

**CITY OF HOUSTON REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA**

**6:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026
HOUSTON CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
105 West Maple Street**

Pledge of Allegiance

Regular Meeting

Public Comment Period

Section 1. Business before the Council

- A. Bolton & Menk – 6:00 pm Public Hearing on Improvements**
 - a. Consideration of Resolution Adopting Assessment**
 - b. LSL Replacement Project Update**
- B. WM Request to Change Pickup Day**
- C. Personnel Items – Change in status**
 - a. Casual/on-call request**
 - b. Request to advertise**
 - c. Hire of Summer Rec and YCC Student Staff**
- D. Consideration of Memorandum of Agreement for Student Experience (Ambulance/Training Center)**
- E. Houston Hoedown – Consideration of Temporary Liquor License**
 - a. Consideration of Gambling Permit for Bingo**
- F. LMCIT Waiver/Tort liability**

Section 2. Action Items:

- A. Minutes from April 13, 2026, meeting**
- B. Bills**

Section 3. Consent Agenda Items to Be Placed on File

- A. Library report, and statistics**

Section 4. Department Reports

Adjournment



Real People. Real Solutions.

2900 43rd Street NW
Suite 100
Rochester, MN 55901

Ph: (507) 208-4332
Bolton-Menk.com

ENGINEERING MEMORANDUM for the 5/11/26 COUNCIL MEETING

Date: May 7, 2026
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Matt Mohs, P.E., City Engineer
Derek Olinger, P.E. Project Manager
Subject: Miscellaneous Project Updates
City of Houston

Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement

Plans and specifications were submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on March 31, 2026, for plan certification. Plan certification is expected by June 30, 2026.

Spruce Street (2026 Street & Utility Improvements)

Houston County has awarded the project to BKC. We are expecting contracts to be signed shortly and work to begin within a few weeks. Road Closure is anticipated in week 1 or 2 of June and the project should be substantially completed by the end of August.

On May 6th, a neighborhood meeting was held with residents and the county engineer also attended to provide information for the county's portion of the project. Residents from 6 properties attended. Discussion consisted of updates and clarifications for final assessments and construction expectations.

At the upcoming meeting, we'll provide a brief presentation which will be focused on assessments alone. Following the presentation, residents will be provided an opportunity to voice any comments/concerns directly to the City Council.

Following closure of the public hearing, the Council may adopt the assessments (as originally provided or with amendments), by approving the attached resolution.

Attachments

- Assessment Presentation Slides
- Final Assessment Roll

Requested Action

- Approve Resolution Adopting Assessment



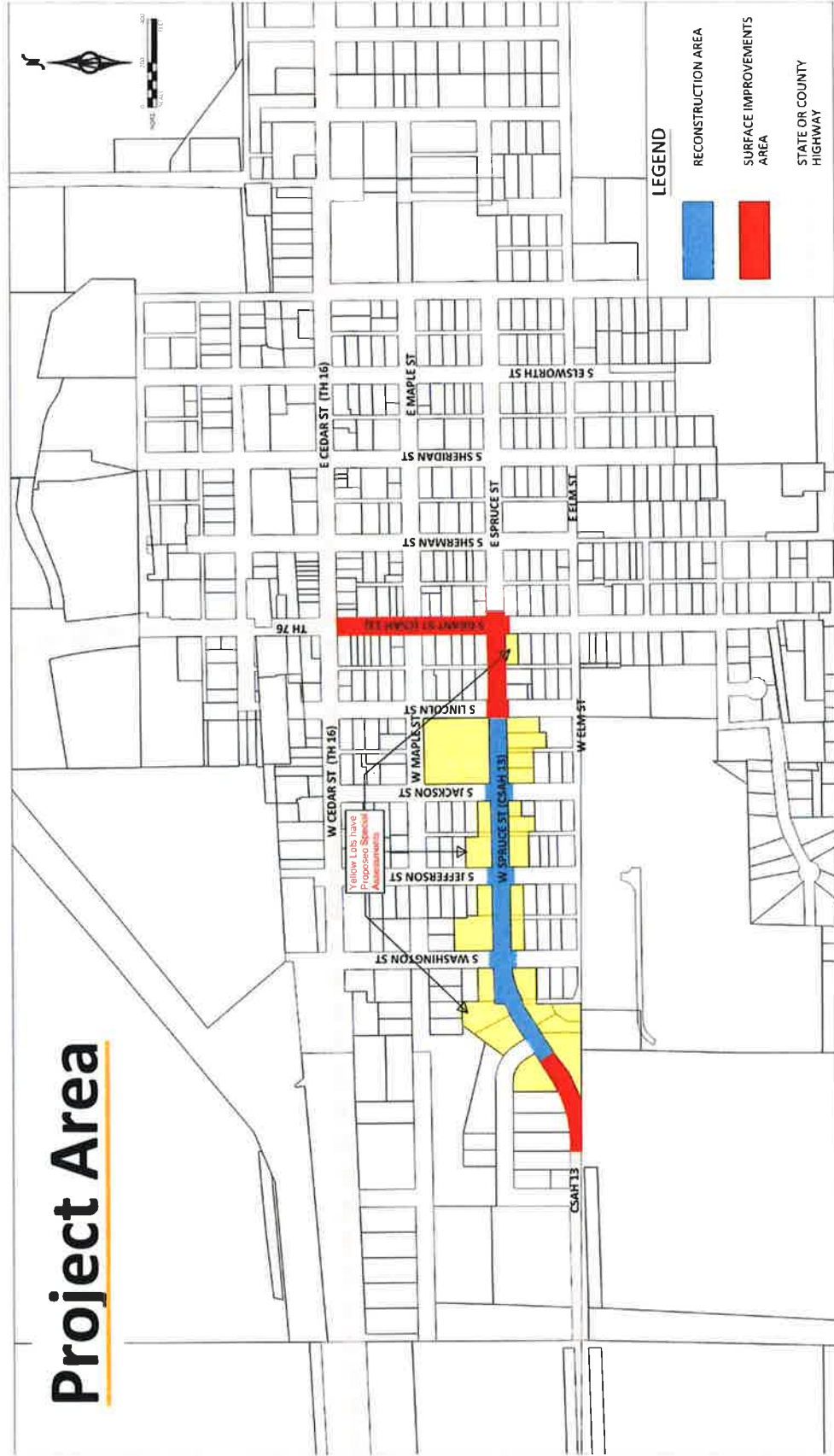
2026 Street & Utility Improvements

Assessment Hearing

05/11/2026



Project Area



Project Cost Summary

- Total City Costs
 - Construction Bids
 - Design
 - Financing
- Detailed Costs Breakdown Available

PROJECT COST SUMMARY	
SANITARY MAIN RECONSTRUCTION	\$324,910.18
SANITARY SEWER SERVICES	\$66,471.86
WATERMAIN EXTENSION	\$51,669.67
WATERMAIN RECONSTRUCTION	\$449,028.43
WATER SERVICES	\$50,612.05
WATER SERVICES (ADD'L LSL)	\$47,062.50
MISC WATER IMPROVEMENTS	\$221,861.11
MISC CITY IMPROVEMENTS	\$45,914.00
STORM SEWER	\$223,846.58
CITY SIDEWALK (6,7,9)	\$123,601.38
CURB & GUTTER (6,7)	\$55,951.22
STREET (REPAVING/RECONST) (6,8)	\$0.00
TOTAL CITY COST	\$1,660,928.99
TOTAL COUNTY COST	\$ 1,156,773.35
PROJECT COST	\$2,817,702.33





City Funding

- City and County Cost Shares – Based on Past Houston County Cooperative Agreements
- City’s Portion
 - Sale of Bond
 - Public Facilities Authority (PFA) revolving fund loans and potential grants
 - PFA lead service line replacement funds (grant)
 - Cash from City’s Capital Projects Fund
- City Loans/Bonds Repaid through
 - Enterprise Utility Funds
 - Property Taxes (Levy)
 - Special Assessments



Special Assessments

- Only portions of city costs assessed (County shares not included)
- Individual assessments by lot available for viewing
- Assessments will change (final to be determined after bid)

Table 9 – Frontage Adjustments

Adjustment Type	Brief description of Adjustment
Odd Shaped Lots	Area of lot (sf) x 75' ÷ 10,500 sf
Irregularly Shaped Lots	Width of Lot at 25' setback line
Standard Lots	Width of Lot at Front Lot Line
Corner Lots	Only Assess the Longer Side (add'l detail in policy)
Flag Lots	Use 75' Width
Double Frontage Lots	Only Assess One Side, when not subdividable

Table 7 – Assessment Summary

Project Component	% Assessable^{1,2}
Sanitary Main Reconstruction	0%
Sanitary Sewer Services	100%
Watermain Extension	100%
Watermain Reconstruction	0%
Water Services	100%
Lead Service Replacement ³	0%
Misc. City Improvements ⁴	0%
Storm Sewer	0%
City Sidewalk	50%
Curb & Gutter	50%

Table 8 – Assessment Calculation Method

Project Component	Distribution of Assessments
Street (Reconstruction)*	Adjusted Front Footage Method
Street (Repaving)*	Adjusted Front Footage Method
Curb & Gutter, Sidewalk	Adjusted Front Footage Method
Watermain (Extension)	Unit Method ¹
Sanitary and Water Services	Unit Method ¹



Special Assessments

FINAL ASSESSMENT RATES	
SANITARY SEWER	\$3,910.11 per unit
WATERMAIN EXTENSION	\$7,381.38 per unit
WATER SYSTEM	\$2,811.78 per unit
CITY SIDEWALK	\$39.62 per ft
CURB & GUTTER	\$14.16 per ft

TYPICAL ASSESSMENT TOTALS		
Lot Type	Proposed Final	Previous Estimate
Typical Reconst. Lot (70' wide, sewer & water)	\$10,486.00	\$ 11,708.00
Typical Reconst. Lot (140' wide, sewer & water)	\$14,250.00	\$ 15,496.00
Standard Lot (100' wide, sewer & water)	\$12,099.00	\$ 13,331.00
Standard Lot (100' wide, sewer & water w/ water extension)	\$19,481.00	\$ 22,720.00



Assessment Payment

- Prepayment
 - Full or Partial Payment to City of Houston by 11/15/2026
- Any Remaining Balance Certified to 2027 Taxes
 - Remaining payments through County Auditor
 - 20 Years, 6% interest (subject to final approval)
 - If paying off in full at later date, do so prior to November 15th of given year to avoid being charged interest for following year
- Deferment options
 - Financial Hardship, 65 or older or retired by Permanent and Total Disability (Homestead Property Only)
 - Deferment of principle amount, interest will continue to accrue
 - If desired contact City Staff for application after assessment hearing.



Owner's Right to Objection/Appeal

Public can comment on project/assessment at this hearing

Property owner has the right to formally object to the assessment.

- Must be made in writing.
- Must be submitted by close of this Public Hearing (on May 11th).

Property owner has the right to appeal the assessment.

- Appeal must be filed in District Court within 30 days of this hearing.
- Written Objection must be submitted at this Public Hearing in order to file an appeal.



Easements

- Several Properties received requests for temporary access agreements
 - Water Service Replacement
 - Minor Grading in Front Yards
- Requesting by May 15th
- We have copies and can sign & notarize tonight



TEMPORARY HIGHWAY EASEMENT
 Project: 2024 Street & Utility Improvements (SAP 2024-01-012)

This AGREEMENT is made this _____ day of _____, 20____, between _____ (hereinafter "Grantor"), and the City of Houston, a municipal corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota, (hereinafter "Grantee")

WITNESSETH Additionally the Grantors, do hereby grant and permit the Grantee, the right to construct a back or embankment slope adjacent to and as a part of the general plan of improvement and protection of the road, on the back or side of the lot and being in the City of Houston, County of Houston, State of Minnesota, described as follows, to wit:

Subject Property: P10 23447 4000 401 Street, St. Houston, MN

Subject Property legal description:
 Lot 6 and the south 10' of Lot 7, Block 25 of the Mons Anderson's Addition to Houston, City of Houston, Houston County, Minnesota

Easement Description:
 The south 2' abutting Spruce St. and the east 5' abutting Jefferson St. of Lot 6, Block 25 of the Mons Anderson's Addition to Houston, City of Houston, Houston County, Minnesota, containing 975 square feet, more or less, as shown on the attached plan.

Term of Easement: Said easement shall cease on December 31, 2022, or on such earlier date upon which the Grantee determines by formal order that it is no longer needed for highway purposes.

together with other rights as set forth below:

It is agreed, and the right is hereby granted, that all earth or other material necessary excavated, removed or taken from said premises in the construction of said slope shall become the property of the Grantee to be removed, or used in the construction of the above stated road, or otherwise disposed as the Grantee may deem fit.

It is further agreed that turf, pavement, or other existing improvements on within the easement, and disturbed by the proposed construction will be replaced in kind by the Grantor if imposed by the work.

And the Grantors, for their successors and assigns, do hereby release the Grantee, its officers and agents from any and all liability and claims therefore concerning said premises and Grantee's actions according to the results or may result therefrom by virtue of the construction of said temporary easement and as with in connection therewith.

The Grantors acknowledge that the Grantee intends to assign this easement to Houston County for completion of the work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, grantors have caused the signatures to be executed in their names on the day and year first written above:

NAME (Printed) _____ NAME (Printed) _____
 STATE OF MINNESOTA }
 COUNTY OF HOUSTON }
 The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20____, by _____ Grantors.
 Notarial Stamp or Seal (or other Title or Rank) _____ SIGNATURE OF PERSON TAKING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT _____

to set forth the terms and conditions pursuant to under the laws of the State of Minnesota the water service line as part of the City's Road Line Improvement Project (the "Work") to be performed at: P10 23447 4000 401 Street, St. Houston, MN (hereinafter referred to collectively herein as the "parties").

that:

connection running from the watermain up to and over the City. The portion of the service between the curb on the Property (hereinafter, the "water service

The City is willing to replace the entirety of the property pursuant to the City's authorization to Non-446A.077, and the full execution of this

by City staff and/or by a contractor selected by the other party and the benefits to be derived therefrom for entering into this Agreement.

the following letter as necessary at no cost to the undersigned

by the City and/or a contractor(s) selected by the assessments associated with the work, between the water meter on the Owner's Property. The removing or disconnected and abandoned in the City's

the City may install the existing water meter in a new water service line

or disturbed by construction, including seeding or concrete or pavers and interior portions of the building and at the discretion. However, restoration will not include: sidewalk, tile, carpeting, driveway, painting, etc.) or

than 2000 sq. ft. Exterior restoration will not include replanting of

forming the work to provide adequate maintenance to that may result from damage caused by the property, and to require the City contractor(s) to provide proof of liability insurance. Require the City contractor(s) to provide proof of liability insurance. Require the City contractor(s) to provide proof of liability insurance.





Conclusion & Upcoming Decision

- Public Hearing
 - Approach Council, state name & address
 - State your comments
 - Comments documented & taken into consideration
- Following Hearing (this meeting)
 - Consider adopting assessments



Thank You

Questions?



Derek Olinger, P.E.

Project Engineer (City)

Derek.Olinger@bolton-menk.com

507-525-2685







FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
 2025 STREET & UTILTY IMPROVEMENTS
 CITY OF HOUSTON, TX
 RW PROJECT NO. 041.13271E
 Updated: 04/09/2025

PROPERTY LIST

ASSESSMENT CALCULATIONS

PROPERTY OWNER	PANCEL ID.	PROPERTY ADDRESS	CORNER LOT	IDE	METHOD OF ASSESSMENT	ACTUAL FRONTAGE (FT)	NON-ASSESSABLE FRONTAGE (FT)	ACTUAL AREA (SQ FT)	ADJUSTED FRONTAGE (FT)	STREET (RECTANGULAR) ASSESSABLE FRONTAGE (PROP OWNER)	STREET (RECTANGULAR) FRONT FOOT * \$2.00	ETHEL (RECTANGULAR) ASSESSABLE FRONTAGE (PROP OWNER)	ETHEL (RECTANGULAR) FRONT FOOT * \$2.00	EXTRAVALK (RECTANGULAR) ASSESSABLE FRONTAGE (PROP OWNER)	EXTRAVALK (RECTANGULAR) FRONT FOOT * \$2.00	CURB & GUTTER (RECTANGULAR) ASSESSABLE FRONTAGE (PROP OWNER)	CURB & GUTTER (RECTANGULAR) FRONT FOOT * \$4.16	SANITARY SEWER SERVICE (RECTANGULAR) ASSESSABLE FRONTAGE (PROP OWNER)	SANITARY SEWER SERVICE (RECTANGULAR) FRONT FOOT * \$3,933.11	WATER SERVICE (RECTANGULAR) ASSESSABLE FRONTAGE (PROP OWNER)	WATER SERVICE (RECTANGULAR) FRONT FOOT * \$2,411.78	WATERMANS EXTENSION (RECTANGULAR) ASSESSABLE FRONTAGE (PROP OWNER)	WATERMANS EXTENSION (RECTANGULAR) FRONT FOOT * \$7,205.34	TOTAL ASSESSMENT
TERRY B MARLETTE JEFFERSON	24.0027000	104 SPRUCE ST W	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	810.00		29099	76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PALMQUIST CHERYL	24.0177000	104 SPRUCE ST W	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	327.64		29099	291	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GREEN ACRES PROPERTIES LLC	24.0475000	114 SPRUCE ST W	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	324.48		29099	83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MARK E VY BENEQUA	24.0475000	114 SPRUCE ST W	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	N/A		29099	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CARRIS JASON	24.0530000	111 SPRUCE ST W	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	294.52		29099	116	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GREEN ACRES PROPERTIES LLC	24.0747000	110 SPRUCE ST W	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	119.46		29099	88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WELLSEREN GERALD A LOH	24.0750000	105 SPRUCE ST W	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	128.85		29099	152	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SCHEIDT SCHEIDT	24.0612000	105 SPRUCE ST W	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	208.81		29099	182	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BARRETT JACOB	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MICHAELSON A	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ELLENBERG INVESTMENTS INC	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
JOHNSON DANE	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GREEN ACRES PROPERTIES LLC	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BARRETT JACOB & DANIEL	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SCHEIDT SCHEIDT	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
THE TRUSTEES OF THE BROTHERHOOD	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
STEVENS & LOUIE TRUST	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BARRETT JACOB & DANIEL	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CITY OF HOUSTON	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DAVID PERRY	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ELLEN MARK A JESSICA A	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DAN DAWSON JAMES	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	NO	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MARION TERRY JUDITH	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CITY OF HOUSTON	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PETERSON DANIEL A & MARY WALTERS	24.0747000	101 W SPRUCE ST	YES	LONG	STANDARD (1)	140.00		29099	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL																								

Resolution 2026-__

Resolution Adopting Assessment

2026 Street & Utility Improvements

WHEREAS, pursuant to proper notice duly given as required by law, the council has met and heard and passed upon all objections to the proposed assessment for the 2026 Street & Utility Improvements, the proposed improvement of:

Street	From	To
Grant St (CSAH 13)	Cedar St (TH 16)	Spruce St (CSAH 13)
Spruce St (CSAH 13)	Grant St (CSAH 13)	Point Approx 200' East of Westgate St

by reconstruction or rehabilitation of streets, sidewalks, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, watermain, and other related infrastructure.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOUSTON, MINNESOTA:

1. Such proposed assessment, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby accepted and shall constitute the special assessment against the lands named therein, and each tract of land therein included is hereby found to be benefited by the proposed improvement in the amount of the assessment levied against it.
2. Such assessment shall be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of 20 years, the first of the installments to be payable on or before the first Monday in January 2027, and shall bear interest at the rate of 6.0 percent per annum from the date of the adoption of this assessment resolution. To the first installment shall be added interest on the entire assessment from January 1, 2027. To each subsequent installment, when due, shall be added interest for one year on all unpaid installments.
3. The owner of any property so assessed may, at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the county auditor, pay the whole or partial amount of the assessment on such property, with interest accrued to the date of payment, to the city treasurer, except that no interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid within 30 days from the adoption of this resolution or by November 15, 2026, whichever date is later; and he/she may, at any time thereafter, pay to the county auditor the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the next succeeding year.
4. The administrator shall forthwith transmit a certified duplicate of this assessment to the county auditor to be extended on the property tax lists of the county. Such assessments shall be collected and paid over in the same manner as other municipal taxes.

Adopted by the council this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Scott Wallace, Mayor

Michelle Quinn, City Administrator

MEMORANDUM FOR HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

Council Date: May 11, 2026

Agenda Item: WM Request to change pickup day

From: Jay Nieson/WM Representative

It has been challenging for WM to provide the high level of service which the city and its residents have come to expect. In response to the challenges, WM has proposed servicing our city out of the Rochester location which would allow for a dedicated weekly route driver, and quieter, cleaner, burning CNG equipment use in our city. The one request they have of the city and residents is to change the weekly pickup from Tuesday to Friday. WM would send postcards and provide calendars to assist residents with adjusting to the change. The change schedule proposed would be as follows:

Regular pickup Tuesday, May 19th

2nd pickup the same week on Friday, May 22nd with pickup taking place on Fridays after this date.

Action Requested: Consider approval to change refuse and recycling pickup day from weekly on Tuesdays to weekly on Fridays in exchange for a dedicated route driver and CNG pickup vehicles.



April 30, 2026

City of Houston
105 W Maple Street
Houston, MN 55943

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

At Waste Management, our goal is to provide the City of Houston with the highest quality of service. We are continually working to ensure safe and efficient collection and environmentally sound services to the cities in which we serve. Waste Management is currently working on a reroute that we feel will not only improve the service but also the efficiency in which we service the City. With the current hiring challenges we face at our hauling site in La Crosse, we will be switching the residential service we provide to the Houston residents to our Rochester hauling site. This will provide consistent service and also upgrade the City to compressed natural gas trucks as well that burn cleaner and quieter than the current diesel trucks.

At this time, we would like to respectfully request a change to the service day for your residential trash and recycling collection. The day of residential trash and recycling collection would move from the current Tuesday service to Friday service for both trash and recycling. This change would take place the week of May 22nd ,2026, at which time the service day for residential trash and recycling would be Friday going forward.

Residents will be notified of the change with postcards when the move has been approved by the City Council.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding these proposed changes, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jay Nieson
Public Sector Services
Waste Management
jnieson@wm.com
612-430-4780 - Mobile

MEMORANDUM FOR HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

Council Date: May 11, 2026
Agenda Item: Personnel Items
From: Michelle Quinn

Brody Thesing is developing into a critical member of the public works team. His progress has recently been reviewed by Public Works Superintendent Hongerholt who recommends Mr. Thesing's status be changed from probationary to regular status.

Action Requested: Approve the change of status from probationary to regular status of Brody Thesing effective on his 6-month anniversary.

Public Works Superintendent is scheduled out of office to attend mandatory training and/or vacation. To ensure quality ongoing training and oversight of operations in his absence staff would appreciate the latitude to bring Randy Thesing back on in a casual/on-call capacity to provide supervision and to ensure continuity of operations while Mr. Hongerholt is out of office for multiple days. We ask that this option remain available for up to one year. The thought would be to have Mr. Thesing come in for just a partial day to ensure plant operations, provide direction, and offer guidance and be present for any activities requiring 2 department members for safety purposes.

Action Requested: Authorize hire of Randy Thesing on a casual-on-call status for department oversight when Department head is out of town at training and/or vacation and away for multiple days.

In order to meet Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation and basic city street and maintenance needs we respectfully request authorization to advertise for a full-time public works laborer.

Action Requested: Authorize advertising for a full-time public works position (laborer/not full water and wastewater plant operations).

Summer Recreation Director and YCC Coordinator will be holding interviews for student staffing soon. Staff would like permission to hire student applicants who meet the criteria. The council would be provided with a list of names to confirm at the June meeting. Summer Rec activities begin prior to the June meeting.

Action Requested: Authorize the hire of all youth applicants meeting the criteria for employment in either Summer Rec or YCC.

MEMORANDUM FOR HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

Council Date: May 11, 2026

Agenda Item: Student Experience

From: Ambulance Director/Training Center Staff

The Houston Training Center partners with Houston Public Schools and MNVA to offer EMR and EMT classes for both local and state students. One requirement for EMT students prior to testing is to document a minimum number of patient contacts. Houston Training Center wishes to partner with Winona Area Ambulance Service to offer students another opportunity to obtain the required contacts. The memorandum outlines the responsibilities of the partners.

Action requested: Consider approval of the Memorandum of Agreement Between Houston Ambulance and Winona area Ambulance Service for student ride-along opportunity.

Houston Ambulance

Memorandum of Agreement Between
Houston Ambulance
And
Winona Area Ambulance Service (WAAS)

Whereas, Houston Ambulance as an authorized Emergency Medical Services Training Program licensed by the Minnesota Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), and

Whereas, the OEMS requires that a formal agreement exists between Houston Ambulance and clinical or field setting with experienced preceptors including opportunities for EMT Ride-Alongs.

Whereas, certain students enrolled in the Houston Public Schools/Houston Ambulance Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course wish to do some or all of their required ride-alongs with Winona Area Ambulance Service (WAAS),

Now, therefore, it is mutually agreed by and between the parties:

1) Houston Responsibilities

- a) Houston is responsible for offering an EMT program and that the program is approved by the MN OEMS.
- b) Houston will provide WAAS, at its request, with objectives for the clinical experience program.
- c) Houston will provide WAAS, with a list of the students who are participating in the clinical/ride-along experience program and the dates of each student's participation in the program.
- d) Houston will inform its faculty and the students who are participating in the ride-along experience program that they are encouraged to carry their own health and professional liability insurance.
- e) Houston shall instruct the student as to the type of clothing to be worn, where they should report for their ride-along experience, and what they are allowed to do or not do while participating in the ride-along at WAAS.

2) Winona Area Ambulance Service (WAAS) Responsibilities

- a) WAAS is responsible for the safety and quality of care provided to its patients by the interns who are participating in the clinical experience program at WAAS.
- b) WAAS assumes no responsibility for the cost of meals, uniforms, housing, parking or health care of Houston Ambulance faculty and students who are participating in the ride-along experience program.
- c) WAAS recognizes that it is the policy of Houston Ambulance to prohibit discrimination and ensure equal opportunities in its educational programs, activities, and all aspects of employment for all individuals, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran's status, marital status, age, disability, status with regard to public assistance or inclusion in any group or class against which discrimination is prohibited by federal, state or local laws and regulations. WAAS agrees to adhere to this policy in implementing this Agreement.

3) Mutual Responsibilities

- a) Houston Ambulance and WAAS will communicate regarding planning, development, implementation and evaluation of the ride-along experience program. The communication may include but not be limited to:
 - i) Communication to keep both parties and the parties' personnel who are assigned to the ride-along experience program informed of changes in philosophy, policies, and any new programs which are contemplated;
 - ii) Communication about jointly planning and sponsoring in-service or continuing education program (if applicable);
 - iii) Communication to identify areas of mutual need or concerns;
 - iv) Communication to seek solutions to any problems which may arise in the clinical experience program; and
 - v) Communication to facilitate evaluation procedures which may be required for the approval or which might improve patient care of Houston's EMT curriculum.

4) Requirements of Students

- a) Students participating in the ride-along experience program are encouraged to carry their own health and liability insurance.
- b) Students are to wear their class uniform to their ride-along experience rotation.

5) Liability

Each party agrees that it will be responsible for its own acts and the results thereof to the extent authorized by law and shall be responsible for the acts of the other party and the results thereof.

6) Term of Agreement

This Agreement is effective when fully executed and shall renew annually. This Agreement may be terminated by either party at any time upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

Winona Area Ambulance Service

Date

Houston Ambulance

Date

MEMORANDUM FOR HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

Council Date: May 11, 2026

Agenda Item: Temporary liquor license for Houston Hoedown Days

From: Michelle Quinn

Respectfully request approval, authorization to sign and submit an application and permit for a 1 day to 4 day temporary on-sale liquor license for Houston Hoedown Days. Event scheduled to take place July 23 through 26, 2026.

MEMORANDUM FOR HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

Council Date: May 11, 2026
Agenda Item: Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo
From: Michelle Quinn

Houston Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking approval of an Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo to be hosted at City Park during Houston Hoedown Days being July 24, 25, and 26, 2026. In recent years, the bingo event was conducted by Cross of Christ who did not wish to continue with the activity therefore, the Chamber is taking it on.

Action Requested: Approve the application to conduct excluded bingo presented by the Houston Area Chamber of Commerce for activities to be conducted at the City Park during Hoedown.

MEMORANDUM FOR HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

Council Date: May 11, 2026

Agenda Item: LMCIT Waiver

From: Michelle Quinn

Historically, and on the recommendation of our insurance agent, Hope Turner, the City waives monetary limits on tort liability.

(By waiving, in the event the city causes injury, insurance would cover up to \$2,000,000 versus \$500,000. Waiving allows more coverage to be available to settle claims.)

Action requested: Council act to waive monetary limits on tort liability.

LIABILITY COVERAGE WAIVER FORM

Members who obtain liability coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) must complete and return this form to LMCIT before their effective date of coverage. Email completed form to your city's underwriter, to pstech@lmc.org, or fax to 651.281.1298.

Members who obtain liability coverage from LMCIT must decide whether to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. *The decision to waive or not waive the statutory tort limits must be made annually by the member's governing body, in consultation with its attorney if necessary.* The decision has the following effects:

- *If the member does not waive the statutory tort limits*, an individual claimant could recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits would apply regardless of whether the member purchases the optional LMCIT excess liability coverage.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and does not purchase excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could recover up to \$2,000,000 for a single occurrence (under the waive option, the tort cap liability limits are only waived to the extent of the member's liability coverage limits, and the LMCIT per occurrence limit is \$2,000,000). The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$2,000,000, regardless of the number of claimants.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

Claims to which the statutory municipal tort limits do not apply are not affected by this decision.

Check one:

- The member **DOES NOT WAIVE** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04.
- The member **WAIVES** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04, to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.

LMCIT Member Name: City of Houston

Date of member's governing body meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026

Name of person completing this form: Michelle Quinn

Position of person completing this form: Clerk/Administrator

Signature of person completing this form:

Mayor Scott Wallace called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. April 13, 2026, with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council present: Mayor Scott Wallace, Zeb Baumann, Emily Krage, and Danny Todd. Staff present: Michelle Quinn, Byron Frauenkron, and Josh Hongerholt. A list of public members present is on file.

Public Comment: Hearing no public comment, the Mayor moved to the agenda items.

Lead Service Line Replacement Project: Brief written updated included in Engineering Memorandum for the 4/13/26 Council Meeting which is on file.

CSAH13/Spruce Street Project Update: Derek Olinger was pleased to report bid pricing for the CSAH 13/Spruce Street project came in favorably. The local cost share is approximately \$1.7 million which will be funded through a combination of local bond, and PFA.

At this time there is a need to restart the assessment process. This process will assess a portion of the project expenses for the adjoining properties benefiting from the improvements. As a result of favorable pricing, the current projects came in a fair amount lower than previous estimates. This is a positive outcome. It is proposed that the assessment hearing be scheduled to be held in conjunction with the next regular meeting of the council on Monday, May 11, 2026. The required notice will be published, posted, and individually mailed to impacted property owners.

He went over basic fees for water and sewer service and main extension, sidewalk per foot, and curb per foot. The city is utilizing the same process used for the Lincoln Street reconstruction which took place in 2020. Twenty-year repayment terms for special assessments will be applied to any not prepaid with an interest rate of 1% over the rate the city's granted for its bond.

Derek Olinger requested work order #3 be approved which will take Bolton & Menk through the end of the year.

A proposed schedule was included as part of the memo. It includes a draft schedule including a neighborhood meeting to help prepare folks for the inconvenience of construction. Construction is expected to begin the first week of June and be completed by the start of school.

Letters are being sent to individual property owners regarding assessments. There are additional letters required which are related to the need to obtain easements for grading or access for services.

Mike Bubany provided a recommendation for direct bank placement. A Midi Loan would reduce issuance costs in exchange for a slightly higher interest rate that would result in an overall savings over the life of the loan.

Motion by Baumann, seconded by Todd to adopt the following resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-07
Resolution Declaring Cost to be Assessed and Ordering Assessment Hearing
2026 Street & Utility Improvements

WHEREAS, a contract has been let for the 2026 Street & Utility Improvements, the proposed improvement of:

Street	From	To
Grant St (CSAH 13)	Cedar St (TH 16)	Spruce St (CSAH 13)
Spruce St (CSAH 13)	Grant St (CSAH 13)	Point Approx 200' East of Westgate St

by reconstruction or rehabilitation of streets, sidewalks, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, watermain, and other related infrastructure, and the estimated City cost, based on the low bid and the Cooperative Agreement with Houston County, for such improvement is \$1,271,000 and the expenses incurred or to be incurred in the making of such improvement amount to \$414,000.00 so that the total city cost of the improvement will be \$1,685,000.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOUSTON, MINNESOTA:

1. The city administrator, with the assistance of Bolton & Menk, shall forthwith calculate the proper amount to be specially assessed for such improvement against every assessable lot, piece or parcel of land within the district affected, without regard to cash valuation, as provided by law, and she shall file a copy of such proposed assessment at Houston City Hall for public inspection.
2. A hearing shall be held at 6:00 p.m. on May 11, 2026 in the city hall located at 105 W Maple Street, Houston, MN, to pass upon such proposed assessment. All persons owning property affected by such improvement will be given an opportunity to be heard with reference to such assessment.
3. The city administrator is hereby directed to cause a notice of the hearing on the proposed assessment to be published once in the official newspaper at least two weeks prior to the hearing, and she shall state in the notice the total cost of the improvement. She shall also cause mailed notice to be given to the owner of each parcel described in the assessment roll not less than two weeks prior to the hearing.
4. The owner of any property so assessed may, at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the county auditor, pay the whole or partial amount of the assessment on such property, to the City, except that no interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid within 30 days from the adoption of the assessment or November 15, 2026, whichever is later. An owner may at any time thereafter, pay to the County Auditor the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the succeeding year.
5. For the purposes of issuing notices for the assessments, the following conditions shall be used:
 - a. The portion of the cost of such improvement to be paid by the city is hereby declared to be \$244,000 and the portion of the cost to be assessed against benefited property owners is declared to be \$1,441,000.
 - b. Assessments shall be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of 20 years, the first of the installments to be payable on or before the first Monday in

January, 2027 and shall bear interest at the rate of 6 percent per annum from January 1st, 2027.

Motion by Baumann, seconded by Krage to adopt the following resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-08
Resolution Requesting Contract Award
2026 Street & Utility Improvements

WHEREAS, pursuant to resolution 2024-13, ordering the improvement for the 2025 Street & Utility Improvements (hereafter referred to as the "2026 Street & Utility Improvements"), the proposed improvement of:

Street	From	To
Grant St (CSAH 13)	Cedar St (TH 16)	Spruce St (CSAH 13)
Spruce St (CSAH 13)	Grant St (CSAH 13)	Point Approx 200' East of Westgate St

by reconstruction or rehabilitation of streets, sidewalks, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, watermain, and other related infrastructure, and,

WHEREAS, the Houston City Council approved a Cooperative Agreement with Houston County on February 9th, 2026 for completion of the project, as described above. Although the project will be completed in partnership between the City of Houston and Houston County, the County will hold and administer the contract directly with the awarded Contractor during construction.

WHEREAS, the county advertised for bids for the 2026 Street & Utility Improvements. The following bids were received:

Bidder	Bid Amount
BKC Construction, LLC	\$ 2,347,102.33
Griffin Construction Co	\$ 2,444,581.28
A-1 Excavating LLC	\$ 2,518,365.00
Alcon Excavating Inc.	\$ 2,526,708.95

AND WHEREAS, it appears that BKC Construction of La Crescent, MN is the lowest responsible bidder.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOUSTON, MINNESOTA:

1. The City of Houston requests that Houston County awards the project to BKC Construction and moves forward with the project, as defined in the Cooperative Agreement.
2. The mayor and city administrator are hereby authorized to execute remaining agreements and approvals for the project, as defined in the Cooperative Agreement.

Motion by Baumann, seconded by Todd to approve Work Order #3 with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for 2026 Street & Utility Improvements Construction Services for an amount not to exceed.\$159,700 Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Krage, seconded by Baumann to approve completion and submission of the MRWA Loan Application Form to secure local funding for the CSAH 13/Spruce Street Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Just B Caus Food Truck: Byron Frauenkron, representing Just B Caus and Just B Caus Reloaded, returned to the council to request approval for a food truck as part of a charity event being held at the Houston Hoedown Fest Grounds on Saturday, April 18th. This event, while open to the public, requires a ticket or purchase of day of event wristband for access. Motion by Todd, seconded by Baumann, to grant approval for mobile food unit(s) in conjunction with the event scheduled for April 18, 2026, in accordance with Ordinance §113.08. Motion carried unanimously.

Ambulance Agreements for Mutual Aid Staffing: The Houston Community ambulance will be renewing its license soon and has mutual aid agreements for additional assistance during extreme events and also for staffing. Recently, Minnesota Statute has changed therefore, it is appropriate to update the mutual aid agreement to mirror current statute. Motion by Krage, seconded by Todd to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between City of Caledonia Ambulance Service and the City of Houston/Houston Community Ambulance and another between City of Houston/Houston Community Ambulance and the City of Rushford/Rushford Ambulance. Motion carried unanimously.

Nature Center Lead: Motion by Todd, seconded by Baumann to accept the resignation of Brennan Wallace from the position of Nature Center Lead effective March 24, 2026, and thank him for his service to the Houston Community. Motion carried unanimously.

On-Site Computers Inc. Proposal: Motion accept the quote submitted by to .gov Baumann, Krage unanimously carried.

Annual Noxious Weed Reporting: Motion by Todd, seconded by Krage to approve the 2025 Annual City Report/Noxious Weed Control, and authorize the appropriate signatures on the same. Motion carried unanimously.

Root River Trail Extension - Citizen Exploratory Committee: On the recommendation and request of Larry Kirch, motion by Todd, seconded by Baumann to appoint Michelle Hoskins as a Houston representative on said committee. Motion carried unanimously.

