

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING– JANUARY 6, 2026
(Rescheduled from January 14, 2026)**

Mayor Adam Lantz called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Present: Councilors Jim Varda, April Fountain, Travis Vake, Jed Holewa, Marty Halverson, and Mayor Adam Lantz

Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Stephanie Skraba, Ambulance Director Tiffany Larson, Police Chief James Vukad, Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson, Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Collin Luke, Attorney Bryan Lindsay, Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, and Mesabi Community TV.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Varda to adopt the agenda with the corrections: Memos and Resolutions 0126-8 and 0126-9 to include “4th Avenue NE” in the “6th Street NE (Heritage Manor Area)” description (pages 15-18) and the addition of an application from Edward Chamernick for the Police Commission.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Seraphia Gravelle addressed the council regarding the Police Commission, its future, and the connection with the City Council. She discussed her concerns regarding the work of the commission, consistency with reporting back to council, and thoughts on strengthening and improving the commission’s work. She expressed that civilian oversight, transparency, and community involvement are strengths of their department. She encouraged the council to appoint a council member who is willing to serve as a liaison and able to commit to regular attendance, active engagement, and consistent communication between council and the commission.

REPORTS

Councilor Varda did not have a report.

Councilor Fountain did not have a report but wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor Vake reported that Kelly Harris and he are taking on the task of rebooting what they hope to be an annual fireworks display during Doc Graham Days. They are hoping to bring back the fireworks display and street dance on the Saturday during Doc Graham Days. This year, Doc Graham Days is being held before the fair (not on the same weekend). He has talked with the Police Commission about the plan and they seemed ok with it. He also spoke with the Chief of Police prior to he and Kelly making it official and he seemed ok with it. The first fundraiser is a raffle; you can contact Kelly Harris or him for a ticket. The drawing will be on Super Bowl Sunday.

Councilor Holewa did not have a formal report but expressed that keeping access to homes for ambulance and fire calls is very important and to reach out to one of them on the city council if you need help and they can assist you to find someone to help shovel your walk or driveway.

Councilor Halverson reported that he attended a Redhead Committee meeting.

Mayor Lantz addressed council, staff, and community: “Good evening fellow councilors, staff, and community members. As we start the year, I have a bit of reflection I would like to share with everyone and a PSA that may seem to be a bit premature. I want to acknowledge the remarkable work by our staff members, the supervisors and our city leader, Administrator Skraba.

We have brought so many tasks forward for each you on your day one, we continue to do so through today, and you all have impressively delivered time and time again. When I attend meetings with other city leaders or other agencies one question always comes my direction. How does Chisholm do it? My answer has consistently been the same. First, our community has a majority who have a vested interest in the success of Chisholm, we give back to the community and we worry about the those who are coming after us, not focused on what serves us best as individuals. Two, we hire good staff, provide them with the direction in which we want the city to move, try to give them the resources they need, support them, and get out of the way. Those have been our keys to success. I thank you all for your dedication to the community and for your efforts to accomplish the many tasks we've put on your plate. As I start my 8th year as an elected official, I'm hopeful for the future. I look forward to another productive year for the city, staff, and community. For me personally as I look back on my previous 7 years as a representative, I think of what I'm most proud of and what I believe is needed from an elected official.

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I'm proud to say that I can count on one hand the number of council meetings I've missed over 7 years, I'm proud of the consistency I believe I brought to the table regarding my decision making, being open minded and that I've continually reevaluated my values and moral compass.

This year the community of Chisholm will have an election where you will need to elect a new mayor and either re-elect or elect two new council members. I want to welcome any new candidates to the field and wish luck to any seeking future terms. I know the betterment of the community is your goal. Something everyone will want to hear from you is, what is your agenda? You will need to come up with three because that's what the newspaper will ask of you so the community can get a sense of who you are, what you want and what you bring to the table. The standard answer from most will be affordability, infrastructure, streets, and drugs. There is a lot for any candidate to consider, so start engaging now and bring yourself up to speed on what the city has accomplished and what is on the agenda moving forward. 2027 will come quick for all of you. Your filings are due in May.

But I also offer a bit of my own experiences.

After 7 years I've come to realize for myself personally, I can't say that I really had an agenda. If I did have one, it would be something I've said since before being elected as a city councilor, it is my intention to leave it better than I found it. That's not to say I found it in rough shape, only that I wanted to build off what came before me and make sure there is a solid foundation to continue to build up for those who come after me. I'm hopeful those continuing will do the same. I am proud to believe that all my decisions have been made for the benefit of the community as a whole, and never prioritized a benefit to one individual, one group or one class above the rest. All my decisions needed to be consistent, fair, and equitable taking considerations from all residents of Chisholm. This reflection I consider my own personal success, specific to me, and is not meant to diminish any else's efforts, opinions, or attendance. We all have instances in our lives that take us away or take priority and no one is entitled to know what our personal reasons are for missing a meeting. But it is an expectation placed on elected officials and any new members coming forward need to understand the level of commitment expected of you.

I say all of this so our future leaders have some time to think and reflect as to what is most important and needed by those in your community. And to understand the difference of what is needed of you and what is expected of you. When it comes to staff what is needed of you is your support and that you remember accolades are given in public, criticism is given in private. We build people up, not knock them down. When it comes to the public; your dedication, consistency, personal evaluation, compassion, an ear for listening and your presence are expected. You must always keep in mind that none of us are perfect, and I continue the need to work on many of these attributes myself. Acknowledging the need to keep working to be better every day is all we can do as members of the community and as elected officials. Thank you.”

