Sartell City Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: Sartell City Hall, Council Chambers
Meeting Date: **March 9th, 2026**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Sartell City Council was held on March 9th, 2026, at 6:00 pm at Sartell City Hall.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Fitzthum, Councilmembers Meyer, Deters, Lynch, Elness.
COUNCIL ABSENT: None.
STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Anna Gruber, City Engineer April Ryan, Director of Community & Economic Development Kari Haakonson, Director of Finance & Operations Rob Voshell, Director of Public Safety Brandon Silgjord, Director of Public Works Bartt Gevens, Director of Engagement & Experiences Nikki Sweeter.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fitzthum called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

a. Welcome
b. Pledge of Allegiance
c. Adoption of Agenda

Direction/Action
A motion was made by Deters and seconded by Lynch to approve the agenda as presented.
The following voted:
Aye Votes: Fitzthum, Meyer, Deters, Lynch, Elness
Nay Votes: None
Motion Carried 5-0.

d. Approval of Minutes
   - February 9th – Regular City Council Meeting
   - February 9th – Special City Council Meeting

Direction/Action
A motion was made by Meyer and seconded by Deters to approve the minutes as presented.
The following voted:
Aye Votes: Meyer, Deters, Fitzthum, Lynch, Elness
Nay Votes: None
Motion Carried 5-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
COMMUNITY COMMENT
COMMUNITY LINKAGE

Resident **Kevin Starry (1223 Third Street South)** addressed the City Council during community comment regarding the City's authority to determine which version of the Minnesota State flag is displayed on City property. He shared research indicating that municipalities are not required to adopt the new 2024 flag design and cited examples of other cities choosing to retain the previous design. Mayor Fitzthum confirmed the decision is at the City's discretion and noted the Council has not yet discussed the matter but could consider it at a future workshop if there is interest.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Policy Development

b. Legislative

c. Licenses, Agreements, Land Use, and Permits

1) DNR Grant Agreement & Authorization to Bid
2) Liquor License
3) Pinecone & 7th Street N Pedestrian Improvements Grant Agreement & Award

a. Delegated Consents

1) Utilities Supervisor Appointment
2) Vendor Payments

Direction/Action

A motion was made by Lynch and seconded by Deters to approve items 5a-5d as presented. The following voted:
Aye Votes: Meyer, Deters, Fitzthum, Lynch, Elness
Nay Votes: None
Motion Carried 5-0.

MONITORING REPORTS
ACTION ITEMS

a. 2026A Bond Sale:
Voshell introduced Jessica Green of Northland Securities, the City's municipal advisor, to provide an update on the 2026A bond sale completed earlier that day. Green reported that the sale was very successful, receiving seven bids, more than the four anticipated, with RW Baird of Milwaukee submitting the lowest bid for the City's $5,740,000 general obligation bonds. The bonds will fund water treatment plant improvements, Phase I of the sewer force main project, and the purchase of a fire truck and related equipment. The City's AA credit rating was affirmed by

Standard & Poor's, with positive feedback regarding Sartell's financial position and management practices. Due to bond premium received from investors, the borrowing amount was reduced from the planned $6,110,000 to $5,740,000 while maintaining full project funding, and the true interest cost was 3.48%, resulting in approximately $369,000 in debt service savings over the life of the bonds due to anticipated interest being 3.99%.

Direction/Action

A motion was made by Elness and seconded by Deters to approve the 2026A Bond Sale Resolution as presented.
The following voted:
Aye Votes: Mayor Fitzthum, Meyer, Deters, Lynch, Elness
Nay Votes: None
Motion Carried 5-0

CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPARTMENTAL INCIDENTAL REPORTS

a. Administrator Incidental Report:
   - February 20th, 2026
   - February 26th, 2026
   - March 6th, 2026

   Gruber sent incidental reports via email as it could include confidential information.

b. Public Safety Monthly Incidental Report
   Silgjord presented the Monthly Incidental Report and provided a brief report noting equipment upgrades for the fire department. The department's old crash truck was sold for $30,000, which was considered a very good amount given the age and use of the vehicle.

c. Public Works/Engineering Monthly Incidental Report
   Ryan presented the Monthly Incidental Report and highlighted that the new traffic light is operational and functioning well, with positive feedback being received from the public. No other significant items were reported.

d. Engagement & Experiences Monthly Incidental Report
   Sweeter presented the Monthly Incidental Report and noted that the community center hosted Sartell's first archery tournament in the city's history. The event drew approximately 1,000 people and generated very positive comments about the building.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lynch and seconded by Elness to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

Anna Gruber, City Administrator

Ryan Fitzthum, Mayor