

## Carter Lake City Council Meeting

Monday, January 19, 2026

Mayor Jason Gundersen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Council members present were Aaron Grell, Jacob Hanika, Matt Seminara and Victor Skinner. Also present was the City Administrator Cameron Gales, City Attorney Clint Fichter and Deputy City Clerk Lisa Ruehle.

Moved by Skinner, seconded by Hanika to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion by Grell to approve the consent agenda with the deletion of December's abstract of claims, receipts and financial reports. Seconded by Hanika. Ayes: Unanimous.

Moved by Skinner to approve the resolution to appoint Jacleen Wahl to fill the council vacancy. Seconded by Grell. Ayes: Unanimous. Jacleen Wahl was sworn in by Mayor Gundersen as a council member. Attorney Fichter explained the process for the right to file a petition to require the vacant seat be filled by a special election.

Motion was made by Skinner, seconded by Grell to reappoint Clint Fichter as City Attorney. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner to appoint Lisa Ruehle as Interim City Clerk, seconded by Grell. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Hanika to appoint Victor Skinner Mayor Pro-tem for one year. Seconded by Grell. Ayes: Unanimous.

Elizabeth Hunter was present from Snyder & Associates to give an update on the monitoring manhole project. Funding through USDA remains available, with opportunities to adjust scope after contracting. Motion by Grell to move forward with the bid from Backland Plumbing for the monitoring manhole project, seconded by Skinner. Ayes: Unanimous. No action was taken on the 4430 17th Street stormwater drain pending additional information. Updates were provided on the senior living water tap and valve coordination as part of ongoing water infrastructure work.

Fire Chief Dave Huey gave an update on the fire department. There were 528 calls in 2025, 413 were EMS and 115 were Fire. At their annual banquet they honored retired Fire Chief Eric Bentzinger for 25 years of service with 15 years as fire chief. Proby of the year was Jack Vandenbussche, EMS was Cindy Huey, Fire was Ilian Rincon, and Officer of the year was Ave Brandt.

Moved by Skinner, seconded by Grell to appoint Jenny Chibuis to the Library Board. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Grell, seconded by Hanika to approve Jared Dressman for the fire department. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner, seconded by Grell to reappoint Jay Gundersen to the Planning Commission. Ayes: Unanimous.

Moved by Seminara, seconded by Grell to table the professional services contract with Eagle Engineering. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner, seconded by Grell to approve the credit card policy. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner, seconded by Grell to approve the policy requiring background checks. Ayes: Unanimous.

City Attorney Fichter gave an update on 122 Carter Lake Club and the vacation of an alley.

Moved by Grell, seconded by Skinner to approve a resolution for a water distribution operator contract with GRS Xpress Water Management Services. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Grell, seconded by Hanika to approve a resolution designating signatures for banking purposes. Ayes: Wahl, Hanika, Grell, and Seminara. Abstain: Skinner. Moved by Grell, seconded by Hanika to

approve a resolution designating depositories for city funds. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Grell, seconded by Skinner to approve a resolution designating the city auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner, seconded by Grell to designate the Daily Nonpareil as the City's official newspaper. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner, seconded by Grell to approve a resolution authorizing a tax abatement for 506 Redick Blvd. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner, seconded by Grell to approve a resolution authorizing a tax abatement for 4407 N 6<sup>th</sup> St. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner, seconded by Hanika to approve a wage resolution for Ronnie Maynard. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Skinner, seconded by Grell to approve a wage resolution for Dale Sillik. Ayes: Unanimous.

Tim Mandolfo discussed the process for a petition to require a special election.

There was discussion on the background checks and volunteers. Denise Teeple commented on the need for wage ranges for certain job positions and keeping job descriptions up to date. A resident asked about cloudy water and reduced water pressure, inquiring whether current infrastructure projects may be the cause. It was recommended that fire hydrants be flushed in that area. Keith Jones introduced himself, he was recently appointed to the Board of Supervisors in Pottawattamie County.

Council member Wahl asked about scheduling the evaluation of the City Administrator. Hanika thanked the Community Center for the recent card show they held. He stated there was a great turnout.

There was discussion on the salvage licenses and a misunderstanding with them being under the consent agenda. Moved by Seminara to reconsider the salvage licenses approved under the consent agenda and to approve them individually. Seconded by Hanika. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Grell, seconded by Seminara to approve the salvage permit for Lakeside Auto Recyclers. Ayes: Unanimous. Moved by Hanika, seconded by Seminara to table the salvage yard licenses for Fett's City Super Shop and D & R Auto Sales for 45 days and the council will set a workshop with the planning board to discuss zoning regulations and compliance issues. Ayes: Unanimous.

Council member Skinner thanked the Fire Department for inviting the Council to their banquet. He appreciates what they do. He commented on the good job the community center does with the senior programs.

City Administrator discussed the training retreat for the Council on February 7<sup>th</sup> and the training for other board members. Mayor Gundersen congratulated Eric Bentzinger on his retirement and the other fire department volunteers that received rewards.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

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Lisa Ruehle, Interim City Clerk

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Jason Gundersen, Mayor