



Windom Community Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2026
(Hybrid Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing & In-Person at 5843 Wentworth)

Attending: Chad Fallon (S), Dembo Darboe, Michelle Hemingway (P), Becky McIntosh (T), Jamie Lieser (VP), Mario Vargas (Executive Director)

Absent: Derek Goodman

Guests: Jamison Whiting (Ward 11 Councilmember), Toddrick Barnette (Community Safety Commissioner, Minneapolis Office of Community Safety), Barbara O'Brian (Director Minneapolis Department of Finance and Property Services), Anthony Taylor (Minneapolis NCR), James Novak (Inspector MPD 5th Precinct), Faith Randal (Crime Prevention Specialist MPD 5th Precinct), Brian Sand (Lieutenant MPD 3th Precinct), Sergeant Peterson, Sergeant Noukue Cha, Cate McIntosh (Windom resident).

Welcome/Call to Order: Jamie called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

- **Justice Department Consent Decree Information** – Commissioner Barnette
 - a. Commissioner Barnette spoke about the city's latest project, the Community Safety Training and Wellness Center for which it has put a letter of intent to purchase. The city would like to purchase the parcel and building located at 146 W 60th St. (5 parcels) to house the Center which would bring all community safety departments under one roof including fire, 911, Police, Neighborhood Safety and other city departments. The questions that the city received this week at the neighborhood presentation were why this property and why now? It is a unique area within a light industrial zone that is not heavily populated with homes. It is also within city limits. Other questions include why not use an existing facility the city owns now or renovate them. Through the Minnesota Human Rights (MDHR) Settlement Agreement there were several assessments that were completed. MDHR concluded based on the assessment that the current facilities were not adequate and current services are spread out. The national trend is to have all safety departments under one roof because of its effectiveness in training under all departments under one roof and response is better during a crisis. While the settlement agreement does not require all safety departments to fall under one building, the facilities assessments do state, specifically, that the police need a facility located in Minneapolis. Commissioner Barnette stated that due to some of the current inefficiencies it makes sense to put all safety departments under one roof especially since this is the national trend looking at this from a long-term investment perspective. The facilities assessments make it known that Minneapolis does require a new police facility due to the inadequate nature of what is currently available. For his office, Commissioner Barnette's view is to have one facility for all first responders to train in and to support them well in. The facility would include adult learning, large classroom sizes, computer labs and a fitness center. This facility would bring other partners including Hennepin County and the state to train in Minneapolis.
 - b. Director O'Brian presented the construction side of the project. In 2021, a concept for the concept for this building was put into the city's capital long range planning program. Around that time the city began looking at various locations to house the project. Criteria were reviewed included that it needed to be within the city limit boundaries and that it be zoned correctly and not be directly located within a residential neighborhood like where the current SOC (Special Operations Center) is located. The current SOC building was building in 1962 as an elementary school building. Today, a lot of the training taking place there is done in classrooms designed for children. The property a 146 W. 60th St. is 4.77 acres and meets the minimum requirement of 4.5 acres for a site for this function. The department and Commissioner Barnette will present the letter of intent to City Council at the end of the month asking for authority and support to move forward with the purchase agreement. Should this go forward, the purchase agreement will be co-signed with the owner. This is binding and they will enter into due a diligence process to ensure that taxpayer money is being used wisely. Finally, the city would go into closing sometime in early August 2026. After this, the city would go into pre-design and design phases for over a year. Once this is completed, then the department will go to City Council for approval to go with a construction contract which would take about another year. Occupation and use in 2029-2030 timeframe. There is currently high demand for this type of facility. The city does not have these types of spaces right now. The city has had to 'make do' and 'makeshift' Right now,



- **Windom Crime and Safety Update – Faith Randal**

- a. Faith Randal has been at Precinct 5 for about a year and a half. Lieutenant Sand has been with MPD for 28 years and he handles property crimes in the 5th Precinct. Faith reviewed crime statistics for Windom. Most crimes are related to larceny. It is important for residents to be sure to lock their vehicles, garages and personal property. Property crimes are usually committed by a small number of youths. Suspicious activity should be reported to 311. Call 911 at times when you personally witness the crime. Local larceny in Windom and surrounding area is being committed by an organized group of youth. MPD has identified three key organized groups of juveniles; one operating out of Chicago Avenue, another operating out of Little Earth and in the north side. MPD encourages residents to have cameras and share that information through your filed police reports which can be done in person or online. 5th Precinct has the fastest response rate, and officers are grateful for the good relations with 5th Precinct neighborhoods.

Council Business

- **WCC Contracts Discussion**

- a. WCC Staff: Approval is needed to extend 1-year contract extensions for the Executive Director and Bookkeeper.
 - Motion: Move to approve one year contract extensions, January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026, for the Executive Director and the Bookkeeper.
 1. Motion: Becky
 2. Second: Chad
 3. All in favor: Unanimous
 4. Motion approved: Jamie

- **Hennepin County Green Partners Grant Application**

- a. Purpose of the Grant Review: Hennepin County provides this contracting opportunity. For this contract there are three general categories: Engage Youth, Developing Youth Leadership, and Environment Action (not youth focuses). The Windom Environment and Land Use Committee would like WCC to pursue the Environment Action contract for. This project would be led and implemented by the Environment and Land Use Committee.
 - i. Motion: Move to approve WCC's application to Hennepin County's Green Partners Grant in the amount of up to \$12,000.
 1. Motion: Becky
 2. Second: Chad
 3. All in favor: Unanimous
 4. Motion approved: Jamie
 - ii. Proposed Windom Grants Projects: 1) Pollinator Gardens 2) Reusable Shopping Kits. Vote for 1 of the 2
 1. Pollinator Gardens: All Board Members
 2. Reusable Shopping Kits: None

- **Announcements**

- a. NCR Annual Report Due April 15, 2026.
 - a. Volunteer Hours Due March 30th: Board members are required to report volunteer hours using Jamie's spreadsheet.
- b. Minneapolis St Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, March 14th at 1:00 PM
 - a. Staging 12:00 noon at 5th St and Nicollet Ave Downtown
- c. Oak Hill Cemetery Tours: May 2, 2026

Committee Reports (None)

1. Finance – None
2. Environment & Land Use – Becky
 - a. 2025 Garden Tool Swaps May 2, 2026
3. Community Development – None
4. Safety & Health – None
5. Outreach & Community Engagement – None
6. Fundraising – None

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm