



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Mary B. Berndt called the council meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the council chambers at Omro City Hall located at 205 S. Webster Avenue.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Scott Jorgenson gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Council Members David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Amanda Zick, and Peggy Williams.

Absent: None.

Excused: None.

Staff Present: Mayor Mary B. Berndt, City Administrator Kaija Snyder, Clerk Barbara J. Van Clarke, City Attorney Ludwig Wurtz, Public Works Director Sam Mingo, Police Chief Cory Andersen, Police Officers Cordell G. Jacobson and George Beattie.

Public Present: Kaci Chalfant, Natasha Rach, and Tony Daley

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Schmick motioned and Council Member Jorgenson seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

RESULT:	Approved 6 to 0
MOVER:	Justin Schmick
SECONDER:	Scott Jorgenson
AYES:	David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Amanda Zick, Peggy Williams
NAYS:	None

Swearing In Police Officer Cordell G. Jacobson

Mayor Berndt announced that the ceremonial swearing-in of newly hired Police Officer Cordell Jacobson would be postponed due to illness within Officer Jacobson's family. The Council welcomed Officer Jacobson and introduced him as the City's newest police officer.

Oath of Office Form

Public Comments

The following individuals addressed the Council:

- Tony Daly encouraged the City to carefully evaluate issues surrounding potential data center development and referenced an upcoming informational meeting on the topic. Cameron Chapman urged the Council to research potential environmental, agricultural, and public health impacts associated with data centers before considering future proposals.
- Kaci Chalfant thanked the Council for considering meeting recordings and requested an update regarding responsibility for additional costs associated with the Fox River project drilling issue.

- Natasha Rach encouraged the City to consider protections related to future data center development, including environmental safeguards, infrastructure funding by developers, transparency, and public health protections. No Council action was taken on public comments.

Adoption of Minutes

City Council Meeting - July 21, 2026 Minutes

Council Member Schmick motioned and Council Member Treleven seconded to approve the July 21, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

RESULT:	Approved 6 to 0
MOVER:	Justin Schmick
SECONDER:	Darin Treleven
AYES:	David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Amanda Zick, Peggy Williams
NAYS:	None

Resolutions

RES: 260804-1 Expenditures

Council Member Zick motioned and Council Member Williams seconded to approve RES: 260804-1 Expenditures.

RESULT:	Approved 6 to 0
MOVER:	Amanda Zick
SECONDER:	Peggy Williams
AYES:	David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Amanda Zick, Peggy Williams
NAYS:	None

Administration

Request for Exclusive Use of Riverwalk Park – Omega Brewing (115 E. Main Street, Omro), September and October, 2026

City Administrator Kaija Snyder presented the annual request from Omega Brewing Company for seasonal use of a portion of Riverwalk Park during September and October for outdoor seating and entertainment.

Council discussed historical approval of the request, alcohol service limitations, no outdoor alcohol sales occurring in the park, but there will be outdoor consumption allowed in the park. Consumption by patrons outside being incidental to the licensed business. Council Member Peggy Williams abstained due to a potential conflict of interest.

Council Member Schmick motioned and Wiese seconded to Approve the Request for Exclusive Use of Riverwalk Park - Omega Brewing (115 E. Main Street, Omro) for the months of September and October 2026 with the construction of an outdoor Tent and Musical Entertainment. Alcohol Beverage Sales shall be conducted inside the business only. Consumption will be allowed within the park.

RESULT:	Approved 5 to 1 Abstention
MOVER:	Justin Schmick
SECONDER:	David Wiese
AYES:	David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Amanda Zick
ABSTAIN:	Peggy Williams

Meeting Recordings & Storage – Purchase of the Meeting Owl and Related Technology at a Price Not to Exceed \$1,500.00 for the Recording and Storage of Common Council Videos

Administrator Snyder presented a proposal to purchase Meeting Owl recording equipment, related accessories, and storage equipment at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1,500.

Council discussion included improving public transparency, long-term storage of recordings, ADA accessibility compliance through YouTube captioning, cybersecurity and privacy concerns, whether speakers' names and addresses should continue to be stated during public comments, budget considerations, implementation procedures and staff workload.

Council Member Schmick motioned and Council Member Jorgenson seconded to Approve the Purchase of Meeting Owl and Related Technology at a Price Not to Exceed \$1,500.00 for the Recording and Storage of Common Council Meeting Videos.

RESULT:	Approved 5 to 1
MOVER:	Justin Schmick
SECONDER:	Scott Jorgenson
AYES:	David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Peggy Williams
NAYS:	Amanda Zick

Ordinances

Waive the 1st Reading of ORD: 060721-C#514 An Ordinance Amending Section 7.12.040(H) – General Bicycle Regulations

The Council considered revisions to the bicycle ordinance to better align with the recent e-bike and e-scooter regulations. The amendment removes the prohibition against bicycles operating on sidewalks while continuing to prohibit riding bicycles on pedestrian footbridges.

Council Member Schmick motioned and Wiese seconded to Waive the First Reading of ORD: 260721-C#514 An Ordinance Amending Section 7.12.040(H) General Bicycle Requirements.

RESULT:	Approved 6 to 0
MOVER:	Justin Schmick
SECONDER:	David Wiese
AYES:	David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Amanda Zick, Peggy Williams
NAYS:	None

Waive the 2nd Reading and Adopt ORD: 260721-C#512 An Ordinance Creating Section 7.25 of the Omro Municipal Code Regulating the Operation of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters Within the City of Omro

The Council considered adoption of the amended E-Bike and E-Scooter Ordinance following revisions discussed at the July meeting. Discussion included public education prior to enforcement, publication of the ordinance, use of social media to explain the changes, emphasis on education before citations, and improving public safety. Staff was directed to prepare a public information summary for distribution through City communication channels.

Council Member Schmick motioned and Wiese seconded to Waive the Second Reading and Adopt ORD: 260721-C#512 An Ordinance Creating Section 7.25 of the Omro Municipal Code Regulating the Operation of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters Within the City of Omro.

RESULT:	Approved 6 to 0
MOVER:	Justin Schmick
SECONDER:	David Wiese
AYES:	David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Amanda Zick, Peggy Williams
NAYS:	None

Meeting Calendar

Meeting Schedule

The workshop scheduled for August 18, 2026, remains a placeholder should business require a workshop prior to the regular meeting.

Adjournment

Council Member Schmick motioned and Wiese seconded to Adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM.

RESULT:	Approved 6 to 0
MOVER:	Justin Schmick
SECONDER:	David Wiese
AYES:	David Wiese, Darin Treleven, Justin Schmick, Scott Jorgenson, Amanda Zick, Peggy Williams
NAYS:	None

Respectfully Submitted by:
Barbara J. Van Clake, MMC, WCPC
City Clerk / Deputy Treasurer