Ambulance Director Larson did not have a report.

Interim Fire Chief Worlie was absent.

Police Chief Vukad did not have a report.

Building Official Galli was absent.

City Consultant Engineer Johnson reported that MN Dot will be in early tomorrow morning to install stop signs and stop ahead signs for the flashing lights on 3rd Avenue intersection. Public Works Supervisor Folstad has been working with the County where they have jurisdiction on 1st Avenue and will make the same modifications as those on 3rd Avenue. The stop signs and the flashing red lights will be in effect for the next 90 days, then both MN Dot and the County will remove the signal poles and then install supplemental stop signs and cross bars.

Public Works Supervisor Folstad was absent.

Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Luke reported that the Youth Center is open again. The warming shack and skating rink is also open on certain days and times listed on the Facebook page and will be listed on the website as well. You can also reach out to him for hours.

Library Supervisor Christenson was absent.

Attorney Bryan Lindsay did not have a report.

Clerk-Treasurer Ceglar was absent.

Administrator Skraba wished everyone a Happy New Year.

APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Fountain to Approve the Consent Agenda including the List of Bills, Communications, payroll, and overtime with the removal of the word “Engineering” from “Bougalis Engineering” on the statement of bills.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 6TH STREET NE IMPROVEMENTS

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the Agreement for Professional Services for the 6th Street NE Improvements with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.
Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-8 ORDERING PREPARATION OF A FEASIBILITY
REPORT ON 6TH STREET NE/4TH AVENUE NE IMPROVEMENTS**

Moved by Councilor Varda and supported by Councilor Holewa to adopt Resolution Number 0126-8 Ordering Preparation of a Feasibility Report on 6th Street NE/4th Avenue NE Improvements (Heritage Manor Area).
Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-9 ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF
PLANS FOR 6TH STREET NE/4TH AVENUE NE IMPROVEMENTS**

Moved by Councilor Varda and supported by Councilor Halverson to adopt Resolution Number 0126-9 Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans for 6th Street NE/4th Avenue NE Improvements.
Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-10 ACCEPTING GRANT FROM THE IRON RANGE
RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION PUBLIC WORKS GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE
6TH STREET NE INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Varda to adopt Resolution Number 0126-10 Accepting Grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Public Works Grant Program for the 6th Street Northeast Infrastructure Replacement Project in the amount of \$400,000.00.
Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-11 AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF LAND

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Varda to adopt Resolution Number 0126-11 Authorizing the Conveyance of Land to Superior Fuel for Lot 1, block 2, Parcel # 020-0082-00070 for the amount of \$5,900.00.
Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

NORTH SHORE HR CONSULTING

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the 2026 North Shore HR Consulting Proposal -Rovena Claxton.
Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-12 RATIFYING COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSION
APPOINTMENTS**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Varda to adopt Resolution Number 0126-12 Ratifying Council Boards and Commission Appointments.
Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-13 REAPPOINT CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Varda to adopt Resolution Number 0126-13 Reappoint City Administrator Stephanie Skraba.
Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

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RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-14 REAPPOINT BUILDING/ZONING/SAFETY OFFICIAL

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Halverson to adopt Resolution Number 0126-14 Reappoint Building/Zoning/Safety Official Mandi Galli.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-15 REAPPOINT TRENTI LAW FIRM

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Varda to adopt Resolution Number 0126-15 Reappoint Trenti Law Firm.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0126-16 REAPPOINT INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

Moved by Councilor Varda and supported by Councilor Halverson to adopt Resolution Number 0126-16 Reappoint Interim Fire Chief Jason Worlie.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

APPOINT TO THE CHISHOLM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Fountain to appoint Rochelle Lappi to the Chisholm Economic Development Authority for a six-year term beginning February 1, 2026.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT TO THE CHISHOLM PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Varda to appoint Shelley Valentini to the Chisholm Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board for a two-year term beginning February 1, 2026.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT TO THE CHISHOLM PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to appoint Jennifer Gigliotti to the Chisholm Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board for a two-year term beginning February 1, 2026.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT TO THE CHISHOLM LIBRARY BOARD

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Varda to appoint Brittany Grinde-Larson to the Chisholm Library Board for a two-year term beginning February 1, 2026.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT TO THE CHISHOLM PLANNING COMMISSION

Moved by Councilor Varda and supported by Councilor Holewa to appoint Lloyd Show to the Chisholm Planning Commission for a three-year term beginning on February 1, 2026.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICE COMMISSION

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Varda to appoint Edward Chamernick to the Police Commission for a three-year Term beginning on February 1, 2026.

Voting Aye: Councilors Vake, Varda, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: Councilors Fountain, Halverson, and Holewa

Absent: None

Motion Failed

APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICE COMMISSION

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to appoint David Weber to the Police Commission for a three-year Term beginning on February 1, 2026.

Voting Aye: Councilors Vake, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: Councilors Varda, Fountain, and Halverson

Absent: None

Motion Failed

APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICE COMMISSION

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Varda to appoint Donald Haenke to the Police Commission for a three-year Term beginning on February 1, 2026.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: Councilors Vake and Holewa

Absent: None

Motion Carried

ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Holewa to adjourned the regular meeting at 6:28 pm.

Voting Aye: Councilors Varda, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, Halverson, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

Attest:

/s/ Adam Lantz, Mayor

/s/ Stephanie Skraba, Administrator