

Oct. 13, 2025

FINANCE/TAX & LICENSE/ZONING COMMITTEE

10:30 a.m.

Chairperson Gary Jepsen called the meeting to order with the following members present: Gary Jepsen, Larry Grisen, and David Earney, alternate. Absent: Perry Iberg.

Also present: Mayor Richard Champeny, Clerk-Treasurer Linda Torgerson, Deputy Clerk Sharaya Reed, and Shawn Squires-CEO of Cochrane Cooperative Telephone.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to approve the revised building permit application submitted by Josh and Sharaya Reed for solar installation at S2044 Grandview Road. All members voting yes.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to approve the building permit application submitted by Gary and Kathy Jepsen for solar installation at S2063 Grandview Road as amended. Two members voting yes. 1 Abstain (Jepsen).

Gary Jepsen informed the committee that the Library has received \$19,134.03 from a donor through the Winding Rivers Library System. This money is strictly for the solar energy for the new library and must be sent to Ethos, which is the solar company for the library. A separate account must be established for the solar energy project. Jepsen further informed the committee that there is an interview from the Moonshot grant to receive an additional \$25,000.00 for the solar energy for the new library.

Gary Jepsen stated that the proposal from Chosen Valley Testing for the new library had already been approved through the Library Building committee and that the Mayor signed the proposal and sent it back to FEH Consultants. It will be discussed for information at the Council meeting.

Larry Grisen inquired about what the City's role with the Library Grant. Jepsen stated that the Library building committee was given authority to approve items that require a quick turnaround. The grant guidelines are being followed, Jepsen stated.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to recommend to Council a 2.7% raise for all employees and to retain the current health insurance policy which will be increasing by 8% for 2026. All members voting yes by roll call vote.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Earney to recommend approval the Quit Claim Deeds for Lots #24 & 27 of Shawnee Estates after review from the city attorney and Council. All members voting yes.

Motion by Earney seconded by Jepsen to recommend approval by Council for the roof repairs needed at the City Hall/Library/Fire Station as proposed from Winona Heat and Vent in the amount of \$6,252.00. All members voting yes.

Shawn Squires, CEO of Cochrane Cooperative Telephone, gave a presentation and three proposals of options of phone and internet service for the new municipal building at 1225 South Main Street and the other city properties requiring phone and internet service.

A proposal for phone service only to the above locations was received by TDS via email.

This was for information only to help guide for the budgets.

The committee prepared the Finance budgets for 2026.

Motion by Grisen seconded by Jepsen to adjourn. All members voting yes.