

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF ALBERT LEA
April 27, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Rich Murray, Councilors Rachel Christensen, Larry Baker, Ted Herman, Reid Olson, Keith Van Beek, Brian Anderson, City Manager Ian Rigg, Public Works Director Steven Jahnke, City Attorney Joel Holstad of Lakes National Law LLP, and City Clerk Daphney Maras.

ADDITIONAL STAFF PRESENT: Chief of Police Darren Hanson, Finance Director Kristi Brutlag

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - Mayor Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. City Clerk Maras administered roll call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mayor Murray asked all in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

- A. Mayor Murray read aloud the Proclamation Declaring May as REACT Month. Members of the REACT group were present to receive the proclamation
- B. Mayor Murray read aloud the Proclamation Declaring May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Several members were present to receive the proclamation.

PUBLIC FORUM – No one spoke

CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of the April 13, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of the April 13, 2026 Work Session
- C. License & Permits
- D. Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve the consent agenda as read, seconded by Councilor Herman. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-078
(Included with these minutes))

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Ordinance 26-154 Amending Chapter 42 Traffic and Vehicles - Article III. – Parking, Stopping, and Standing – Sec. 42.084 (2nd Reading)**

The amendment clarifies that vehicle repair, assembly, or dismantling is prohibited on public streets and other public property, except for fueling, adding oil, or emergency repairs needed to move a disabled vehicle. It also confirms that these restrictions do not apply to repair or maintenance work performed by the City or other governmental entities in the course of official duties.

Councilor Anderson deferred to City Manager Rigg to restate the discussion from the earlier work session. Rigg clarified that an individual would not be penalized when making a good-faith effort to repair a vehicle and remove it from the street, noting that the ordinance is intended to address habitual violations.

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve. Seconded by Councilor Herman. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Ordinance 26-154
(Included with these minutes)

B. Ordinance 26-155 Amending Chapter 44 Utilities – Article II. - Water Service – Adding New Sections 44.067-44.088 (2nd Reading)

This ordinance updates Section 44.053 and adds Sections 44.067–44.088 to establish comprehensive requirements for preventing cross-connections and backflow within the City of Albert Lea’s potable water system. It aligns local regulations with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Minnesota Department of Health standards.

Motion made by Councilor Christensen to approve. Seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Ordinance 26-155
(Included with these minutes)

C. Resolution 26-079 Permitting Publication of Ordinance Summary Amending Chapter 44 Utilities – Article II. – Water Service and Adding New Sections 44.067-44.088

Ordinance Summaries may be published if they reasonably inform the public of the effect and intent of the Ordinance. Summaries fulfill all legal requirements as if the entire summarized matter had been published, and also direct the public on how to obtain the complete Ordinance.

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve. Seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Ordinance 26-079

(Included with these minutes)

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 26-080 Accepting Bid and Awarding Contract for the Valley Avenue & Marshall Street Reconstruction Project – Job 2517

Engineering has reviewed the bids opened on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 for the Valley Avenue & Marshall Street Reconstruction Project.

The project calls for the complete reconstruction of portions of Valley Avenue, Johnson Street, and Marshall Street (approximately 2,291 total feet). Proposed work will include complete removal and replacement of the pavement, curb & gutter, sidewalk, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water main.

Engineering received five bids. Engineering is recommending accepting the low bid of \$4,041,111.50 from ICON LLC of Dodge Center, Minnesota. The Engineer's estimate was \$4,005,603.50. The bid abstract is attached.

The city competed for and was awarded \$805,894.32 in the 2026 STIP (statewide transportation improvement program), \$600,000 from the 2027 STIP, and another \$600,000 from the 2028 STIP. The city intends to use those STIP funds, special assessments, bonding, water and sewer funds, state aid, and federal funds to finance the project. Engineering is recommending awarding the contract to ICON LLC.

The City Manager and Mayor expressed their appreciation to Public Works Director Steven Jahnke for submitting a successful application and obtaining an additional \$300,000 in grant funding to support the project.

Motion made by Councilor Christensen to approve. Seconded by Councilor Van Beek. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-080
(Included with these minutes)

B. Resolution 26-081 Authorizing Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Service Agreement with Bolton & Menk Inc. for the Valley Avenue & Marshall Street Reconstruction Project – Job 2517

In April 2025, the City Council authorized staff to enter into a professional services agreement with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for design and construction oversight services for the Valley Avenue Reconstruction Project.

The project includes complete reconstruction of Valley Avenue from Johnson Street to Hawthorne Street, including pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalk, retaining wall, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and watermain replacement. Construction is scheduled for 2026 and will be funded through a

combination of federal funds, State Aid funds, sewer and water funds, and special assessments. Federal funding reimbursement will occur between 2026 and 2028.

The original agreement with Bolton and Menk Inc. did not include the reconstruction of Marshall Street from Bridge to Valley. This amendment adds the construction oversight and project management costs for this additional section of roadway. This work is anticipated to be approximately 3 additional months for the project.

This amendment is a time and materials not-to-exceed amount of \$134,079.

