

**CITY OF THORP
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026, AT 6:30 PM
AT THORP CITY HALL**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mayor Wnek. In attendance were Alderpersons Abramczak, Enkers, Lawcewicz and Rosemeyer. Also in attendance were Clerk/Treasurer Pogodzinski, DPW Shackleton, Police Chief Pries, Library Director Soderstrom, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Davison, Thorp Courier Reporter Pattermann and other visitors.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on Preliminary Special Assessments for Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvements for the 2026 Street & Utility Reconstruction Project.

a. Open Public Hearing

The Public Hearing opened with numerous residents attending. David Walter from Short Elliott Hendrickson reviewed the assessment report with preliminary costs based on estimated construction costs. The final assessment will be actual construction costs after the project is completed. The total cost of water main and sanitary sewer items will be divided equally by number of services on the whole project. 54 properties are expected to be affected, and the estimated total cost of the project is \$3,937,600. Property owners can replace the private portion of the sanitary lateral from the property line to the building at their own expense. Per city ordinance, lots that are large enough that they can be subdivided further, are to receive additional sets of sewer and water services. The city can make properties exempt from special assessments, but the total cost of the assessments would then be divided equally by the amount of the remaining property owners.

b. Public Commentary

Don Danielewicz, a resident questioned the number of years allowed to pay off the special assessments. Mayor Wnek informed that residents had ten years to pay. Danielewicz also asked about the time frame the water/sewer would be interrupted. Walter answered that it is possibly one day without service. Pam Danielewicz felt that taxpayers should pay for the services to be replaced. Alderperson Lawcewicz felt it was hard to charge all the taxpayers since this ordinance to charge the special assessments has been in effect for at least forty years and other residents have paid for their assessments. Dean Zank questioned when the project would be starting. Walter stated that the city is waiting to hear from the grant applications but was hoping to start the project at the end of April. It was noted that all trees would be replaced due to being designated Tree City. All the lead service lines will be required to be replaced into the home with 50% grant from the DNR for the Lead Service Lateral. The replacement services will be bid out, and homeowners will not be able to choose the contractor. Marvin Mengel representing St. Hedwig's - St. Benard's Parish felt the Diocese would never sell the lots which are listed as services that need to be installed. The vacant properties are located at 411 E. School Street and are owned by the La Crosse Diocese. The diocese would be responsible for 15 lots.

c. Close Public Hearing

M/M/S (Lawcewicz/Enkers) Motion to close public hearing. Motion passed 4 – 0.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

2. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens

None

3. Consent Agenda – The City Council, with a single vote and without debate, may act upon the following items.

Any council member wishing to debate an individual item may request that it be considered separately.

a. Approval of minutes from January 12, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting.

M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Rosemeyer) to approve the minutes from January 12, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. Motion passed 4 - 0.

4. Discussion and possible action relating to monthly reports.

a. Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Report, Vouchers, Payroll Register, and Journal Entries.

M/M/S (Rosemeyer, Abramczak) to approve the monthly reports. Motion carried 4 – 0.

b. Police Department Monthly Report

Chief Pries noted that the new squad will be going to General Communications this week for equipment installation. Once the equipment installation is completed the car will have the new graphics added. He reported that Officer Manske received a letter of recognition for exceptional service from Medical/Surgical/Emergency Department Registered Nurse Victoria Kramar of Aspirus Stanley Hospital.

- c. Public Works/Utilities Monthly Report
DPW Shackleton noted that the second round of testing for lead/copper were being sent over to the lab for sampling.
- d. Library Monthly Report
Library Director Soderstrom noted that the annual report was in progress.
- e. Reports from various committees.
None
- f. Reports from elected officials.
None

