



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 1, 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, Bruss, Olson and Szaroletta were present. Also present was City Administrator Michelle Morrison.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Bruss to adopt the revised agenda adding item d to the Consent Agenda Approving Resolution 25-33 Accepting a Donation from the CFD Relief Association, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

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. November 17th, 2025 City Council Minutes**
- b. Accounts Payable from November 18th, 2025**
- c. December 2nd, 2025 Payroll Summary**
- d. Res No 25-33 Accepting Donation from CFD Relief Association**

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

6. NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. PUBLIC HEARING: Truth in Taxation Hearing

Motion by Councilmember Bruss to open the public hearing for the Truth in Taxation Hearing, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Morrison reviewed the proposed 2026 Budget that contained a 5.9% levy increase noting that the Debt Service fund is in year two of 5 years of balloon payments from the 2013 refinancing of the bond that was issued to build the Community Center and Village Parkway. The impact of the new levy on a \$400,000 home is \$142. Mayor Lein allowed questions from the audience. After discussion, Councilmember Bruss made a motion to close the public Truth in Taxation hearing, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Resolution 25-30 Final Tax Levy Collectible in 2026

Councilmember Bowers made a motion adopting Resolution 25-30 Final Tax Levy collectable in 2026, second by Councilmember Szaroletta. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Resolution 25-31 Approving 2026 Budget

After discussion, Councilmember Bruss made a motion adopting Resolution 25-31 Approving the 2026 budget, second by Councilmember Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Resolution 25-32 Opting to Increase the benefit level for Firefighters who are Vested in the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan

Administrator Morrison reviewed her memo to the Council discussing the most current actuarial value of the plan, some neighboring and comparable benefit levels, and various funded ratios across other cities with the recommendation to move the benefit level to \$2,750 per year of service.

After discussion, Councilmember Bowers made a motion adopting Resolution 25-32 Opting to Increase the benefit level for Firefighters who are Vested in the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan, second by Councilmember Bruss. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilmember Olson voting against.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Administrator Update**
- b. Council / Mayor Reports**
 - i. Mayor Lein – Annual Appointment Discussion**
- c. October Sheriff report**

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

9. ADJOURN

Motion by Councilmember Szaroletta to adjourn at 8:20 PM, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Michelle Morrison

City Administrator/City Clerk



Matt Lein

Mayor