

**CITY OF THORP
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 11, 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, Rosemeyer and Einhorn. Also in attendance were DPW Shackleton, Clerk-Treasurer Pogodzinski, Library Director Soderstrom, Thorp Courier Reporter Patterman, and other visitors.

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 item. Any council member wishing to debate an individual item may request that it be considered separately.
 - a. Approval of minutes from April 20, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting.
 - b. Approval of minutes from April 21, 2026, Organizational Meeting
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Enkers) to approve the minutes from April 20, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting and April 21, 2026, Organizational Meeting. Motion passed 5 – 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 5 – 0.
 - b. Police Department Monthly Report
Report submitted
 - c. Public Works/Utilities Monthly report
Report submitted
 - d. Library Monthly Report
Report submitted.
 - e. Reports from various committees
None
 - f. Reports from elected officials
None

OLD BUSINESS

5. SEH project updates
SEH engineer David Walter was present and reviewed project updates.
6. Discussion and possible action regarding garage door installation for the police department
Nothing new to report. Questions for the Chief will be brought back at the next meeting.
7. Discussion and possible action regarding parking on W. Prospect Street
Aldersperson Abramczak stated that parking on W. Prospect Street and W. Stanley Street was causing problems with employees/staff of Kamz Investments. Abramczak questioned the zoning codes regarding offices owned by Kamz Investments located on W. Stanley Street. Abramczak felt it didn’t fit into the home occupation ordinance and didn’t conform. Building Inspector Bob Christensen noted that more information on the property was needed for him to determine if it was in compliance. Owners Mitch Rice and Jeff Riger were in attendance and noted that three and possibly four rooms were available for emergencies for clients and the area is used for staff, but no one is residing at the residence. They also noted that the parking lot currently in the back yard of the W. Stanley Street office could park up to ten cars. They will be adding additional parking spaces within the next month. It was noted that seventeen to eighteen employees per day were employed, which added to the number of vehicles that needed to park in this area. Mayor Wnek felt parking on W. Prospect Street by Oakbrook Health and Rehab was also a problem area. Employees parking vehicles on both sides of the street near this area were causing traffic concerns. One option presented to the owners was to rent parking lot space from Oakbrook Health and Rehab for their employees. Another option was to contact Dan and Marueen Welgos who own a vacant lot near this area and see if they are willing to rent space or sell the lot. Rice suggested construction of a parking lot with diagonal parking in the boulevard in front of Oakbrook Health and Rehab. He felt that twelve to fifteen parking spots could be constructed in this area. At this point, it was unsure who owned this piece of property. He noted that if the City did own this land and constructed a parking lot, Kamz Investments would contribute \$10,000 towards the parking lot. It was decided to check on surveying costs and bring it back to the next meeting. The owners noted that they are seeking to grow in the City of Thorp and are looking at other properties in the City.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Presentation from Brian Riley, Ehlers & Associates regarding borrowing money for future projects and equipment and potential rate increase for water utility.
Brian Riley, from Ehlers & Associates, informed council that the state limit on General Obligation borrowing is 5% of equalized value. As of December 31, 2026, \$2,998,000 was outstanding principal and approximately \$3.172 million in capacity remaining after proposed 2026A Issue. The preliminary finance plan was to borrow for street, stormwater and equipment under a general obligation debt. After the street project bid came in, it was noted that not all the proposed amounts will need to be borrowed. The estimated General Obligation issue would be \$2,205,000 but would be lowered due to street project costs. Information sheets were provided with different options, one which included available street improvement cash. Regarding the water utility rate increase, Riley felt the water utility should be able to support additional debt service costs related to anticipated Safe Drinking Water Loan. He felt the sewer utility should also be able to support additional debt service costs related to anticipated Clean Water Fund Loan. The next step is for council to decide which option presented is best for the city and approve a resolution on the rates and terms set for the borrowing. This could be done at June's meeting.
9. Discussion and possible action awarding the bid for the 2026 Street & Utility Reconstruction project
David Walter, project manager from Short Elliott Hendrickson, presented the bids for the street and utility project. Two bids were presented: Haas Sons, Inc with a bid of \$2,813,827.83 and Stout Construction, LLC, with a bid of \$3,401,615.40. SEH's recommendation was to award the project in the low bid amount from Haas Sons. M/M/S (Enkers, Lawcewicz) to award the bid of \$2,813,827.83 to Haas Son's for the 2026 Street & Utility Reconstruction project. Motion passed 5 - 0.
10. Resolution 2026-05-01 "Final Resolution Authorizing the Public Improvements and Levying Special Assessments Against Benefitted Property Pursuant to Sec. 66.0703 Wis Stats for Water and Sanitary Sewer Utility Improvements on portion of W. School Street, E. School Street, N. Thorp Street and N. Clark Street"
M/M/S (Abramczak, Rosemeyer) to approve the resolution with an interest rate ½ percent above City's borrowing rate. Motion passed 5 – 0.
11. Contract amendment with Short Elliott Hendrickson for Construction Services.
A contract amendment was presented from SEH regarding the final design and permitting which included completion and submittal of the WisDOT LRIP grant, additional survey and design regarding the parking lot on the south side of E. School Street. This additional cost totaled \$11,000 and construction services for the 2026 Street & Utility Reconstruction project in the amount of \$235,600
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Enkers) to approve the contract amendment with Short Elliott Hendrickson totaling \$246,600. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Mayor skipped to #19
12. Adoption of 2026 Operating Budget for Fund 200.
Clerk-Treasurer presented the 2026 Operating Budget for Fund 200. She reviewed the draft and noted that this budget is usually late due to audit entries from the previous year.
M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to approve the 2026 Operating Budget for Fund 200. Motion passed 5 – 0.
13. Resolution 2026-05-02 "Resolution Approving 2025 Consumer Confidence Report for Water Utility"
This report is an annual report required by the DNR and completed by DPW Shackleton.
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Enkers) to approve Resolution 2026-05-02. Motion passed 5 – 0.
14. Discussion and possible action to reimburse William Rice for fertilizer for land rented at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
William Rice who rents the land near the Wastewater Treatment Plant applied fertilizer to the land but was unable to plant due to the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This amount was credited to the City from the contract with Staab Construction.
M/M/S (Rosemeyer, Lawcewicz) to reimburse Willilam Rice \$3,500 for the fertilizer applied to the land by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Motion passed 5 – 0.
15. Discussion and possible action to move forward for solicitation of proposals for Garbage and Recycling Collection
Due to the current contract ending in December of 2026, it was decided to bring this back in August 2026.
16. American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Poppy Day Proclamation.
A Proclamation was presented for Poppy Day.
17. Ordinance 2026-05-01 "Ordinance Creating SS 12-2-14 Mailbox Clusters Prohibited"
An ordinance was presented prohibiting mailbox clusters in the city.
M/M/S (Enkers, Rosemeyer) to approve the ordinance. Motion passed 5 – 0.

18. Discussion and possible action regarding hiring at the Municipal Aquatic Center.
Park and Rec Board presented their recommendations for the staff for the 2026 season.
M/M/S (Abramczak, Lawcewicz) to approve the recommendation furnished by the Park and Rec Board. Motion passed 5 – 0.
19. Discussion and possible action regarding a Remote-Control area at the Skating Rink.
Joel Hayes was requesting permission to establish an RC (remote-control) park at the skating rink. He explained that the park would be created by weed whacking down the dirt to form a circular course with several pathways and would assume responsibility for ongoing path maintenance. He also stated that the park would prohibit airborne RC vehicles and gasoline-powered RC models. Park and Rec Board's recommendation to council was to approve with a one (1) year trial period for an RC Park at the Skating Rink based on time of year from May 1 – September 30 with the hours from 10:00 am – 10:00 pm.
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Rosemeyer) to approve recommendation from Park and Rec Board for a 1-year trial period to Joel Hayes to establish a remote-control park at the skating rink. Motion passed 5 – 0.
20. Discussion and possible action to approve donation to Thorp Area Chamber of Commerce.
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Rosemeyer) to donate \$1,000 to the Thorp Area Chamber of Commerce for fireworks. Motion passed 5 – 0.
21. Discussion and possible action regarding City Hall/Public Works summer hours.
Summer hours for City Hall and the Public Works were presented, which included a spreadsheet from municipalities with varied summer hours.
M/M/S (Enkers, Einhorn) to implement summer hours to City Hall and the Public Works Dept. from Memorial Day week until Labor Day week for a one-year trial period. Open hours at City Hall would remain the same Monday – Thursday and close at noon on Fridays. Motion passed 5 – 0.

CLOSED SESSION

22. Consider moving into closed session per Wis Stats 19.85(1)(c) to the following:
a. Potential hiring of Seasonal Public Works
M/M/S (Lawcewicz, Abramczak) to move into closed session. Motion passed 5 – 0.
23. Reconvene into open session and take any action as the result of closed session.
M/M/S (Rosemeyer, Einhorn) to move into open session. Motion passed 5 - 0.
M/M/S (Rosemeyer, Einhorn) to hire Caleb Ciolkosz for seasonal public works. Motion passed 5 – 0.
If Ciolkosz does not accept it was decided to move down the list as presented by Council.

CLOSING BUSINESS

24. Comments and suggestions from pre-registered citizens
None
25. Reports from Department Heads, Mayor, Council, Committees, and discussion of future agenda items
None
26. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Date of Publication

Richard Wnek
Mayor

Michele Pogodzinski
Clerk-Treasurer