

**MINUTES**  
**MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Monday, January 12, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Monticello Community Center**

Present: Lloyd Hilgart, Charlotte Gabler, Kip Christianson, and Tracy Hinz  
Absent: Lee Martie  
Staff: Rachel Leonard, Sarah Rathlisberger, Angela Schumann, Matt Leonard, and Tom Pawelk

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Lloyd Hilgart called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Annual Administrative Update**

Rachel Leonard, City Administrator, reviewed common guidelines and best practices for City Council. There was review discussion on the following items: City Council Authority, Communications, Social Media Use, Agenda Items, Council Meeting Protocol, Open Meeting Law, and Data Practices.

**3. Highway 25 Update**

Matt Leonard, City Engineer/Public Works Director, provided an overview of the Trunk Highway 25 Corridor Study completed by MnDOT in 2025. City staff participated in the study that assessed a 4.5-mile section of TH25 between Monticello and Big Lake, focusing on intersection controls, operational performance, and potential improvements that balance cost and community impacts.

Mr. Leonard explained that the study broke the corridor into three segments, two of which are located within Monticello. The southernmost segment, from I-94 to School Boulevard, is generally functioning well, with only minor peak-hour impacts. Potential future improvements, that are currently unfunded, include multilane roundabouts at key intersections and completion of sidewalk gaps to improve pedestrian safety.

The middle segment, from the Mississippi River bridge to I-94 through downtown Monticello, presents more immediate concerns due to congestion, safety issues, and limited right-of-way. MnDOT's proposed improvements include access control changes, traffic signal modifications, and additional intersection control at 4<sup>th</sup> Street. City Council discussed the proposed changes and the potential local impacts.

Mayor Hilgart and Council Member Christianson expressed concerns regarding the proposed modifications to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street intersection. Other Council members echoed

these concerns and requested that alternative options be explored or that MnDOT consider limiting changes to peak periods only.

Council Member Hinz noted that any corridor changes should be incorporated into EDA planning efforts for redevelopment on the east side of TH25.

Mr. Leonard also reviewed MnDOT's cost participation policy and the City's role in future projects, particularly at intersections where City streets intersect the state highway. Finally, he concluded by noting MnDOT's request for the city engineer to sign off on the corridor study's intersection control evaluation reports.

The consensus from the City Council is they would prefer an opportunity to meet with MnDOT representatives to discuss proposed corridor changes in greater detail prior to city staff signing the documents. City staff agreed to facilitate scheduling a meeting.

#### 4. **Adjournment**

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Recorder: Jennifer Schreiber 

Attest:   
City Administrator