



NORTH BRANCH —Minnesota—

Kevin Schieber
Mayor

Robert Canada
Councilmember/Acting Mayor

Jeff Goulet
Councilmember

Jim Ibinger
Councilmember

Patrick Meacham
Councilmember

**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR AGENDA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
CITY HALL, 6408 ELM STREET, NORTH
BRANCH, MN 55056**

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

The North Branch City Council met in REGULAR, and Mayor Kevin Schieber called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Schieber started the meeting off with a reminder that four years ago today, we lost 13 military members in Afghanistan at that airport as they were trying to withdraw and get Afghan nationals and military out. He mentioned that we have a couple of active military members in our community, and this is a reminder of why we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Schieber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Kevin Schieber, Councilmember Jeff Goulet, Councilmember Jim Ibinger, Councilmember Robert Canada

Absent: Councilmember Patrick Meacham

Remote:

Others Present:

Notes:

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

a. Approve Agenda

ACTION

Mayor Kevin Schieber thanked the community members for coming to the City Council Meeting.

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Robert Canada
SECONDER: Jim Ibinger
AYES: Kevin Schieber, Jeff Goulet, Jim Ibinger, Robert Canada
ABSENT: Patrick Meacham
NOTES:

5. PRESENTATION & PROCLAMATION

- a. Certificate of Appreciation - Christopher Capaul - Riverwalk Park Eagle Scout Project VERBAL UPDATE

Community Development Director Nate Sondrol introduced Christopher Capaul, who completed his Eagle Scout project in Riverwalk Park. Christopher thanked the City Council for helping him achieve his Eagle Scout rank and thanked Nate Sondrol for helping him with anything that he needed throughout the process. The City Council presented Christopher with a City of North Branch Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding leadership, support, dedication, and commitment to improving the quality of parks, trails, open space, and recreational activities in the City of North Branch.

- b. Arrowhead Transportation Presentation INFO

Communications Manager, Dominick Olivanti, and Operations Director, Sandra Whelecor, from Arrowhead Transit gave a presentation about the transit provider. Arrowhead Transit is the largest rural, publicly tax-funded transit provider in Minnesota, the second largest in the United States. Dominick introduced their new Ride Smart 2025 project, which is focused on housing growth, workforce transportation, and community connectivity. The project is re-imagining rural transit for greater efficiency, accessibility, and future development. Some key features of the new Ride Smart program include fixed-deviated routes, new maps and schedules, better connecting routes, and affordable fares.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Provides an opportunity for the public to address the Council on items that are not on the Agenda. Please raise your hand to be recognized. Please state your name and address for the record. This section is for the express purpose of addressing concerns of City services and operations. It shall not be used to clarify individual's views for political purposes.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine and/or non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Robert Canada
SECONDER: Kevin Schieber
AYES: Kevin Schieber, Jeff Goulet, Jim Ibinger, Robert Canada
ABSENT: Patrick Meacham
NOTES:

- a. Claims ACTION
b. Minutes - City Council Meeting - August 12, 2025, 7:00 PM ACTION
c. Approval of CoRd 30 project pay request 3 ACTION

- d. Approval of LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for the East Central Friends of NRA ACTION
- e. Approval of Transient Merchant License - LePage and Sons, Inc. ACTION
- f. Approval of Williams Park Signage ACTION
- g. Approval of the acceptance of a donation for a bench in Wildridge Park ACTION
- h. Approval of Resolution R-217-2025 approving a Home Occupation / Interim Use Permit for a Dog Grooming Business at 39479 Ash Ct ACTION
- i. Approval of Chisago County Historical Society Digital Memories Trail Marker ACTION
- j. Request for Approval of Low Bid for Library Flooring Replacement ACTION
- k. Acceptance of Statutory Tort Liability Limits ACTION

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Consider Approval of Resolution R-218-2025 approving a Comprehensive Land use Amendment from (RR) Rural Residential to (AG) Agricultural at 36000 Evergreen Avenue ACTION

Community Development Director Nate Sondrol presented Resolution R-218-2025, the resolution is to approve a Comprehensive Land Use Amendment from (RR) Rural Residential to (AG) Agricultural at 36000 Evergreen Avenue. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 5th, and all the adjacent property owners have been notified and published in the paper. There have not been any comments from the public, other than from the applicants. The Planning Commission did make a recommendation of approval at the August 5th meeting. Mayor Schieber asked if any neighbors had contacted the City. Director Sondrol replied that the City had not heard any comments from the neighboring properties. Commissioner Goulet brought up that you have to leave town to get to the property, as it goes through Stacy. Director Sondrol confirmed that you go four miles south, then west to get to the parcel.

Mayor Scieber made the motion to approve Resolution R-218-2025, approving a Comprehensive Lane use Amendment from Rural Residential to Agricultural at 36000 Evergreen Avenue.

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Kevin Schieber
SECONDER: Robert Canada
AYES: Kevin Schieber, Jeff Goulet, Jim Ibinger, Robert Canada
ABSENT: Patrick Meacham
NOTES:

- b. Consider Approval of Ordinance 396-25 approving a Zoning Map Amendment from (RR) Rural Residential to (AG) Agricultural for the property located at 36000 Evergreen Ave ACTION

Development Director Nate Sondrol presented Ordinance 396-25 to approve the Zoning Map Amendment from (RR) Rural Residential to (AG) Agricultural for the property located at 36000 Evergreen Avenue.

The recommendation by the planning commission to approve the ordinance was unanimous.

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Kevin Schieber
SECONDER: Robert Canada
AYES: Kevin Schieber, Jeff Goulet, Jim Ibinger, Robert Canada
ABSENT: Patrick Meacham
NOTES:

10. MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Schieber gave EDA updates. There is a vacancy on the EDA. There have been three applications, and the interview process is currently taking place. The applications will be reviewed, and then they will be brought to the City Council, no later than the second meeting in September. There is also a vacancy on the Planning Commission; currently, no applicants have been received. The EDA will be hosting monthly marketing training sessions with some businesses; more information should be available at the next meeting. Chair Sara Paul from the EDA reported that the school district hosted a relators breakfast event. The breakfast had 18 attendees, and the purpose of the event was to engage the relator so they could be better informed about the School District when working with potential buyers. Mayor Schieber also gave a Parks and Trails update, which is also included in the consent agenda. There will be 2 signs installed at Williams Park, which will help visually define the boundaries of the park.

Mayor Schieber also brought up that the Council will be starting to have more serious budget discussions in September. If anyone has any questions about the budget, contact Matthey Hill, the City Administrator, or Tonya Kostuch, the City Clerk.

- a. Closed Session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05 to discuss Sale of City Owned Land 38791 Forest Boulevard INFO

Mayor Schieber made a motion to enter into a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05 to discuss the Sale of City-Owned Land at 38791 Forest Boulevard at 7:51pm.

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Kevin Schieber
SECONDER: Robert Canada
AYES: Kevin Schieber, Jeff Goulet, Jim Ibinger, Robert Canada
ABSENT: Patrick Meacham
NOTES:

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schieber made a motion to go back into open session at 8:08 pm

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Kevin Schieber
SECONDER: Robert Canada
AYES: Kevin Schieber, Jeff Goulet, Jim Ibinger, Robert Canada
ABSENT: Patrick Meacham
NOTES:

Mayor Schieber adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Kevin Schieber
SECONDER: Robert Canada
AYES: Kevin Schieber, Jeff Goulet, Jim Ibinger, Robert Canada
ABSENT: Patrick Meacham
NOTES: