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

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

ADDITIONAL STAFF PRESENT: Chief of Police Darren Hanson, and Engagement /Enrichment Director Cathy Malakowsky, Finance Director Kristi Brutlag, and Fire Chief Jeff Laskowske.

ABSENT: Councilor Rachel Christensen

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 – None

PUBLIC FORUM

Tally Rokosz – Described her neighborhood situation including vandalism, homelessness, and noise.

John Caucutt – Spoke of the necessary ASCAP and BMI contracts with the City of Albert Lea

Heather Reule – Lives on Janson St. and spoke of her opposition to Home Solutions' employees parking on both sides of Janson St., creating difficulty maneuvering while driving on Janson St.

CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Approve Minutes of the July 13, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
B. Approve Minutes of the July 13, 2026 Work Session
C. License & Permits
D. Resolution Authorizing Minnesota Office State Strike Team Mutual Aid Agreement
E. Resolution Accepting Bid for the Airport Snow Removal Equipment Door Replacement Project – Job 2608
F. Resolution Designating Additional "Handicapped Parking Sunday Only 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Water Street"
G. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Arena Plexiglass in 2026 instead of 2027

Councilor Baker moved to approve the consent agenda, including the additional $11,000 for benches under item 5G at the City Arena, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On a voice call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-127 and 26-130
(Included with these minutes)

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Cathy Malakowsky presented an update on the Recreation Facility Projects using a PowerPoint overview. Her presentation highlighted total project expenses, the status of the Arena fire-alarm issue, progress on filing for federal incentives, scheduled delays, and the projected completion dates along with corrective actions. She closed with a recap of all Recreation projects currently underway.

She outlined next steps, including collaborating with user groups and donors to furnish the arena lobby, launching year-round ice programming, establishing annual meetings on guaranteed energy-savings performance, and celebrating the City Arena's 50th anniversary.

Cathy also noted with pride that these efforts reflect the City's mission to deliver exceptional services that enhance the quality of life for current and future generations.

City Manager Rigg commended Cathy and the Park & Rec team for their sustained commitment and dedication in bringing these projects to completion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing Regarding the Disposal of 12 Properties

City Manager Rigg stated that Council has engaged in discussions regarding the sale of select properties to encourage business growth and expand the local housing supply. These sites hold strong potential for development, and several proposals are already in place, pending approval of development agreements by Council.

This is a summary of the properties:

- 409 Clark Street – Single-family house constructed, soon to be market-ready
- 1207 - 1211 Newton – lots with a proposed new construction twin lot home
- 2 Lots on 1100 Block of Virginia Place – lots with a proposed new construction twin lot home.
- 2101 S Shore Dr – Proposal received for new construction single family house
- 725 Plainview Lane – Proposal for single family home
- 825 1st Avenue South – Proposal for lot combination to north property
- 809 Clark Street W – Proposal for lot combination with property to south
- Lot on Vine St – Proposal for lot combination to property on the south.
- 915 Autumn Street – New house constructed and ready for sale on the market
- 108 Giles – Park land with interest from neighbors

Mayor Murray opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed the public hearing.

A1. Resolution 26-131 Declaring No Public Interest in 12 Real Properties. 108 Giles Place will be removed from the resolution.

City Manager Rigg provided the status of the proposals on each property, noting staff does not recommend disposing of 108 Giles Place due to complexities involving the dedication of what is park land within that parcel.

Motion made by Councilor Baker to approve this resolution with the removal of 108 Giles Place, which is parcel number 34-778-0010. Seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-131
(Included with these minutes

B. Resolution 26-132 Approving Donation of Eddie Cochran Statue at the NW Corner of Marion Ross Street and North Broadway Avenue – 2026 Misc. 172

The City's Parks Advisory Board approved the placement of an Eddie Cochran Statue on the corner of Marion Ross Street and Broadway Avenue North. The statue will be situated in the City Right-of-Way and will be a bronze statue of Eddie Cochran playing a guitar. The Eddie Cochran group will be responsible for all costs (labor and materials) associated with this statue and lining up the contractors needed to complete this work. During the 2027 Eddie Cochran event, the group will donate the statue to the city.

This statue fits the criteria outlined in the donation policy.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-132
(Included with these minutes

C. Resolution 26-133 Approving Broadway Ridge Grant – 216 S. Broadway Ave.

John and Adeline Rust submitted an additional Broadway Ridge Renewal Grant for reimbursement up to 50% of costs associated with gutters and downspouts at 216 S Broadway. The Rusts were previously awarded $13,425.00 in matching funds for a complete roof replacement in March of 2026. The gutters and downspouts were completed as a second phase of the overall project, which is allowed by policy. The total improvement cost is $3,146.00, which will provide a matching grant of $1,573.00.

All improvements have been completed and reviewed by the City's Building Official for compliance with application requirements.

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-133
(Included with these minutes

D. Resolution 26-134 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.

Alden Area Activities Association – $300 to Albert Lea Police Reserves

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

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-134
(Included with these minutes

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

First Ward, Councilor Christensen reported: ABSENT
- Ward Items –
- Committee Update –
- Public Announcements –

Second Ward, Councilor Baker reported:
- Ward Items – City Manager is working on his ward item
- Committee Update – Will be attending an HRA meeting tomorrow night.

Third Ward, Councilor Herman reported:
- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Attended the budget meeting and mentioned his appreciation to City staff for keeping the council well informed. He will be attending a CVB meeting.

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported:
- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Attended the Airport Advisory Board meeting. The group reviewed a proposed T-Hangar project planned for next year, including anticipated funding. An architect was present and outlined potential uses for the smaller side units that cannot accommodate an aircraft. The Board also discussed the upcoming Regatta event scheduled to take place at

the airport this fall.

Fifth Ward, Councilor Van Beek reported:
- Ward Items – Working on two ward items.
- Committee Update – Will be attending an HRA meeting tomorrow night

Sixth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:
- Ward Items – None
- Committee Update – Attended a budget meeting. He will be attending an HRA meeting tomorrow night.

MAYOR REPORT:
Provided an overview emphasizing his active presence in the community, including attendance at and visits to a variety of local events.

Highlighted upcoming citywide events and noted they're also available on the City's website. He encouraged everyone to take part and stay engaged in the community.

CITY MANAGER REPORT
- County and City met to discuss shared services and reported it was a highly productive meeting
- Sat in on the Assistant Executive Director interview
- The Home Solution parking issue on Janson Street will be brought back to council at a future meeting
- He and staff are working on the budget and CIP items

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS
A. Resolution 26-135 Approving Claims

(1) Presentation of Claims Over $25,000

The attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Treasurer to issue 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 Herman. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Baker, Herman, Olson, Van Beek, Anderson, and Mayor Murray. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 26-135
(Included with these minutes)

CLOSED SESSION
A. Closed Session – Subject to Minn. Stat 13D.5 subd. 3(b)

Councilor Anderson motioned to move into closed session at 8:08 p.m.; Councilor Baker seconded. On a voice call vote, all councilors voted in favor of said motion. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed

Anderson motioned to move out of closed session at 8:54 PM; Councilor Herman seconded. On a voice call vote, all councilors voted in favor of said motion. Mayor Murray declared the motion passed.

Mayor Murray stated that a discussion took place with Attorney Jason Kabuscki regarding the City of Albert Lea District Court proceedings involving Jacob Schlichter.

Councilor Herman motioned for adjournment; Councilor Anderson 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, August 10, 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: 8:54 PM

Mayor Rich Murray

Daphney Maras
Secretary of the Council