OLD BUSINESS

- 5. SEH project updates
Change Order #15 has been formally approved by USDA, and the work requested therein will be performed this week. The reason for the change order was that the City requested the addition of an automated air release valve, which was not part of the original contract. The additional cost will be covered by the USDA, so there is no additional cost to the city. Funding results for the Local Roads Improvement Program have not yet been released for the 2026 Street and Utility Reconstruction Project. The 2026 DNR Safe Drinking Water Fund Loan application was filed, and preliminary funding list included a 40% principal forgiveness in the amount of approximately \$457,482. The 2026 DNR Safe Drinking Water Fund Lead Service Line Loan Application was filed and the DNR announced Thorp received 50% principal Forgiveness in the amount of \$366,575. The 2026 DNR Clean Water Fund Loan application was filed and the DNR published that Thorp did not receive any principal forgiveness but is eligible for a loan of \$847,343 at an interest rate of approximately 1.551%.
- 6. Discussion and possible action regarding City Hall Project.
The design team gathered on January 23rd to revisit the cost estimates for two options. On January 28th the committee walked through the updated detailed estimates for each option. During this meeting various ideas were presented to trim costs of the project and bring it within a more manageable budget. The committee is planning to meet internally to further discuss and determine the priorities for the project.

NEW BUSINESS

- 7. Discussion and possible action to accept Preliminary Special Assessment Report for Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvements for the 2026 Street & Utility Reconstruction Project.
M/M/S (Rosemeyer, Lawcewicz) to accept Preliminary Special Assessment Report for Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvements for the 2026 Street & Utility Reconstruction Project.
Motion passed 4 – 0.
- 8. Ordinance 2026-02-01 “An Ordinance Amending Title 09-03-08 of the City of Thorp Code of Ordinances Regarding Winter Parking Regulations.
M/M/S (Enkers, Rosemeyer) to approve Ordinance 2026-02-01 “An Ordinance Amending Title 09-03-08 of the City of Thorp Code of Ordinances Regarding Winter Parking Regulations. This ordinance states that no person shall park or leave unattended a motor vehicle that is not a police, fire or emergency vehicle during the hours of 2:30am through 6:00am on Washington Street between Birch Street and West Prospect Street, and the first block east and west of Soo St., Main St. and School Street. Motion passed 3 – 1.
- 9. Discussion and possible action regarding purchasing speed boards and cameras with School District
Adrian Foster, Administrator at Thorp School District announced that the school district has Fund 80 which is used for community service issues. At the past meeting Mr. Foster and Chief Pries discussed issues on routes students take to and from school. Purchasing speed boards and cameras will keep intersections safer, which will benefit the students. The school has decided to pay half for the speed boards costing approximately \$1,000 for each board and are recommending purchasing four. The cameras’ estimated cost is \$6,000 which will be taken out of Fund 80 from the School District. Clerk-Treasurer Pogodzinski requested to expend the money from the Christmas light reserve fund since most lights are purchased by the Chamber/Tourism, and it has been in the account for a number of years.
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Abramczak) to purchase half the total payment for the speed boards from the Christmas Light Reserve Fund. Motion passed 4 – 0.
- 10. Discussion and possible action to renew the CCEDC (Clark County Economic Development Corporation) 2026 Annual Membership.
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Enkers) to renew the 2026 annual membership with the Clark County Economic Development in the amount of \$\$2,665.50. Motion passed 4 – 0.
- 11. Discussion and possible action regarding Class “B” Beer license for Hausum Tobacco LLC
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Rosemeyer) to approve the Class “B” license for Hausum Tobacco LLC. Motion passed 4– 0.

12. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase/financing of a dump truck

DPW presented the model profile and vehicle specifications for a dump truck from Ascendance Truck Center in Marshfield with a cost of \$236,000. He received another quote from Premier Truck Group of Eau Claire with a total package price of \$238,940. The truck from Ascendance Truck Center can be received in March this year and the truck from Premier Truck group will be available next year. Clerk-Treasurer Pogodzinski recommended paying \$100,000 from the equipment reserve fund and the unreserved fund and borrowing the remainder. Financing rates were received from Northwestern Bank at 5.5% for six years, 5.65% for eight years, and 5.85% for ten years. Forward Bank at 5.04% for ten years and Ascendance Truck Center at 4.729% for five years, 4.779% for six years and 4.774% for seven years. \$25,981.74 could be used from the equipment reserve and \$74,018.26 from the unreserved fund held at Northwestern Bank.

M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Enkers) to purchase the dump truck from Ascendance Truck Center with a cost of \$236,000 with \$25,981.74 out of equipment reserve fund, \$74,018.26 from the unreserved fund and borrowing the remainder \$136,000 from Ascendance Truck Center for seven years at a rate of 4.774%. Motion passed 4 – 0.
13. Discussion and possible action regarding the appliance and electronic recycling drop off

The appliance and electronic recycling drop-off with First Choice were discussed previously and brought back to Council. The twice a year collection event would cost \$150 per trip (truck fits 12 pallets). Freon items would cost \$20 each and household electronics such as desktops, laptops, tvs, printers, keyboards, etc. at no cost. The pallets would be dropped off the week before the event. After the event, all the pallets would go into a locked building to ensure data security for the residents. The Monday following the event, First Choice will come and collect the pallets. The city would charge customers for the freon items which would need to be paid on the day of the collection. DPW and Clerk's Office will set up a Spring collection and a Fall collection.

M/M/S (Abramczak/Enkers) to approve the contract with First Choice. Motion passed 4 – 0.
14. Discussion and possible action regarding painting the water tower.

At the recent inspection of the water tower, it was determined that it will be required to be painted. The current paint has been discontinued but Lane Tank does have enough in stock to do the job. In the contract it is stated that the Contractor shall provide relief valves and assist with draining of the tank. They will clean the tank interior, sandblast, and coat the inside. The exterior will be washed, and spot coated with the current lettering being repainted the same size, shape and location. Additional work will include installation of proper screen flanges, remove existing circulation pump with replacement of a new pump, remove manway of the base and seal the location. The contractor shall disinfect the tank when interior paint has been cured. The elevated water storage tank shall be painted in the 2026 painting season. The total cost for maintenance painting and minor repair of the 150,000-gallon water tower is \$151,500.

M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Rosemeyer) to contract with Lane Tank Co., Inc to paint the water storage tank at a price of \$151,500. Motion passed 4 – 0.
15. Discussion and possible action regarding contract for Public Works Department uniform service

Currently the city is contracted with Vestis for uniform service, and the contract is up in February. DPW Shackleton obtained a proposal from Cintas and Vestis notified that the contract with them would remain the same. DPW Shackleton recommended Cintas due to savings of approximately \$1,000 a year.

M/M/S (Enkers, Abramczak) to contract with Cintas for Public Works uniform service. Motion passed 4 – 0.
16. Discussion and possible action changing fees for shoveling sidewalks and any other service provided.

A new fee schedule was presented for residents who fail to clear snow and ice from sidewalks after a warning has been issued and Public Works must perform the cleanup. The current charge of \$25 may not adequately reflect the cost of labor, equipment and administrative time involved. The proposed Sidewalk Snow and Ice Fees are \$75 for the first offense and \$150 for subsequent offenses.

M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Enkers) to adopt the proposed fee schedule for Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal. \$75 for the first offense and \$150 for subsequent offenses. Motion passed 4 – 0.
17. Discussion and possible action relating to sale of fixed assets

A list of items was presented for the sale of fixed assets. Included in this list were: shot gun, 2016 Ford Expedition Squad, evidence cage, F-150 truck, dump truck, radar unit, body cameras. Chief Pries also had guns that were in evidence that could be sold. It was suggested to sell the items on the Wisconsin Surplus site. The guns which were in evidence were suggested to sell to a licensed firearms dealer.

M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to sell the items on the list with the Wisconsin Surplus Site. Motion passed 4 – 0.

M/M/S (Enkers, Lawcewicz) to sell the guns which were in evidence to a licensed firearms dealer. Motion passed 4 – 0.

18. Discussion and possible action regarding contract with Cedar Corp for CDBG Housing Grant administration
The Housing Grant Program must be administered for the ongoing file management. All RLF Housing Program funds must be returned to the state throughout the program closeout process. This means the municipality will not be keeping the administration fund balance. Cedar Corp could administer the ongoing file management with the payments coming from the municipality's general fund first. Then when the loan payoffs come in, the municipality is allowed to keep \$250 from each loan to recoup any funds paid for administering ongoing file management. Cedar Corp billable rate is \$115/hr. for payoff request letters, satisfactions, subordination request, guidance with submitting funds to the state and yearly receivable list submittal to the state.
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Abramczak) to contract with Cedar Corp for ongoing management of the RLF Housing Program. Motion passed 4 – 0.

CLOSING BUSINESS

19. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens.
None
20. Reports from Department Heads, Mayor, Council, Committees, and discussion of future agenda items.
None
21. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Date of Publication

Richard Wnek
Mayor

Michele Pogodzinski
Clerk-Treasurer