

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT LEA PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
February 3, 2026
5:30 pm – City Center

Chairman Lucas Schuster called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rachel Christensen, Ex-Officio
Matt Dorman
Josh Enriquez
Allen Hendriks
Matt Maras
Lucas Schuster, Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leon Axtman
Steve Thompson

STAFF PRESENT

Megan Boeck, City Planner
Cierra Maras, Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Maras and second by Dorman to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dorman and second by Maras to approve the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes with one change to the signature line. Motion carried.

Staff report prepared by Megan Boeck, City Planner, is to become part of these minutes by reference.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Ordinance Amendments – Chapter 50 – Article IV, Signs, Sec. 50.0845, 50.0846, 50.0847

Boeck reviewed the staff report regarding amendments so the sign ordinance in residential, commercial, and industrial districts. She noted that the amendments will not increase or worsen any existing requirements.

Schuster opened the hearing to the public at 5:41 p.m.

Schuster called three times for comment. No one was present to speak.

Schuster closed the hearing to the public at 5:41 p.m.

Motion by Dorman and second by Hendriks to approve the ordinance amendments to Chapter 50 – Article IV, Signs, Sections 50.0845, 50.0846, and 50.0847.

Motion passed on a 5-0 voiced vote.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Boeck stated that she recently attended a Data Centers course through Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and that the purpose of the course was to educate government officials on data center technologies, designs, impacts on water and energy usage and economic benefits. Boeck also stated that given the amount of concern around data centers, it would be in the city's best interest to be proactive in managing these types of uses and establish a draft ordinance. Lastly, Boeck shared the city's zoning map and discussed areas of industrial zoning where data centers could fit.

It was the consensus of the commission for staff to draft an ordinance to review at a future meeting. No formal action was taken.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Allen Hendriks and Josh Enriquez introduced themselves as the newest members to the board. Schuster nominated Dorman to be the vice-chair of the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dorman and second by Hendriks to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Cierra Maras, Planning Commission Secretary

Lucas Schuster, Chairman