



City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 21, 2026 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 Morrison.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Bruss to adopt the agenda, 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. September 8th, 2026, City Council Minutes**
- b. Accounts Payable from September 9th, 2026**
- c. September 22nd Payroll Summary**
- d. 2027 Contract for Police Services**

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

6. NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 26-16 Approving 2027 Preliminary Tax Levy and Calling for a Public Hearing**

Administrator Morrison reviewed her memo to the Council regarding the proposed levy 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 6.4% over the 2026 final levy.

After discussion, Councilmember Olson made a motion to adopt Resolution 26 -16 Approving the 2027 Preliminary Tax Levy and Calling for a Public Hearing, second by Councilmember Bruss. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Mn DOT Local Road Improvement Funding Program Application Discussion**

Administrator Morrison reviewed her memo to the Council regarding application submissions being open for the road improvement program. Last year 42 applications were selected out of 233 submissions and \$47 million was awarded. The city has contracted with Bolton & Menk to submit the application for the past 5 years seeking funds for Village Parkway. Most awards are focused on safety improvements and after discussion the consensus was to pass on the submission in 2026.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

Councilmember Olson led discussion on the slow home sales in Cologne and what could be done to improve home sales. After discussion Administrator Morrison said she would reach out to Loomis Home's and have a discussion and report back.

Councilmembers Bruss and Bowers updated the Council on their meeting with the Fire Department committee to review compensation. Topics covered included hourly on call/training pay rates and Salaries for Chief's and Captains. Another meeting is scheduled prior to the October 5th Council meeting. The target is to bring a total compensation package for 2027 to the Council at the October 19th Council Meeting.

c. August 26, 2026 Sheriff Report

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

9. ADJOURN

Motion by Councilmember Olson to adjourn at 7:45 PM, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:



Michelle Morrison

City Administrator/City Clerk

Attest:



Matt Lein

Mayor