

The Clear Lake City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building with Mayor Lisa Lundberg presiding. Those present were Alderwomen Ramona Drake and Amy Bjerke, Aldermen Rod Pauli, Jonas Reppe, Jamie Hintz and Matt Stormo. Also present were Mary Krueger, Todd Boyd, Elliott Furman, Landen Buse, and Daryl Root. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and then called to order by Mayor Lundberg.

Mayor Lundberg asked for disclosure of conflicts with the presented agenda. There were no conflicts of interest.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Bjerke to approve the agenda as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Drake, seconded Reppe to approve the consent agenda as follows: Minutes – Regular Meeting November 10, 2025. Monthly Financial Statements for the Month Ending November 30, 2025. Approval of Delinquent Water Bills. Approval of Warrants. Temporary Liquor License Application: January 3, 2026 – Wedding – Lundy's Bar & Grill. Approval of travel and registration for ATC Conference January 13-15, 2026 in Pierre, SD for Superintendent Furman. Temporary one-day permits are subject to all paperwork being signed and submitted to the Finance Officer and that the applicants provide the city with proof of liability insurance for the event. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Warrants Approved: PAYROLL: Council 1250.00; Mayor 425.00; Finance 5236.30; Gen Gov't Building 428.75; Building Inspector 200.00; Streets 6766.73; Snow 444.81; Rubble Site 1133.61; Parks 337.70; Library 2140.02; Community Center 87.50; Water 4648.40; Sewer 6089.09; Aflac 91.39; SD Retirement 2961.80; Optilegra 46.51; Health Pool of SD 6752.44; Delta Dental of SD 315.00; Sioux Valley FCU 200.00; Dnb-Fica/Wh 6502.02. EXPENSES: A&B Business Solutions 251.93 Copier Contract, Aflac 153.27 Insurance To Be Reimbursed, Banner Associates, Inc 11313.50 Engineering Services, Bjerke Sanitation 6450.40 Sanitation Services, James Or Sandi Block 150.00 Meter Deposit Refund, Boyd Law Firm, Prof. L.L.C. 967.50 Legal Fees, Brookings-Deuel Rws 9629.00 Water Tap Fees And Purchas, City Of Clear Lake 1255.83 City Utilities, Clear Lake Building Center 112.62 Misc Supplies And Repairs, Clear Lake Courier 485.42 Publications And Supplies, Clear Lake Chamber Of Commerce 1125.00 Employee Christmas Bucks, Cole Paper Inc. 122.02 Custodian Supplies, Core & Main 3136.56 Water Repairs, Casey Crume 150.00 Meter Deposit Refund, Sd Danr 1500.00 Danr Fees, Deuel County Sheriff 6357.16 Law Enforcement Contract, Deuel County Farmers Union Oil 1200.45 Misc Supplies And Repairs, First Bank & Trust 883.52 Credit Card Charges, Brittany Or Nancy Greene 75.00 Muni Room Deposit Refund, H-D Electric Coop, Inc 150.42 Electric Energy, Halme, Inc. 10644.07 Pay Application 2 Main Lift St, Innovative Office Solutions 209.07 Mailing Supplies, Itc Telecom 410.54 Phone And Internet, Mary Krueger 52.08 Reimbursement Travel, Maynard's Food 5.77 Misc Supplies, Menards 687.93 Christmas Supplies And Misc, Northwestern Energy 508.72 Natural Gas Energy, Ottertail Power Co 3629.41 Electric Energy, Pheasantland Industries 238.14 Golf Cart Decals, Pitney Bowes Bank Inc 791.99 Postage, Sd Department Of Health 40.00 Water Testing, Larry Schlomka 17000.00 Jetter Truck Approved, Sd State Treasurer (Sd Dor) 518.34 Sales Tax Due To State, Steve Rhody Services 50.00 Window Washing Services, Star Laundry 118.54 Janitorial Services, Supreme Welding Inc 214.37 Snow Repairs, Two Trees Technologies 489.00 Monthly It Backup, Us Bank Trust-Spa Lkbox Cm9695 6837.30 Water Srf Loan, United States Dept Of Ag 6107.00 Sewer Usda Loan.

No one at the meeting was present for public voice.

Wendy Keesling, who owns a house in Clear Lake, met with Council via teleconference about her water bill. At first she thought there would be no charges once water was off at curb due to her not residing there. The house is not up for sale as it is in poor condition, there are possible legal issues, and Keesling still has possessions inside. After discussion with Council, she understood why there are tap fees and surcharges. She wanted to negotiate with Council to reduce the bill as she cannot afford the full amount. Much discussion was held regarding future possibilities of the residence and Keesling's financial situation. The Finance Officer will contact Keesling with Council decision.

Motion by Hintz, seconded by Pauli to approve reducing the water bill for account 4650.00 to water and sewer surcharges only (no tap fees or garbage charges) for up to six months. At six months (June 8, 2026), normal charges will apply. Furthermore, if there has been no activity with the property by June 8, 2026, all other charges (tap fees and garbage) will be retroactively charged to the owner. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Banner Engineering representative Landen Buse met with Council to discuss many items.

Buse presented Sara Pankonin's report on the Parkway Drive Spillway Project. The cost estimate for a concrete spillway is \$439,000. On Council request, the scope was updated to include an analysis for a detention pond west of the golf course on the same drainageway rather than pursuing a concrete spillway. This detention pond includes a dam construction on private pastureland which will require permitting. The permitting process could take up to two years. Discussion was held that a dam could create more safety issues than what it was solving. The cost estimate is a couple million dollars and there are funding opportunities for this project. A smaller structure would give little benefit though there would be less permitting and a lower cost. Much discussion was held. Suggestions were made about work done at the spillway with culverts and cleaning channels for a minimum cost. Alderman Hintz vocalized his disapproval of a dam as it is too expensive before other options are considered. Buse will bring the comments to Pankonin.

