

MINUTES OF THE AKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AT AKELEY CITY HALL 6:00PM, JUNE 10TH, 2026

The Akeley City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026. Mayor Brian Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Council members present: Brian Hitchcock, Dan Riggs, Dale Nelson, and Bobbie Wosika

Council members absent:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Council and attending audience.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes from May 13th, 2026, Regular Meeting
- Treasurer's Report for May
- Total disbursements including all automatic payments equaling \$151,346.447. Check numbers #23768 - #23805. Online disbursements #11126OL - #11136OL, #11150OL - #11153OL, #11158OL - #11164OL. Total receipts including all automatic deposits equaling \$145,205.41.
- Administration Finance Report for May
- May Permits Issued – 1
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the consent agenda with the addition of the joint powers agreement under East Hubbard Fire District, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed unanimously.**

City Hall – Kristi Kath

- Approve claim numbers 11126-11168.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve claim numbers 11126-11168, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.**
- Discussion on the LMCIT liability waiver form. The city usually chooses not to waive.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve no waiving the monetary limits on municipal tort liability on the LMIT liability waiver form, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed unanimously.**
- Discussion on the city-wide assessing letter that was received by Hubbard County. In 2027 the city would start paying the county to assess properties. Kristi states that it's confusing because it states that the city would pay the county and that the county would pay our current assessor and that other fees would go towards extra staff. She states that she will call and find out what all of it means.
- FYI that department head evaluations are at the July regular meeting.
- Discussion on dumpsters for Paul Bunyan Days. The city always goes through City Sanitary to get them.
- Kristi states that due to personal reasons the auditor has not been able to file with the state yet. A forty-five-day extension was approved.

Police Department – Jimmy Hansen

- Jimmy gives life saving awards to Leah Nack and Julie Weinmann.
- Jimmy asks for the council to approve donation to the Hubbard County Posse for their help with the upcoming Paul Bunyan Days. Last year the city approved \$500.00.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve \$500.00 to the Hubbard County Posse with the funds coming from the park fund, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.**

Liquor Store - Lacey Hitchcock

- Lacey was absent.

Parks – Dan Riggs

- Dan states that Bemidji Bituminous called and stated that they can start the paving project at the campground. They need to give a week in advance notice so that all the seasonals can be ready. Email was received from Hubbard County stating that the city did not need to obtain a permit.

Water/Sewer/Maintenance Report-Nate Deshayes/Reid Watson

- Discussion on grass and yard debris being put onto sidewalks. The current ordinance should have verbiage for yard debris added.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to table until the July regular meeting, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed unanimously.**
- Nate Deshayes with Advanced Utility Solutions is no longer going to be our operator but the city will continue to work with Carol.
- Kristi states that she is working on getting trees replaced through the grant. She may need Reid's help.
- Bobbie states that Reid needs to get a couple replacement crosswalk signs. If it is over \$500, Reid will need to get estimates.

East Hubbard County Fire District –Dan Riggs/Bobbie Wosika

- Report on May minutes.
- The joint powers agreement needs to be signed by November for renewal. There has been no changes made.

Old Business

- The new bathrooms are open. Chuck thanks the community and Bobbie thanks Chuck and Frank for being on the committee so long.
- Bobbie asks about the benches at the bathroom being turned around to face the highway. Discussion followed on how it could be done and no conclusion was made.
- Peg Davies discusses the depot building. The Akeley Chamber wrote a letter stating that they would like to propose taking out a fifty-year lease on the building for \$1.00. They would take responsibility for repairing and maintaining the building. The city would maintain responsibility for utilities and property taxes. Dan states that he looked at the building and nothing was original. Overall, the building is in really bad condition. It will be run by the league to see what kind of liability this would be for the city.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve contacting the league to see what the liabilities would be for the city, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.**

New Business

- Frances Demars would like to combine two parcels to be one parcel.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve combining parcel 29.37.03500 and parcel 29.37.03400, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed unanimously.**
- Dana Melcher discussed an issue that he had with his water meter. He is a seasonal resident and states that his meter froze this winter. He states that he does not feel like it is his fault because the company that put the meter in told him that he didn't have to worry about winter. He feels the council should waive the \$300.00 fee for a new meter. Council does not agree as it has been two years since the new meters were replaced and he was solely responsible for making sure that it did not freeze.
- Sholla Blasing was not present but was asked to be put on the agenda for an extension for mowing her lawn. Jimmy states that he will take care of it.
- Eric Sjolín proposed a digital revenue gift of "Akeley, MN" song to the city of Akeley. It would be no cost to the city or the taxpayers. Fifty percent of all revenue collected from digital distribution of the song will be gifted to the City of Akeley for five years. Gifted funds are to be earmarked by the city for playground equipment to be located near the Paul Bunyan Statue. There will be no requirement that the playground equipment needs to be installed within those five years, but the funds must only be spent on playground equipment located near the Paul Bunyan Statue. Kristi states that this is okay with the city's auditor.

- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the digital revenue gift as proposed, seconded by Dale Nelson. Passed unanimously.**
- Frank Lamb states that Paul's cradle was never painted. The city will cover the costs under \$500.00. Frank states that the museum also needs to be painted in the near future and that they will be tearing out the bathrooms in the museum after Paul Bunyan Days.
- Roger Giemer states that it needs to be made sure that the water still goes to the kitchen after the bathrooms are removed.

Public Forum

- Neil Elavsky states that he asked Kristi to be put on new business through a phone conversation. Kristi stated that she never talked to him. He states that he has longer than two minutes to speak. He speaks for two minutes on concerns with the Municipal Liquor Store.
- Roger Geimer states that because of Neil Elavsky, the gambling board has been through three audits. All the results from those audits came back good. Lacey has never even been to a gambling meeting. The city does not control gambling, East Hubbard County Fire District controls gambling. Dan also states that all auditors' reports are available to the public.

Motion by Bobbie Wosika to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed unanimously.

**Respectfully Submitted by,
Michaela Becker
Deputy Clerk**