City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 19, 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

a. John Fahey – Commissioner Update

Commissioner Fahey updated the Council on activities at the County including construction projects, 2050 Comp Plan, Library changes and an 8% preliminary tax levy increase.

b. Christie Larson – Executive Director Southern Valley Alliance Alliance

Southern Valley Alliance Board member Kevin Hill updated the council on the Crisis Interventions the organization provided, answering 2,915 calls and helping 1,349 clients in 2025 – an increase of 40% from the prior year – while dealing with government budget cuts. October is Domestic Abuse month and Fundraisers are planned. City Administrator asked for flyers of the events so they can be posted on the city website and facebook pages.

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 21st, 2026, City Council Minutes**
- **b. Accounts Payable from September 22nd, 2026**
- **c. October 6th Payroll Summary**
- **d. Approve Temporary Liquor and Gambling License for Hollanders Bingo November 13th**
- **e. Approve 2027 League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust Waiver**
- **f. Approve 2027 Prosecution Contract**

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

6. NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. 2027 Fall Paving Projects

Administrator Morrison reviewed the bids for paving projects to be completed this fall which include redoing the trail from City Hall to Naples behind Cologne Academy, a new trail from Adams Ave to the VET park with handicap ramps and finishing the Public Works parking lot.

After discussion Councilmember Bowers made a motion to approve the Southwest Paving bid for$79,650 which includes the addition of the Community Center parking lot repair – with the understanding that the trail work of $54,250 will be paid for with the Trail Assigned Funds, second by Councilmember Bruss. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Public Works Loader Purchase

Administrator Morrison reviewed the bids to replace the 1999 Cat Loader – noting that the purchase is on the Capital Improvement Plan as a 2026 action item. The bids were both less than the $260,000 placeholder that was in the plan for this purchase, and Brian has recommended that we add on a plow attachment that was quoted at $26,620.

The funds are available in the Capital Improvement Fund that was created this January, and the bids both include a price reduction for our trade in and the State Bid pricing.

After discussion Councilmember Olson made a motion to approve the low bid from Ziegler Cat for a 2026 Cat loader at a cost not to exceed $182,296.48 and the Plow attachment at a cost not to exceed $26,620, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Administrator Update

b. Mayor / Council / Committees Reports

i. CCFD Fire Academy – October 10

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

9. ADJOURN

Motion by Councilmember Olson to adjourn at 7:40 PM, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michelle Morrison

Michelle Morrison

City Administrator/City Clerk

Attest:

Matt Lein

Mayor