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve. Seconded by Councilor Herman. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-081
(Included with these minutes)

C. Resolution 26-082 Authorizing Amendment of Interfund Loan to Port Authority and Approval of Business Subsidy - TIF 5-28

The attached resolution authorizes an advance of up to \$2,300,000 from the general fund, which is an increase from the previous interfund loan amount of \$2,000,000, which was set on October 13, 2025. In Addition, this resolution includes a land write-down in the amount of \$1,740,000, in which the City will reimburse Albert Lea Port Authority from available tax increment in TIF 5-28, which was originally created in 2020 to accommodate Vortex Cold Storage and modified in October of 2025 to accommodate potential future developments on parcels of the ALEDA JOBS Park.

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve. Seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-082
(Included with these minutes)

D. Resolution 26-083 Accepting Donations as Presented to the City of Albert Lea

The City of Albert Lea is generally authorized to accept donations pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens. Staff recommends acceptance of the following donations as submitted for Council review and approval.

- \$5,000 - Schmidtke Family Foundation – Senior Center Project

Motion made by Councilor Anderson to approve. Seconded by Councilor Christensen. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson,

Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-083
(Included with these minutes)

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

First Ward, Councilor Christensen reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Blue Zones had their walking Moi kick-off. Encourages the community to participate in future Mois. The City/County shared constituency group will be meeting to discuss shared issues. On May 2nd, Althing Clinic will have its ribbon-cutting ceremony. Congratulated Track'd RC on their first event.

Second Ward, Councilor Baker reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Will be attending an HRA meeting tomorrow. On April 25, volunteered at the citywide cleanup event at the Landfill. He commented that he has never witnessed such a turnout at this event.

Third Ward, Councilor Herman reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Attended the April 15 ribbon-cutting ceremony for Design Works, LLC. Participated in the Community Leaders Luncheon on April 24. The Park & Recreation Board toured the Senior Center and discussed upcoming project priorities. On April 25, volunteered at the citywide cleanup event at the Landfill.

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported:

- Ward Items – Forward an item to LEC
- Committee Update – Suggested a future conversation with council and staff regarding the possibility of assistance to residents to remove dead or dying trees by assessing the cost to the property owner.

Fifth Ward, Councilor Van Beek reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Attended the April 17th Jazz Band HS concert. On April 21st met with the organizer of the Eddie Cochran and the motorcycle event. Last Sunday met with Ride for Heroes regarding their upcoming event. Attended the Teen Challenge luncheon.

Sixth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Attended the Blue Zones Moi walk. Will be attending the upcoming HRA meeting. Reported on his fundraising efforts for the upcoming Relay for Life event. He mentioned the date has been changed from previous years to now be held on June 5th.

MAYOR REPORT:

Reported the following and provided details of each:

- Meetings with ALEDA Director
- City Budget meeting
- Met with the Noon Lions club at Edgewater
- Toured the Main Street Adult Services
- Attended the Riverland Promise Scholarship celebration
- Volunteered at the City Clean-up Day at the Landfill
- Participated in the Blue Zones walking Moi
- Attended:
 - Prom Event
 - Riverland City and High School meeting
 - High School CSpan program
 - Moose Lodge Pickleball fundraiser
 - Chamber Business After Hours on April 21st
 - Freeborn Mower Electric Annual Meeting
 - Suicide Prevention Fundraiser
 - Adult Teen Challenge meeting
 - Honoring the Honor Guards at the American Legion

Mentioned the upcoming events and said they are also listed on the City's website.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Was at the Capitol to testify on behalf of the Sales Tax legislation to pay for a variety of City projects, as well as the continued lake cleanup with the SRWSD
- Also sat in on committee meetings to discuss the proposed passenger rail coming through Albert Lea
- Mentioned upcoming discussions on development districts as he is currently reviewing RFPs and grant/and or land exchange for development and redevelopment of housing
- Will be meeting with some interested investors with a focus on housing,

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

A. Resolution 26- 084 Approving Claims

- (1) Presentation of Claims Over \$25,000

The attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Treasurer to issue the payment of claims as presented in the Detail of Claims report. In addition, Maras displayed a list of claims over \$25,000 for the public's viewing, transparency, and education.

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve as read, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Ordinance 26-084
(Included with these minutes)

CLOSED SESSION

A. Buying/Selling Property – 13D.05 subd. 3 (C)(3)

Motion made by Councilor Anderson to move into closed session at 7:37 PM, seconded by Councilor Baker. On voice call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Brian Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

Motion made by Councilor Anderson to move out of closed session at 8:15 PM, seconded by Councilor Baker. On voice call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Christensen, Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

Staff received direction from Mayor Murray during the closed session.

Councilor Christensen motioned for adjournment; Councilor Herman seconded. That there being no further business, the Council meeting adjourns until the next regular meeting of the Albert Lea City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026. On a voice call vote, all councilors voted in favor of said motion.

Mayor Murray declared the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:16 PM

Mayor Rich Murray

Daphney Maras
Secretary of the Council