ARMCA Request for Refund: Motion Todd, seconded by Baumann to authorize a refund of donated funds not yet utilized for the intended purpose of an OHV Trail once donation amounts have been verified and contingent upon City Attorney and city audit firm consultation. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes and Bills: Motion by Krage, seconded by Baumann to approve the minutes of March 9, 2026, regular meeting, and bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Items to be Placed on File: Motion by Baumann, seconded by Krage to place the following items on file. Motion carried unanimously.

Library Report and statistics

Department Head Updates:

FIRE: Fire Chief Frauenkron reported 6 firefighters participated in a daylong training hosted by Riverland College in Austin, Minnesota. There are still new firefighters who are working through fire school requirements. The department recently burned the dike. The department collaborated with the Houston Training Center to renew 4 or 5 firefighter's EMR credentials. This 4=5 EMR retrained by city training center,

Public Works: Flushing mains complete, saves on shoulders, PACE analytical in town collecting samples for PFAS testing, street sweeper out,

Adjourn: Motion by Krage, seconded by Baumann, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2026.

By: _____
Scott Wallace, Mayor

Attest: _____
Michelle Quinn, Clerk/Administrator

Library Report
May 2026

1. County funding negotiations for FY2027 will begin soon.
2. The Friends of the Library book sale during the city-wide rummage sales on April 25 raised \$580.
3. The seed library continues to be popular, with approximately 100 packets taken so far.
4. We received an induction cooking kit from the Sustainable Resources Center in Minneapolis. These kits are distributed to libraries to promote sustainable household practices, and ours will be added to our Library of Things collection.
5. We will once again receive a donation of 200 children's books from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to give away during our summer programs.
6. Recent Programs & Activities
 - April 9 – Elementary Career Day: Talked with students in grades K–6 and shared information about career and college options adjacent to libraries.
 - April 11 – ECFE Family Fun Fair at the High School: Engaged with many local families and promoted library services.
 - April 13 – Junk Journal Workshop to recycle old paper and materials: about 25 attendees.
 - April 15 – Planting Party with Houston County Master Gardeners at storytime: approximately 25 attendees.
 - April 21 – Recycled book craft project workshop: 16 participants.
 - Earth Day Week – Tree Giveaway in partnership Neighborhood Forests: Distributed 57 Quaking Aspen saplings to patrons.
 - April 25 – Friends used book sale: Lower traffic than usual; raised \$580.
 - April 27 – Seed bomb workshop: 6 participants.
7. Ongoing Programs
 - Weekly Saturday storytime, attendance varies.
 - Monthly kids book club at the library, always a small but enthusiastic group.
 - Kids book club at the elementary school every three weeks, usually read with one to three grades.
 - Builders Club every other Tuesday, usually 25 or so kids.
 - Adult book club once per month.
8. Upcoming Events
 - May 1: High School Community Clean-Up Day.

- Early May: Elementary school field trips and summer reading promotions begin, with all classes from PreK–4 scheduled.
- May 7: Independent Lens screening with RRM and community cookbook project kickoff.
- May 16: Storytime, plus container garden planting with the kids.
- June 3: Summer Reading Program kickoff featuring Dazzling Dave, Yo-yo Master.

9. Summer Reading Program:

- Weekly kids and family programs every Wednesday at 10:00 AM from the beginning of June through the end of August.
- All-ages programs on Monday evenings throughout June and July.
- Several adult-focused programs scheduled in June and July.
- This year's Summer Reading Program is dedicated to Mary Jore, whose memorials funded a large portion of our supplies and programs.

Circulation statistics attached
Summer schedule attached

2026 Circulation Statistics

GENERAL CIRCULATION (not including ebooks)

	CAL	HOK	HOU	LCR	SG	TOTAL
Jan	1,590	585	2,207	4,554	887	9,823
Feb	1,583	542	2,265	4,209	876	9,475
Mar	1,962	678	2,477	4,819	942	10,878
April	1,857	783	2,437	4,149	942	10,168
May						0
June						0
July						0
Aug						0
Sept						0
Oct						0
Nov						0
Dec						0
TOTAL	6,992	2,588	9,386	17,731	3,647	40,344
%	17.30%	6.40%	23.30%	44.00%	9.00%	100%

HOUSTON COUNTY RURAL USAGE

	CAL	HOK	HOU	LCR	SG	TOTAL
Jan:	521	227	1,218	978	321	3,265
Feb:	570	242	1,413	768	280	3,273
Mar:	740	273	1,468	917	321	3,719
April:	802	349	1,551	855	271	3,828
May:						0
June:						0
July						0
Aug:						0
Sept:						0
Oct:						0
Nov:						0
Dec:						0
TOTAL	2,633	1,091	5,650	3,518	1,193	14,085
%	18.68%	7.75%	40.11%	25.00%	8.46%	100.00%

<u>Libby</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
E-books	89	410
Audiobooks	223	927
Total	312	1337



Join us for the Houston Public Library's 2026 Summer Reading Program!

Keep reading all summer! We will have weekly challenges and prizes for kids of all ages throughout the summer. We will also be giving away gift certificates for ice cream from Sub Zero every week, all summer long!

Saturdays all year: Storytime

10 am Houston Public Library

Join us for stories and crafts for young children and their caregivers every Saturday at 10 am!

Community Puzzle at the Library: Pick

up your puzzle piece and paint kit by

June 20. Return your creation by July

11. When all are returned, we'll put them together for a community

creation! Open to all ages, kids and adults.

Adopt a Dinosaur! Pick out your own dinosaur buddy to read to this summer!

*****Meet Up and Eat Up: Every Wednesday at 11 am! Stay for free lunch for kids under 18*****

Wednesday, June 3: Summer Reading Kick-off! Dazzling Dave, Yo-yo Master

10 am City Park (rain site: Hurricane Hub)

See a performance by Dazzling Dave, and you might start believing his yo-yos are alive! Dazzling Dave Schulte is a professional yo-yo performer who amazes audiences with tricks and tips designed to entertain, educate, and promote the sport of professional yo-yo.

Thursday, June 4: Bee House Workshop, Making Way for Pollinators

6-7 pm Houston Public Library

Learn about Minnesota pollinators and the native plants they rely on. Participants will receive native Minnesota wildflower seeds and create bee houses using recycled materials. This event is geared to adults, but all ages are welcome.

Monday, June 8: Dinosaur Discovery Day

6-7pm Houston Public Library

Join us for a fun-filled adventure where young explorers dig into the past, uncover fossils, and learn amazing facts about the giants that once roamed the Earth!

