving Assignment of an Early Grading Agreement

The early grading agreement that was approved at the August 18th Council meeting was between the City and Ron Olson. Typically, developers use an LLC rather than themselves personally, for many reasons. Mr. Olson has created the Southside Villages of Cologne LLC for his building projects. The City can transfer the previously approved Early Grading Agreement through a Resolution assigning the agreement – this Resolution accomplishes that.

Councilmember Olson made a motion adopting Resolution 25-21 Approving Assignment of an Early Grading Agreement, second by Councilmember Szaroletta. Motion carried 4-0

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Administrator Update**
- b. Council / Mayor Reports**
- c. August 2025 Sheriff Report**

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

9. ADJOURN

Motion by Councilmember Szaroletta to adjourn at 7:20 PM, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Michelle Morrison

City Administrator/City Clerk



Matt Lein

Mayor

