



## City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 6, 2025 7:00 PM

Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway

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### 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

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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.

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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

#### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 2. ADOPT AGENDA

Administrator Morrison advised that since mailing the packet out last week bids were received for the Kubota replacement. Under New Business the following has been added: Item e – Approve Purchase of 2025 Kubota. Motion by Councilmember Olson to adopt the agenda as revised, second by Councilmember Bruss. Motion carried unanimously.

### **3. VISITOR'S PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **a. Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women**

Kim Lohse, Community Outreach Manager for SVABW was present to highlight their organization's work in the community and various fund-raising events they have scheduled. Administrator Morrison asked for flyers that could be posted on the City Website and Facebook pages.

#### **b. Jayson Read – Trail Lighting Discussion**

Cologne resident Jayson Read addressed the Council on the possibility of looking into lights on the trails. The most concerning area is the trail that goes under Hwy 212 adjacent to Lake St W and the Railroad tracks. The Council discussed that some trail areas would not be easy to light, and homeowners would not like the extra light, but agreed that the trail system should be reviewed and potential light areas identified. The Council will get trail maps at the next meeting to start the discussion.

### **4. 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 15th, 2025 City Council Minutes**
- b. Accounts Payable from September 16th, 2025**
- c. September 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Payroll Summaries**
- d. Res No 25-23 Approving Pursuit of 2025 Local Road Improvement Program Funding for Village Parkway Improvement Project**
- e. Res No 25-24 Authorizing the Release of a Letter of Credit for M/I Homes**
- f. Approve Temporary Liquor License Cologne Hollanders Bingo**
- g. Approve Prosecution Contract with Carver County Attorney Office**
- h. Res No 25-26 Accepting Donation**
- i. 2026 LMCIT Waiver**

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

## **5. NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **a. Insurance Deductible Discussion**

Administrator Morrison inquired into different options for the deductible on the city policy. Moving to a \$10,000 deductible can save the city \$7,752 annually. After discussion Councilmember Bruss made a motion to move the city to the \$10,000 deductible, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

### **b. Mn Paid Leave Discussion**

Administrator Morrison shared that the new Minnesota Paid Leave Act goes into effect on January 1, 2026, and covers fulltime, part time, seasonal, firefighters and elected officials. The law provides up to 90% of wages to a maximum of \$1,372 per week. Employers can choose to use the State Program or use an outside insurance vendor. The state program is paid for by a .88% collection on employers' payroll, (est. cost of \$4,775) she had received a quote to provide the same benefit from ShelterPoint for .59% of payroll, (est. cost of \$2,504) The law also allows employers to collect some of the premium from employees but requires that the employers pay a minimum of 50% of the premium.

After discussion, Councilmember Bruss made a motion to authorize staff to move forward with securing Mn Paid Leave through ShelterPoint with the city paying 100% of the premium, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

### **c. Open Gym Discussion and Res 25-25 Approving Open Gym Supervisor**

The city has offered open gym on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons from November through March. Attendance has been dropping off, and the fees do not cover the cost of hiring a supervisor. Staff still would like to hire an open gym supervisor but would like to have the freedom to operate on a different schedule.

After discussion Councilmember Bowers made a motion to approve Resolution 25-25 Hiring an Open Gym Supervisor, second by Councilmember Bruss. Motion carried unanimously.

### **d. Budget Workshop 6:00 PM October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Administrator Morrison would like to schedule a workshop for 6:00PM prior to the October 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to review a final levy and budget proposal with November 3<sup>rd</sup> continuation date if needed. After discussion Councilmember Olson made a motion calling for a budget workshop at 6:00 PM October 20<sup>th</sup>, with a continuation for

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, if necessary, second by Councilmember Bruss. Motion carried unanimously.

**e. Kubota Purchase**

Two bids have been received to replace the 2014 Kubota. This purchase is on the Capital Improvement Plan with a \$25,000 placeholder. The bids received were \$18,443.27 from Lano and \$15,231.84 from Arnolds.

After discussion, Councilmember Bruss made a motion to accept the low bid of \$15,231.84 from Arnolds, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. Administrator Update**
- b. Council / Mayor Reports**

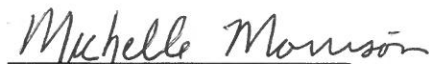
**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**8. ADJOURN**

Motion by Councilmember Bowers to adjourn at 7:55 PM, second by Councilmember Szaroletta. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

  
Michelle Morrison

City Administrator/City Clerk

  
Matt Lein

Mayor