The Engineering report was presented. Updates were given on the Main Lift Station and Forcemain Project as the contractor has begun the work.

Motion by Drake, seconded by Bjerke to approve Pay Request No. 2 to Halme, Inc. in the amount of \$10,644.07. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Some updates were given on the Phase 1A Water Project. Buse is preparing a change order for additional work. The contractor won't begin the project until spring 2026.

Discussion was held on the Phase 1B Water Project. There will be a public hearing on December 15th at 5:30pm in the City Council chambers. This phase's expected budget is \$2,696,900 for the Drinking Water portion and \$2,130,400 for the Clean Water (storm sewer) portion.

The City received notice of denial for the LWCF Grant for the Swimming Pool. A Pool Committee is expected to be formed.

Finance Officer Krueger presented a third Reimbursement Request to draw from the SRF Loan with DANR for the Main Lift Station engineering expenses.

Motion by Bjerke, seconded by Drake to authorize the Mayor to sign the reimbursement request for the SRF Loan from DANR for C461037-03 in the amount of \$56,269.00. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

The 2025 Appropriations Ordinance included an operating transfer from the General Fund to the Water Fund if the cost of the water meters and system installed in 2025 depleted the water equipment line-item fund.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Bjerke to approve an interfund transfer from the General Fund to the Water Fund in the amount of \$200,000 per 2025 Appropriations Ordinance for the remainder amount for water meters/software. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 656 Supplementing Appropriations for the City of Clear Lake for the year ending 12/31/2025 was held.

The Resolution 2025-10 Transfer from Contingency Fund was held.

Motion by Reppe, seconded by Hintz to approve Resolution 2025-10 Transfer from Contingency Fund. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

The City received notice from Brookings-Deuel RWS that they are increasing water rates in February 2026. The tap fee will increase from \$1910.00/month to \$2096.00/month. The water rate will increase \$3.00/1000 gallons to \$3.25/1000 gallons. This increase was more than expected.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Stormo to approve the increase in rates for 2026 from Brookings-Deuel RWS. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

The Services Committee met Nov. 13, 2025 and reported on several items. The Refuse & Recycling Manual for 2026 will have some changes adding more unacceptable items for the Rubble Site. This will include no freon items due to stricter rules and EPA reporting. The hours for the rubble site will remain the same as they have been for a couple of years. Winter appointment dates are only the first Saturday of every month. A dumpster will be at the entrance of the rubble site for unacceptable items that are considered garbage instead. Larger signage is being priced for the entrance as well.

There was some discussion on Parks and taking reservations in 2026 which will be reviewed by the Policies Committee in 2026.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 655 Regarding Water Rates was held. This was for language clean-up and no changes in rates.

The City's Cybersecurity team gave recommendations as the City moves to more secure options.

Motion by Bjerke, seconded by Hintz to approve and adopt the Incident Response Plan for the City of Clear Lake. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Pauli, seconded by Drake to discontinue City Officials from keeping credit card numbers on file due to security risks for government entities. Upon roll call vote, Bjerke-no, Drake-yes, Hintz-no, Pauli-yes, Reppe-yes, Stormo-yes. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee gave their report after employee evaluations. The committee suggested creating a new position to help with the pool but focusing on the Parks.

Upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, motion by Hintz, seconded by Pauli to approve the Personnel Committee to create a Parks Manager position for advertising by spring 2026. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Written and verbal complaints filed with the City were discussed. There has been a large increase in written and verbal complaints in recent years. The complaints will still be handled by the Finance Office, but Council will be made aware of future complaints.

Salary increases were also discussed and will be presented in January within the Salary Resolution.

Public Works Superintendent Furman had comments regarding discrepancies with the billing gallons from Brookings-Deuel RWS to actual gallons used. This skews our water loss report and the City questions how the billed gallons are being calculated. This will be investigated.

City Attorney Todd Boyd questioned the Liquor Operating Agreements being completed. Boyd furthermore discussed an ongoing complaint that has escalated to a possible future court hearing. Much discussion was held on the subject.

Finance Officer Krueger reminded the Council of the upcoming December meetings. She also reported that the Lead Service Line Inventory report was accepted by the State with no errors. The report is complete with no questionable service lines. The City has 6 galvanized resident lines that will require replacement in the future until notified differently. These residences will now be subject to water quality testing.

Krueger discussed the 2026 election with Council. She spoke with the school and the County regarding combination elections, locations, etc. It was decided each entity will have separate elections in the same location (Community Center). This will be held on the Primary Election date June 2, 2025. The biggest concern is election workers. Krueger welcomes anyone who might be interested in becoming an election worker for the City and wants input from Council. Election worker wages will become a topic for discussion in a future meeting.

Alderswoman Drake questioned the snow responsibility of the sidewalk across the bridge on Hwy. 15 (3rd Ave) in town.

Alderman Reppe reported on a recent CLAD meeting and their upcoming January dance in the Community Center. He suggested updating the voltage to some outlets in the Main Hall.

There were no other comments from the Mayor or any other Council members.

There being no further business, motion by Pauli, seconded Drake by to adjourn at 7:43 PM. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mary Krueger
Finance Officer

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

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