Wednesday, June 10: Tom the Creature Teacher

10 am City Park (rain site: Hurricane Hub)

Here's your chance to meet several types of frogs, lizards, turtles, and snakes from around the world! You will even be allowed to touch many of the critters while they are being presented.

Saturday, June 13: Ponies at Storytime with Rocking N Ranch

10 am Houston Public Library greenspace

Join us for a special storytime featuring horses from Rocking N Ranch! Meet the horses and enjoy some stories and crafts.

Monday, June 15: Make a mini dinosaur garden!

5-6 pm Houston Public Library

Create your own prehistoric world at Dinosaur Mini Gardens, where you can design tiny landscapes, add dinosaur figures, and let your imagination grow! Space is limited, please register by email, phone, FB messenger, or text Beth at 507-429-5647.

Wednesday, June 17: Munchkin the Mini Horse

10 am City Park (rain site: Hurricane Hub)

Munchkin isn't just a miniature horse - he has dwarfism, too. This makes him extra small, and he and Amanda love to spread the joy of celebrating differences. We'll also get a chance to pet Munchkin and make some horse-themed art.

Monday, June 22: Fossil Fest

6-7 pm Houston Public Library

Enjoy this hands-on event where explorers can discover fossils, learn about prehistoric life, and uncover the stories hidden in stone!

Tuesday, June 23: Exploring the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest with MN Project GO

6-7 pm Houston Public Library

Project Get Outdoors Coordinator and Naturalist Sara Holger shares the history of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest, exploring its unique natural features and sites open to the public.

Wednesday, June 24: The Magic of Isaiah

10 am City Park (rain site: Hurricane Hub)

Enjoy this fast-paced, high-energy, interactive magical performance that is sure to please all ages.

Monday, June 29: DIY Stone Mosaics

6-7 pm Houston Public Library

Get creative at Stone Mosaic DIY, a hands-on activity where participants design colorful patterns using natural stones to create their own unique mosaic masterpiece! Please register in advance.

Wednesday, July 1: RAD ZOO

10 am City Park (Rain site: Hurricane Hub)

Marvel at the amazing creatures of the reptile and amphibian world during this fun, safe and educational program. The program includes turtles, lizards, snakes, and a small alligator.

Monday, July 6: DIY Dinosaur Eyes

6-7 pm Houston Public Library

Make your own prehistoric creation at **DIY Dinosaur Eyes**, a fun clay activity where kids sculpt and design colorful dinosaur eyes to bring their favorite ancient creatures to life! Please register in advance of the program.

Wednesday, July 8: Jim Jayes' Magic Capades

10 am City Park (Rain site: Hurricane Hub)

This program uses classic magic tricks to introduce the audience to some of history's greatest magicians and the magic effects that made them famous.

Monday, July 13: Pet Rocks

6-7 pm Houston Public Library

Join us for **Painting Pet Rocks**, a creative activity where kids can decorate their own rock friends with bright colors, silly faces, and plenty of imagination! Please register in advance.

Wednesday, July 15: Tales by Terry: Have I Got a Story For You!

10 am City Park (rain site: Hurricane Hub)

Turn on your imagination with Terry's energetic performance. She tells folktales, fairy tales, creepy stories, and environmental stories, and will take us around the world through the magic of storytelling. We'll have craft projects, too!

Monday, July 20: Stories in Stone

6-7 pm Houston Public Library

Discover the past at **Stories in Stone**, a creative activity where participants craft their own petroglyphs and clay creations while learning how ancient people used rock art to tell stories. Please register in advance.

Wednesday, July 22: Raptors with Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center

10 am Hurricane Hub

Have you ever seen a vulture up close and personal? Now is your chance, as the Eagle Bluff Learning Center comes to town with a live vulture ambassador for kids to meet and learn about.

Saturday, July 25: Hoedown (check our website/Facebook page for details!)

We'll have something special planned for Hoedown, check back for details!

Wednesday, July 29: Community Drum Circle with Mark Arturi

10 am City Park (rain site: Hurricane Hub)

Join our Community Drum Circle led by Hall of Fame band The Lovin' Spoonful's drummer Mike Arturi. Mike will guide participants through an easy introduction to playing the drums, then lead the group through an exciting rhythmic journey that all can enjoy!

Wednesday, August 5: Bird Games with Amy Simso Dean

10 am Trailhead Park (rain site: Nature Center Meeting Room)

Bird-focused games and activities for kids and their grownups! Explore Trailhead Park, look for birds, and learn about birds with a migration game, owl pellet dissection, bird scavenger hunt, and craft projects, along with the Friends of the Nature Center.

Wednesday, August 12: Insect Action

10 am City Park (rain site: Hurricane Hub)

Join us for a presentation from Heidi Braun, author of *Insect Action! An Alphabet, Rhyming, and Movement Book*. We'll observe insects, move like insects, try out insect rubbing plates and insect stencils, and do a couple more insect art projects.

Saturday, August 15: Storytime with the Apollo Music Festival (date tentative)

10 am Houston Public Library

The Apollo Music Festival will drop by for storytime, sharing their love of classical music with local kids and their adults.

Wednesday, August 19: Pond Exploration with Eagle Bluff, Houston Nature Center, and Money Creek Outfitters

10 am Trailhead Park (rain site: Nature Center Meeting Room)

Eagle Bluff educators will bring all the necessary gear to search for macroinvertebrates, amphibians, and turtles. This is a perfect all-ages program and is very hands-on! Josh from Money Creek Outfitters will also be here to teach you about casting!

Wednesday, August 26: Conductor Jack and our Summer Wrap-Up Party!

10 am City Park (rain site: Hurricane Hub)

Conductor Jack is an Emmy Award-winning children's entertainer and educator. He performs original songs and folk music. Travel back in time as Jack plays guitar, ukulele, harmonica, kazoo, and more. Wrap up summer 2026 with fun activities and music!



Our 2026 Summer Reading Program is dedicated to the loving memory of Mary Jore, whose legacy continues to inspire our community.

Check our Facebook page and website often for additional events!



The Houston Public Library's 2026 Summer Reading Program is in loving memory of Mary Jore, with much thanks to her family and friends who contributed to the Friends of the Library in her memory. Additional sponsors are: Houston's American Legion Post #423, Friends of the Houston Public Library, SELCO Legacy grants from the Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Sub-Zero Pizza and Ice Cream, the Meet Up and Eat Up crew, and generous donations from the public. Our thanks go out to everyone for making this schedule of events possible!